

## 9<sup>th</sup> lowest rainfall in October in T.N. recorded since 1901: IMD

Only Kanniyakumari recorded an excess of 116% of monsoon rainfall in October. Central and north Tamil Nadu are likely to receive below-normal rainfall in November. Met dept. says Chennai may receive light to moderate rain till Thursday

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

**T**he State recorded the ninth lowest rainfall in October since 1901. Many districts ended rain deficit this October as there were no strong weather systems to provide widespread rains.

S. Balachandran, Additional Director General of Meteorology, Chennai, said Tamil Nadu received nearly 9.9 cm of rainfall this October. The month ended with a shortfall in rain by nearly 42% against its normal share of 17.1 cm.

Kanniyakumari was the only district with an excess of 116% of monsoon rainfall in October.

While six districts, including Coimbatore, Madurai and Tirunelveli, received normal rainfall, most other districts, including Chennai, regis-



Various places in the State received light rain on Tuesday. R. RAGU

tered a major deficit in monsoon rainfall in October.

Mr. Balachandran said that Tamil Nadu had earlier recorded worst October rain during 2009 with a staggering deficit of 65%

and a shortfall by 61% in 2016.

Chennai Nungambakkam experienced such poor rainfall for the eighth year in the past 73 years. Similarly, Meenambakkam ended up with a rain short-

age in October for the fifth time, he said.

The Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai, has predicted an active phase of Northeast monsoon from November 2.

According to the outlook for November, central and northern districts in the State are likely to receive below normal rainfall. Those in the south Tamil Nadu may receive normal or above normal rainfall, he added.

A cyclonic circulation near coastal region will continue to bring rains over the State that may be heavy in south Tamil Nadu.

The State may begin to experience fairly widespread rainfall as many places are expected to receive light to moderate rain on November 3.

Districts along western ghats and other districts like Madurai, Dindigul and

Thoothukudi have chances of heavy rain in one or two places on Friday. Heavy rain may spread to some of the delta districts on Saturday.

Rainfall was intermittent as there were no strong weather systems except for easterly waves in October.

On mist formation during recent days, he noted that relatively weak winds at lower level and less cloud cover had led to such phenomenon before rainspell.

Various places in the State, including Tiruttani, Madhavaram, Chembarambakkam and Poona-mallee, received light rain between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday.

The Meteorological Department has forecast that Chennai may receive light to moderate rainfall in some areas till Thursday.

## India's first net zero business park launched in Chennai

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

CapitaLand Investment Limited (CLI) has commenced operations for phase 1 of International Tech Park Chennai, Radial Road, in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. Minister for Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce T.R.B. Rajaa and Minister for MSME T.M. Anbarasan were present at the event. It first intends to invest over Singapore \$500 million in Chennai over the next five years across multiple asset classes.

"To date, CLI has invested about \$750-\$800 million in Chennai and we expect to invest over \$500 million in the next five years across multiple asset classes, with a special focus on IT parks, logistics, and data centres. We hope to further contribute to the government's efforts in enhancing the State's infrastructure," Sanjeev Dasgupta, CEO, CLI India said.

The company said that this was the first business park in India to be certified

by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) as Net Zero for energy efficiency, water conservation and waste management. Located along Chennai's newest and fastest growing IT corridors, the 5 million sq. ft. business park would offer four Grade A office blocks with the capacity to house over 50,000 IT service professionals. In phase 1, the 1.3 million sq. ft. office block has already signed a lease commitment with Vestas Wind Technology India for about 250,000 sq. ft. of office space. The development of phase 2 is currently underway and set to begin operations by second quarter of 2024.

Phase 1 and phase 2 of ITPC-Radial Road comprising of 2.6 million square feet of office space is being developed by CapitaLand Investment under the newly launched CapitaLand India Growth Fund 2 (CIGF2), with a target fund size of \$525 million to invest in Grade A business parks in prime locations across gateway cities in India.

## Welcome assertion

Matters of defection should be taken out of the purview of the Speaker

It is a welcome sign of judicial assertion that the Supreme Court of India has fixed a deadline for the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker to adjudicate on petitions seeking the disqualification of members who had broken away from the leadership of the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). Long experience shows that Speakers tend to treat disqualification issues with great alacrity or supine indifference, depending on their political affiliations. Despite being reminded from time to time of their duty to remain neutral and demonstrate a sense of urgency in dealing with questions arising out of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, the anti-defection law, presiding officers appear to place political loyalties above their constitutional duty. It is quite fitting, therefore, that the apex court has asked Speaker Rahul Narwekar to decide the disqualification petitions against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's camp by December 31 and those concerning the NCP's breakaway group headed by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar by January 31, 2024. The directions are a natural follow-up to the outcome of a Constitution Bench decision on May 11, 2023, in which the Speaker was asked to decide the disqualification issue "within a reasonable period". The verdict came in a case that arose out of a split in the Shiv Sena, leading to a change of regime, with Uddhav Thackeray being succeeded by Mr. Shinde as Chief Minister.

None can dispute that the Speaker has had enough time to decide the matter, even though a few procedural aspects and the clubbing of petitions may account for some delay. In an earlier order in September, the Court had observed that it expected the Speaker to show deference to its directions, especially when he is acting as a tribunal under the Tenth Schedule. Even without judicial orders, the issue of whether a member has incurred disqualification is not a matter which can be dealt with in a leisurely or partisan manner. Recent political history is rife with instances of ruling parties casually recruiting members of the Opposition in several States without any fear of disqualification, as they know that friendly Speakers will not disqualify them. At the end of its judgment in the Karnataka disqualification case, the Court observed that "there is a growing trend of Speakers acting against the constitutional duty of being neutral". In Manipur, the Court went so far as to remove a Minister from office after the Speaker failed to decide, even long after the expiry of a judicial deadline, whether the Minister had incurred disqualification for defection. So long as the Speaker is vested with the authority to adjudicate disqualification issues, it will be difficult to free matters of defection from the thicket of politics.



# Messi wins record-extending eighth *Ballon d'Or*

The Argentine superstar claims the coveted honour ahead of Haaland and Mbappe; Spanish midfielder Bonmati takes the women's award

## FOOTBALL

Agence France-Presse  
PARIS

**L**ionel Messi won the eighth *Ballon d'Or* of his remarkable career at a glittering ceremony in Paris on Monday, while Spain's World Cup-winning star Aitana Bonmati took the women's prize.

For Messi, the trophy rewards his inspirational performances during last year's World Cup in Qatar when he skippered Argentina to victory, scoring seven goals and being declared the tournament's best player.

### Crowning moment

It was the crowning moment of his astonishing career, and it allowed him to see off competition, in particular from Erling Haaland, Kylian Mbappe, and Kevin De Bruyne, to take the award on the stage of the Chatelet Theatre in Paris.

"This is a gift to the whole Argentina team for what we have achieved," said Messi on stage after receiving his award from David Beckham, the co-owner of Inter Miami for which the 36-year-old legend now



**The Best!** Messi and Bonmati, who were instrumental in their countries winning the World Cup, with the big prize. AFP

turns out. Messi dedicated the trophy to late Argentina legend Diego Maradona, who would have celebrated his 63rd birthday on Monday.

"Happy birthday Diego. This is for you too," he said.

The women's prize seemed even more clear cut, as Bonmati was rewarded for starring as Spain won the World Cup in Australia in August.

The 25-year-old midfielder was named the best player at the World Cup as the Spanish team overcame off-field turbulence, including protests against their national federation and coach Jorge Vilda, to lift the trophy.

"It is difficult to improve on this. It has been a unique year.

"If anyone said to me when I was little that I would play at the Camp

Nou, win the World Cup, two Champions Leagues, a *Ballon d'Or*, a UEFA award, these are extraordinary things," said Bonmati.

Last year's winner Alexia Putellas, also part of that Spain side, was not nominated after missing almost all of last season with a knee injury.

Australia's Sam Kerr came second with teammate Salma Paralluelo in third place.