

India bore climate change brunt in '23

Asia remained world's most disaster-prone region from weather and water-related hazards last year: WMO

SHREYA JAI
New Delhi, 23 April

As the Asia region warms more than the global average, tropical nations, such as India, stand at the risk of a variety of extreme weather ranging from heatwaves, floods and drought, a latest report by World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) on state of the climate in Asia-2023 has said.

According to WMO, a UN agency which oversees building responses for weather, climate and water, Asia remained the world's most disaster-hit region from weather, climate and water-related hazards in 2023.

Floods and storms caused the highest number of reported casualties and economic losses, whilst the impact of heatwaves became more severe, it revealed.

"Asia is warming faster than the global average. The warming trend has nearly doubled since the 1961-1990 period," said the report, adding that in India, severe heatwaves in April and June, 2023 resulted in about 110 reported fatalities due to heatstroke.

"A major and prolonged heatwave affected much of South-East Asia in April and May, extending as far west as Bangladesh and Eastern India, and north to southern China, with record-breaking temperatures," the report said.

The WMO has said that the El Niño phenomenon also had a role to play in warming the Asia region. Hot and dry conditions in South Asia in summer 2023 associated



with the weaker-than-normal Asian summer monsoon were because of El Niño. For example, in August, India experienced a record-high monthly mean temperature, as well as an unprecedented rainfall deficit for the month. Extreme hot conditions persisted over South-East Asia from early summer to autumn 2023. This delayed the onset of the Indian summer monsoon in 2023. According to the data collected by WMO, the Indian summer monsoon seasonal rainfall (ISM), averaged over India as a whole, was 94% of its climatological normal for the 1971-2020 period.

On the other hand, another extreme of precipitation unfolded in other regions of

the country and in Asia, causing heavy rains and flooding. In June and July, several flood and storm events resulted in at least 599 reported deaths across India, Pakistan and Nepal due to flooding, landslides and lightning.

Floods were another extreme event across India and Pakistan, causing fatalities and putting focus on the high level of vulnerability of the region to natural calamities, the WMO said.

THE BURNING ISSUE

■ The mean temperature over Asia in 2023 was the second highest on record

■ The warming trend in Asia in 1991-2023 was almost double the warming trend during the 1961-1990 period, and much larger than the trends of the previous 30-year periods

■ The Indian summer monsoon seasonal rainfall (ISM), averaged over India as a whole, was 94% of its climatological normal for the 1971-2020 period

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■ In India, severe heatwaves in April and June resulted in about 110 fatalities due to heatstroke

Last year also marked the rare, but long expected event in India of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF). The GLOF, which originated in South Lhonak in Ladakh, led to collapse of the Teesta III hydroelectric dam at Chungthang in North Sikkim causing widespread devastation downstream. According to the National Emergency Response Centre of India (NEMCI), there were over 100 deaths and over 70 missing individuals. This type of disaster, the WMO said, is increasingly observed because of climate change-induced glacier retreat and highlights the compounding and cascading risks faced by vulnerable mountain communities.

TECH DIGEST

APPLE TO STOP MAKING FINEWOVEN CASES, WATCH BANDS

Apple is planning to discontinue production of FineWoven cases and watch bands, according to a report by 9to5Mac. The company had last year launched its FineWoven iPhone cases and Apple Watch bands along with the iPhone 15 series and Apple Watch series 9 as a sustainable, textile-based alternative to leather accessories. But several users since complained about the material's durability and its tendency to attract dirt and scuffs.



Lenovo's Intel Core Ultra 9-powered laptop

Chinese electronics brand Lenovo has launched its IdeaPad Pro 5i laptop in India. Powered by Intel Core Ultra 9 processors, the laptop meets US military-grade manufacturing standards. Priced at ₹1,09,990 onwards, the laptop features a 14-inch OLED display of 2.8K resolution and has TÜV Eyesafe certification for low blue light emission.

Xiaomi smart appliances, Redmi Pad SE and Buds 5A

Chinese electronics brand Xiaomi has launched the Redmi Pad SE tablet and Redmi Buds 5A wireless earbuds in India, in addition to a series of smart home appliances like the Robot Vacuum cleaner S10 & Handheld Garment Steamer.



Army becoming self-reliant in weapon production: Pande



COAS General Manoj Pande during national leadership conclave of All India Manufacturers' Association (AIMA) in New Delhi, on Tuesday

AJAI SHUKLA
New Delhi, 23 April

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Anil Pande stated that the Indian Army is changing from a buyer of weapons to becoming a partner of Indian industry in development and production.

The concept of "national champions" has been adopted in order to build up weapons suppliers with national and global scale, he said.

Industry is investing in research and advanced production techniques and that the forces are supporting them by providing a viable market.

He mentioned that about 340 indigenous arms producers across the country have been awarded defence contracts worth ₹26 lakh crore.

Even so, India remains the world's biggest arms importer, says the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a Swedish think tank that tracks global arms transfers.

SIPRI says that Russia remains India's biggest weapons supplier, accounting for 36 per cent of India's arms imports. France is at second place with 33 per cent of India's arms imports and the US, which is

at third place, accounts for 13 per cent. Meanwhile, senior army officers have complained about the shortfall of quality weaponry in the army's arsenal. In 2018, the army's vice chief, Lieutenant General Sarath Chand, while deposing before the parliamentary standing committee on defence, stated that 65 per cent of its arsenal is obsolete.

Chand testified that the military lacks the artillery, missiles and helicopters needed to fight on two fronts against China and Pakistan.

Pande said the Indian Army is aiming to increase the ratio of state-of-the-art weapon systems in its inventory by 2030; and meanwhile reduce the share of obsolescent systems. This, he said, would take

time. "Immediate replacement of the vintage systems is neither feasible nor desirable, and we will space out upgrades," he said.

The COAS pointed out that the Indian Army's ammunition inventory has 175 variants, of which 134 are made by the Defence R&D Organisation (DRDO) and public sector defence companies (DPSUs), while private companies are being onboarded. "The payoff from the indigenization strategy are visible," Pande said, pointing out that India's defence exports reached ₹21,000 crore in 2023-24. That is an increase of 30 times over the past five years, and a lot of those exports came from the private sector. In addition to promot-

ing self-reliance in weapon production, India's military is running 120 projects to indigenous development of 45 niche technologies to make Indian forces future ready, according to General Pande. "We need to speed up the adoption of commercially available technologies," he said.

Indian Army is observing 2024 as the year of technology absorption with emphasis on indigenously sourcing all that is necessary to fight - not just weapons but also ammunition, spares and maintenance needs, he said.

General Pande stressed that India needs to increase its hard power to support the growth of its economy. He said that in the current geopolitical landscape, countries are not hesitating to go to war.

Bank of Baroda
www.bankofbaroda.in

TENDER NOTICE

Bank of Baroda invites proposals for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Network Switch and Router with 5 Years Warranty.

Details are available on Bank's website www.bankofbaroda.in under Tenders section and on Government e Marketplace (GEM) portal.

"Addendum", if any, shall be published on www.bankofbaroda.in under Tenders section. Bidders must refer the same before final submission of the proposal.

Last date for bid submission: 15th May 2024.
Date : 24.04.2024

Chief General Manager (IT)

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank
www.pnb.co.in

Information Technology Division, HO, 5, Sansad Marg, New Delhi - 110 001
(Email ID: eprocurement@pnb.co.in, Phone: 011-23756468)

TENDER NOTICE

Punjab National Bank invites online bids (both technical and commercial) from eligible bidders for RFP for DATA ARCHIVAL AND RETRIEVAL SOLUTION through GEM Portal (Government e Marketplace). Interested bidders may visit website <https://gem.gov.in> for further details. Last date for Online Bid Submission is 13.05.2024 at 18:00 Hours

Chief Manager

पसजेवीएन ग्रीन एनर्जी लिमिटेड SJVN Green Energy Limited
(A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of SJVN Limited)
CIN: U4100HP2022OO009237

Tender No. SJG/EN/CONTRACT/PS/MS/2024

Online bids (e-tender) on Domestic Competitive Bidding (DCB) are invited on behalf of SJVN Green Energy Limited for "Balance of System Package including Power Evacuation and Three (03) Years Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance for Cumulative Capacity of 400 MW (AC) Solar Photovoltaic Power Projects) at Four Different Locations in Maharashtra".

For details, visit websites: <https://www.bharat-electronictender.com>, www.procure.gov.in and www.sjvn.nic.in. Last date for bid submission is 14.05.2024 (14:00 Hrs).
Amendment(s), if any, shall be issued on websites only.

DGM (Contracts)
SJVN Green Energy Limited
Corporate Headquarters, Shakti Sadan, Shanan, Shimla (HP)
Email: contracts.aggl@sjvn.nic.in

Bank of Baroda
www.bankofbaroda.in

NOTICE FOR TENDER

Bank of Baroda, Head Office Baroda invites technical and financial bids from General Insurance Companies to renew the following 3 insurance policies for the period as mentioned below:

- Fire, Burglary & Electronic Equipment Insurance Policy for the period of One Year i.e. from 01.08.2024 to 31.05.2025
- Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme (PAIS) for Baroda Kisan Credit Card (BKCC) holders for the period of Three Years i.e. from 20.05.2024 to 19.05.2027
- Renewal of Locker Insurance Policy for the period for One Year i.e. 01.06.2024 to 31.05.2025

Detailed tender documents are available in the Tenders section of Bank's website: www.bankofbaroda.in

For Addendum/Corrigendum including modification in the tender documents shall be notified only on the Bank's website: www.bankofbaroda.in

Last date for submission of tenders is as under: 14.05.2024 up to 11.30 AM

Place: Baroda
Date: 24.04.2024

Assistant General Manager (Operations & Services)
Head Office, Baroda

AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED
(Formerly known as AU HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED) (CIN:LE6922R12011PC034297)
Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur, 302020

AUCTION NOTICE

Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(i) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the eligible interested parties to the borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of AAVAL FINANCIERS LIMITED (Formerly known as "AU HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED") Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is what is" and "Whichever there is" basis. The details are as follows:

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagor	Dues As on	Date of Auction Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Property	Reserve Price For Property	Earnest Money For Property	Date & Time of Property Auction	Place of Tender Submission, Tender Open & Auction at Aavas Financiers Ltd.
YOGESH SHARMA, ANJUN ANJUN (A.No.)	Rs. 2784241.57 Dues As on 15 April 2024	4 Nov 23 Rs. 2563139/- Dues as on 3 Nov 23	15 Mar 24	Residential Built-up Second Floor, without roof rights, with measuring 85 sq. ft. (Plot No. 863), out of Khata No. 30, Situated in the area of Industrial Estate, in the locality of Near KSI Mata Mandir, G.T. Road, IInd Stage, Sharda, Delhi-110013. (Herein after referred to as the Said Property). Measuring 85 sq. ft.	Rs. 350880/-	Rs. 350880/-	11.00 AM TO 03.00 PM 27 MAY 2024	2ND FLOOR, E-49/32, E-BLOCK, INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE II-NEW DELHI-110026, DELHI-INDIA

Terms & Conditions: 1. The person, taking part in the tender, will have to deposit his offer in the tender envelope provided by the ACT, which is to be collected from the above branch office during working hours of any working day, super scribing "Tender Offer for name of the property" on the sealed envelope along with the Cheque/DD (pay order) of 10% of the Reserve Price as Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in favour of AAVAL FINANCIERS LIMITED payable as per the above branch office at the above mentioned office. The sealed envelopes will be opened in the presence of the available interested parties at above mentioned office of AAVAL FINANCIERS LIMITED (Formerly known as "AU HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED") The tender offer is necessary only in case of the successful bidder. The EMD will be forfeited if the successful bidder is not successful. The successful bidder will deposit the bidding amount/adjusting the EMD amount as initial payment immediately or within 15 days after the fall of hammer for the purchase of the asset. The successful bidder failing to deposit the said 25% towards initial payment, the entire EMD deposited will be forfeited & balance amount of the sale price will have to be deposited within 30 days after the confirmation of the sale. The successful bidder will have to pay the balance amount of the sale price within 30 days after the confirmation of the sale. The successful bidder failing to pay the balance amount of the sale price within 30 days after the confirmation of the sale, the entire EMD deposited will be forfeited & balance amount of the sale price will have to be deposited within 30 days after the confirmation of the sale. The successful bidder failing to pay the balance amount of the sale price within 30 days after the confirmation of the sale, the entire EMD deposited will be forfeited & balance amount of the sale price will have to be deposited within 30 days after the confirmation of the sale. The successful bidder failing to pay the balance amount of the sale price within 30 days after the confirmation of the sale, the entire EMD deposited will be forfeited & balance amount of the sale price will have to be deposited within 30 days after the confirmation of the sale.

Authorized Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

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