

The Hindu- 07- March-2023

# Joshimath to be discussed at disaster risk reduction meet

Narendra Modi to inaugurate session on March 10; official says an expert committee on the Uttarakhand town has suggested a complete halt to any kind of construction activity in the area

**Vijaita Singh**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he land subsidence in Joshimath in Uttarakhand that displaced many people, and the role of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) after the Turkey earthquake, will be among the many disaster-related topics that will be discussed at the third session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) conference to be held in Delhi from March 10 to 11.

The session, whose main theme is "Building local resilience in a changing climate", will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 10.

The session is aligned with the 10-point agenda promulgated by the Prime Minister to build local capacities, especially amid a rapidly changing disaster risk scenario in the wake of climate change. Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a session with State government Ministers.

Kamal Kishore, Member Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), said on Monday that many stakeholders, including private individuals, would discuss the



**On a precipice:** Joshimath was declared a landslip-subsidence zone in January, and more than 180 families were shifted to safe zones.

way forward for disaster management in the country.

"Due to climate change, many new forms of disasters are being witnessed. We are seeing drought and floods in places where they never used to occur. Cases of lightning have also increased. The focus of the sessions will be to take awareness about disaster management to the local level," said Mr. Kishore.

Responding to a question by *The Hindu* on whether Joshimath land subsidence will be discussed, Mr. Kishore said

"all disaster-related issues will be discussed."

He added that one session was dedicated to analysing long-term mitigation measures for disasters such as landslips, and the States would also share their experiences in handling such issues.

Sanjeev Kumar Jindal, Joint Secretary, Union Home Ministry, said that for the past two years, the Jal Shakti Ministry had taken several initiatives to improve the depleting water table in Punjab.

Atul Karwal, Director-General, NDRF, said Com-

mandant Gurvinder Singh, who led the operation in Turkey, will make a presentation at the conference.

A senior official said the expert committee, that was formed after local people in Joshimath complained of cracks and fissures at their homes and commercial spaces, had suggested a complete halt on any kind of construction activity in the area.

In January, Joshimath was declared a landslip-subsidence zone and more than 180 families were shifted to safe zones.



Hindustan Times- 07- March-2023

# Water crisis may worsen as levels in Yamuna dip further, 2 plants hit

Paras Singh

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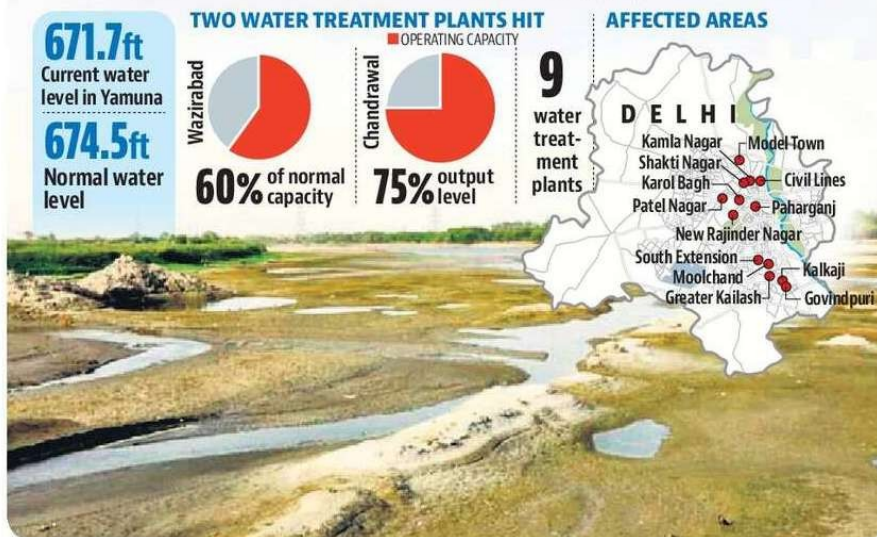
**NEW DELHI:** The ongoing water crisis in several parts of the Capital is likely to intensify with the low levels of water in the Yamuna affecting production of fresh water at a second treatment plant, officials aware of the matter said.

The officials said the water level in the Yamuna has reached 671.7 feet, almost 2.8 feet below the normal levels of 674.5 ft at the Wazirabad barrage -- considered the standard for measuring water in the river. Water level in the river had started dipping since February 25, when the first alert was issued by Delhi Jal Board.

Low water levels had earlier hit production at the Wazirabad treatment plant, and now production at the Chandrawal plant has also been hit. While officials say there is no clear distribution of the areas under these two water treatment plants, they cover parts of north, south and central Delhi. To be sure, several areas in south and north Delhi such as Moolchand, South Extension, Greater Kailash, Civil Lines and Model Town have been getting water at low pressure since February 25.

A senior DJB spokesperson

## Poor flow from Haryana affects supply: DJB



said Yamuna continues to receive poor flow of raw water from Haryana which has led to an acute shortage of water in the Wazirabad pond. "Both the main water treatment plants (Wazirabad and Chandrawal) are now working at low efficiency," official added.

Delhi primarily gets 40% raw

water from Yamuna through Haryana and rest from Ganga from Uttar Pradesh and Bhakra Nangal from Punjab. The Wazirabad Barrage forms the primary holding area where raw water is lifted for Wazirabad and Chandrawal treatment plants.

According to the DJB status

report on Monday evening, the Wazirabad plant was operating at 60% capacity and Chandrawal plant at 75% capacity. DJB operates nine treatment plants.

Of the total 995 MGD (million gallons per day) of Delhi's daily water supply — almost a quarter of the overall supply (over

230 MGD) is supplied by Chandrawal and Wazirabad plants. "When the water levels go down in the river or we face increased pollution in the river stream, Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla plants are impacted," the DJB official added.

According to a DJB advisory on Monday, water supply may be available at low pressure in Civil lines, Kamla Nagar, Shakti Nagar, Karol Bagh, Paharganj and NDMC areas. It added that the supply may also be hit in New Rajinder Nagar, Patel Nagar, Kalkaji, Govindpuri, Tughlakaabad, Sangam Vihar and Ambedkar Nagar. "Public is advised to make judicious use of water and water tankers will be made available," the advisory said.

Rajeev Suri, a resident of Defence Colony, said some parts of the colony has been getting water at low pressure for the past one week. "By Monday, we have seen only partial restoration of water supply," he said. Rahul Seth, a resident of Ratan Park said neighbourhoods in Ramesh Nagar and Moti Nagar have not received regular water supply since March 3. "DJB should at least tell us when the water supply will be restored," he said.

Deccan Chronicle- 07- March-2023

# TS, AP agree to link Godavari, Cauvery

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 6

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have agreed 'in principle' to interlink the Godavari and Cauvery rivers. The agreement came at a meeting of the task force of the National Water Development Agency in the city on Monday.

Task force chairman Sriram Vedire said both states had presented their views on detailed project report on the linking of

the rivers. The two states had said that they had no objection to the linking of rivers as long as surplus waters were supplied through the interlinkage and not from the allocated quota.

The meeting, chaired by the NWDA director general Bhupal Singh, discussed in detail the interlinking of the Krishna-Godavari-Pennar-Cauvery rivers.

■ **Page 5: TS asks water panel to clear projects**

## STATE ASKS WATER PANEL TO CLEAR PROJECTS

**From page 1**

Vedire said, adding that further progress on the river linkage plan will take place after concurrence from Chhattisgarh is received, as per a request from Telangana.

Telangana irrigation department's engineer-in-chief Muralidhar said the state requested NWDA to ensure the state's irrigation projects receive approvals.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.



The Indian Express- 07- March-2023

# Saxena reviews Yamuna cleaning drive, calls it 'massive turnaround'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

A LITTLE over a fortnight after they were launched, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena inspected the progress made by cleaning operations under way at the Yamuna on Monday.

Over a nearly 20-minute boat ride, Saxena witnessed what L-G House officials termed a "massive turnaround" in terms of garbage removal and water quality in the river since February 16 at Qudsia Ghat near ISBT in Kashmere Gate.

Apart from putting in place a 'Drain BOD Reducing' technique to treat drains falling into Yamuna — under which various contraptions in the form of lime and alum box and improvised stone weir have been installed in the Qudsia Drain — a floating debris catcher net, floating boom and mechanical aerator system (fountain) have also been put in



**The L-G inspected the drive's progress on Monday**

place as part of the cleanliness drive.

This, Raj Niwas said, had led to the water in this section having been "completely cleaned" of all garbage, hyacinth and plastic waste using floating booms and a mechanised conveyor machine installed along the river bank.

"As a result, the stink, which was earlier unbearable for even 10 minutes, has reduced signifi-

cantly. An artificial wetland system comprising root treatment plants, namely canna indica and vetiver grass, has been created to clean the sewage water coming in from Qudsia drain and riverine grasses have been planted to stabilise the banks of the drain. A monitoring hut made of bamboo has been set up at the Ghat," Raj Niwas stated.

Biological Oxygen Demand is the amount of dissolved oxygen that microorganisms like bacteria need to oxidise and hence significant for water quality; the trial of "drain BOD reducing" technique is being done for the first time on Qudsia drain and the Yamuna, the technique will be replicated at other locations. On the other hand, Raj Niwas stated, the territorial army provided by the National Mission for Clean Ganga is ensuring that the cleaned stretches of the floodplains are neither polluted nor encroached upon again.

# Water level remains low in Yamuna, supply affected

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

WITH WATER levels in the Yamuna remaining low, supply to the national capital has been affected.

While the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) had issued an alert on February 25 warning consumers of low supply on account of water shortage in the river, officials said on Monday that the water level had not improved much since then.

On Monday, the water level at the Wazirabad pond was 671.7 ft against a normal of 674.5 ft, reducing the water production at the Wazirabad plant from 134.5 MGD (million gallons per day) to 83 MGD.

Water production at the Chandrawal water treatment plant, which also depends on the Wazirabad pond for raw water, was around 75% of its regular efficiency, according to a note issued by the DJB.

The water level a week ago, on February 26, was also 671.7 ft.



DJB issued an alert on Feb 25 warning consumers of low supply on account of water shortage in the river. *Archive*

Water from the Wazirabad water treatment plant is likely to be available at low pressure till sufficient water is received in the river, according to the DJB.

Supply is likely to be hit in parts of the city including Civil Lines, Kamla Nagar, Shakti Nagar, Karol Bagh, Paharganj, Rajinder Nagar, East and West Patel Nagar, Inderpuri, Kalkaji, Govindpuri, Sangam Vihar, Tughlaqabad, Sangam Vihar,

Model Town, Punjabi Bagh, Jahangirpuri, Moolchand, South Extension, parts of the Cantonment, Greater Kailash, Burari and adjoining areas.

Low water levels at Wazirabad usually result in a tussle between the Delhi and Haryana governments over water shortage in the national capital and the quantity of water supplied from Haryana. Last year, the DJB had written to the

Haryana Irrigation Department requesting an additional 150 cusecs of water. It was a harsh summer in terms of water supply last year. In June 2022, the water level at Wazirabad had dropped to around 667.7 ft.

The ammonia level in the river was also high on Monday – 3.1 ppm (parts per million) – against the capacity of the DJB water treatment plants to treat ammonia up to around 1 ppm.

Northwest India has received low rainfall this winter. In February, the monthly rainfall over northwest India was 76% below the long-period average, according to data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Having received no rainfall in February, the deficit in Delhi was 100%.

IMD scientists have attributed the low amount of rainfall this winter to fewer western disturbances affecting the plains of northwest India. From January 1 to February 26, Haryana recorded a rainfall deficit of around 62%.



Telangana Today- 07- March-2023

Telangana Today

# ‘Won’t touch allocated waters of TS, AP’

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

Chairman of Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers, Sriram Vedire, on Monday assured that the allocated waters of both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh would not be touched while implementing the Godavari-Krishna-Penna-Cauvery interlinking project and that the unutilized waters of other States like Chhattisgarh would be utilized.

Sriram Vedire, who chaired the 17th meeting of the Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers here on Monday, stated that the Centre would obtain the appropriate legal sanctions and build a consensus amongst all the States including Chhattisgarh for the successful implementation of the project. Responding to Telangana’s

demand to include Chhattisgarh in the Godavari-Krishna-Penna-Cauvery interlinking project discussions, he said that there was no need for Chhattisgarh to be included in discussion as the Centre would involve it in an appropriate forum.

Earlier, Telangana expressed its concern that Chhattisgarh would have also been invited to the meeting, since the riverlinking contemplates using the unutilized waters of Chhattisgarh. The State also mentioned that they have submitted few Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of their projects planned on river Godavari, and requested that they be cleared by Central Water Commission and Ministry of Jal Shakti at the earliest. Telangana assured the Task Force that once these DPR were cleared, it

would fully support the Godavari-Cauvery river interlinking project. The State government also mentioned that as long as their allocated Godavari water by the tribunal was protected, they would support the project.

Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry while expressing their full support to the project, have requested the task force that all efforts be made to bring consensus amongst all the concerned States and the implementation of the project be taken up at the earliest.

Andhra Pradesh stated that the waters that have been allocated by Godavari Tribunal to it cannot be spared for the project. However, it stated that as long as their allocated waters by the tribunal was protected, it would fully support the interlinking of river project.

The NWDA appraised the Task Force that the preparation of DPRs of three links Godavari (Inchampalli) Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link, Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)-Pennar (Somasila) link and Pennar (Somasila) Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link under “Godavari Cauvery” link scheme has been completed and DPR was circulated to party States during April 2021. Four consultation meetings with party States have been held so far.

TFE has also recently been prepared by it to recast the proposal limiting the transfer from 7000 MCM to about 4000 MCM during phase-I from Godavari along with combining the proposal for supplementation in Krishna basin through Bedti-Varada link as per decision taken during third consultation meeting.

Business Standard- 07- March-2023

# RAJASTHAN

## Irrigation subsidy scheme a hit with farmers

The Rajasthan government's scheme to provide subsidies under the micro irrigation mission to promote irrigation through drip, sprinklers and mini sprinklers has become popular among farmers.

Farmers are using these techniques and saving water. They are also earning good returns by having more yield in less area. Agriculture commissioner Kanaram said that in the last four years, over 282,290 farmers have got ₹736.18 crore in subsidies.

He said 179,773 farmers are availing of subsidies of ₹157.18 crore and irrigating 248,514 hectares with micro-irrigation systems, while 102,518 farmers irrigating 130,036 hectares in the drip system and received a subsidy of ₹579 crore. **ANIL SHARMA**

Business Line- 07- March-2023

## PM chairs meeting to review preparedness for hot summer this year



**TAKING STOCK.** The PM asked IMD to issue daily weather forecasts in a manner that can be easily understood. PTI

**Prabudatta Mishra**  
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday chaired a high-level meeting of officials and reviewed the government's preparedness for a possible hot summer this year amidst rising apprehensions about El Nino affecting monsoon rains. While he was briefed about a host of issues, including the availability of drinking water, standing crops, irrigation, and fodder, Modi directed officials to prepare "protocols and dos and don'ts" for hot weather in accessible formats and well publicise them.

"Prime Minister was briefed about the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) weather forecast for the next few months and on the likelihood of a normal monsoon," an official statement said.

Modi was briefed about the impact of weather on Rabi crops and the expected yield of major crops, officials said. He inquired about efforts to monitor irrigation, water supply, fodder, and drinking water. As the meeting took stock of the preparedness of the States, particularly in terms of hospital infrastructure and the availability of emergency supplies, Modi stressed the need for detailed fire audits of all hospitals and that mock fire drills be done in all hospitals.

IMD last week released the weather forecast for the March-May period, wherein it has been predicted that an

overall above-normal temperature will prevail in most parts of the country. The monthly average maximum temperature in February was the highest, and the minimum temperature was the fifth highest, both since 1901.

### EL NINO CONDITIONS

Climate agencies have been cautioning against the possible setting in of El Nino conditions this year. Recently, the Finance Ministry raised concerns over predictions that El Nino conditions could result in deficient monsoon rains, leading to lower agricultural output and higher prices.

Officials also updated the Prime Minister on various efforts underway to prepare for disasters related to heat and mitigation measures, the statement said. Modi said that separate awareness materials should be prepared for different stakeholders, such as the general public, medical professionals, municipal and panchayat staff, and disaster response teams. He instructed to incorporate some multimedia lecture sessions in schools to sensitise children on dealing with extreme heat conditions.

"The Prime Minister asked IMD to issue daily weather forecasts in a manner that can be easily interpreted and disseminated. It was also discussed that TV news channels and FM radio could spend a few minutes daily explaining the daily weather forecast in a manner that would allow citizens to take necessary precautions," the statement said.



Amar Ujala- 07- March-2023

# बदली दिखाई दी यमुना की तस्वीर

## कुदसिया घाट पर एलजी ने किया सफाई कार्यों का निरीक्षण

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। उपराज्यपाल विनय कुमार सक्सेना ने सोमवार आईएसबीटी, कश्मीरी गेट के पास कुदसिया घाट पर यमुना के सघन सफाई अभियान का निरीक्षण किया। घाट से कचरा हटाने के बाद अब घास उग आई है। पानी की गुणवत्ता में इतना बदलाव महसूस किया गया कि अब वहां कुछ मिनट तक खड़े रहने पर भी बदबू का अहसास नहीं होता। एलजी ने इस काम के लिए अधिकारियों की तारीफ की।

एलजी ने 16 फरवरी को इस अभियान को शुरू किया था। इस मौके पर वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों और मीडिया कर्मियों के साथ उन्होंने करीब 20 मिनट तक यमुना में नाव की सवारी कर सफाई कार्यों का निरीक्षण किया। एलजी की सीधी निगरानी में यमुना की सफाई का काम जोर-शोर पर चल रहा है और 30 जून तक यमुना के बाढ़ क्षेत्रों को पूरी तरह अतिक्रमण मुक्त और साफ सुथरा बनाया जाएगा। यमुना की निगरानी पर एक साल तक



यमुना घाट पर सफाई अभियान का जायजा लेते एलजी। अमर उजाला

प्रादेशिक सेना की निगरानी में रहेगी। इस दौरान यमुना पुल से गिरने वाले कचरे को कंवेयर के जरिये यमुना से साफ किया जा रहा है। पानी में जैसे जैसे गंदगी कम होगी और बायो ऑक्सीजन डिमांड (बीओडी) में भी सुधार होगा। पानी से कचरे की सफाई और जलकुंभी और प्लास्टिक कचरे को पूरी तरह से साफ किया जा रहा है। क्यूडसिया ड्रेन से आने वाले सीवेज के पानी को साफ करने के लिए कैना इंडिका सहित दूसरे घास के साथ साथ कृत्रिम आर्द्रभूमि प्रणाली बनाई गई

है। ड्रेन के किनारों को स्थिर करने के लिए घास लगाई गई है।

**नालों के उपचार के लिए नई तकनीक :** यमुना में गिरने वाले नालों के उपचार के लिए एक अभिनव ड्रेन बीओडी रिड्यूसिंग तकनीक अपनाई गई है। इसके तहत कुदसिया ड्रेन में चूने और फिटकरी के डिब्बे के रूप में उपकरण लगाए गए हैं। इसके अलावा यमुना में प्रवाहित होने वाले कचरे को रोकने के लिए जाली, फ्लोटिंग बूम और फव्वारा लगाया गया है।

Dainik Bhaskar- 07- March-2023

**क्लाइमेट**

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## पानी के प्रबंधन में हमारी चूक के गंभीर परिणाम झेलने होंगे

**अमेरिका** के नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ हेल्थ की स्टडी में दावा किया गया है कि अगर आपको बुढ़ापे से बचना है तो ज्यादा से ज्यादा पानी पिएं। अगर शरीर में पानी की आपूर्ति ठीक रही तो आप तमाम तरह की बीमारियों से भी मुक्त हो जाएंगे। हर व्यक्ति से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि 3.7 लीटर पानी पिएं। महिलाओं के लिए ये 2.7 लीटर है। बाकी कुछ इस तरह के भोजन हों जो कि आपकी 20% पानी की जरूरत को पूरा कर सकें। पर सवाल है कि दुनिया में जब 200 करोड़ लोग गंदा पानी पीने को मजबूर हों तो ऐसे में उस रिपोर्ट का क्या करें जो पर्याप्त पानी पीने के लिए कहती है।

दुनिया भर में 8.29 लाख लोग सिर्फ गंदे पानी के कारण डायरिया के शिकार हो जाते हैं जबकि साफ पानी मुहैया कराके 5 साल की उम्र के 2.79 लाख बच्चों को अकाल मृत्यु से रोका जा सकता है। जिस तरह से दुनिया में जल की स्थिति बनी हुई है, ऐसे में कितना पानी हमारे हिस्से में आएगा? घटते पानी का सबसे बड़ा कारण यह है कि भले हमने सभी तरह के प्रबंधन पर दक्षता हासिल की हो, लेकिन पानी के प्रबंधन पर हम चूक गए हैं।

दुनिया में 4.6 अरब लोग किसी न किसी रूप में जलसंकट से गुजर रहे हैं। वर्ल्ड रिसर्च ऑफ वाटर इंस्टीट्यूट के अनुसार जल की कमी से अर्थव्यवस्था को हर साल 3000 करोड़ डॉलर नुकसान होता है।

अपने ही देश को देखिए। दुनिया की 17% आबादी अकेले भारत में है, ऐसे में माना जा रहा है कि 2050 तक पानी एक विकराल समस्या के रूप में हमारे सामने होगा। आंकड़ों के अनुसार 1960 में पूरे देश में 30 लाख ट्यूबवेल थे। अगले 50 वर्षों में यह संख्या 30 करोड़ तक पहुंच गई। आज करीब 71% से अधिक खेतों की सिंचाई ट्यूबवेल से होती है। वर्षा का पानी और उससे खेती-बाड़ी का समय जा चुका। हमने यह सारा तारतम्य खुद ही बिगाड़ दिया। पहले तो आज वर्षा का समय पर ना होना ही संकट बन चुका है। दूसरी बड़ी बात यह भी है कि अब खेती के स्वरूप बदल गए और अब हम सिंचाई आधारित खेती पर काम करते हैं।

वैसे तमाम तरह के प्रयोग भी हो रहे हैं। इनमें खासतौर से 'कैच द रेन' की एक बड़ी भूमिका भी है। आज देश में कई जगह वर्षा जल को समेटने का काम हो रहा है। 2009-10 में 'हैस्को' ने अपनी नदी को सूखने से बचाने के लिए जो प्रयोग किया, वह आज बड़े रूप में व्यापक हो गया। सीधी और सरल पहल, जिसमें प्रकृति के विज्ञान को समझते हुए अपने जलाशयों में वनों के अभाव में जल छिद्रों को जमा दिया। यह प्रयोग नमामि गंगे से लेकर देश की अन्य नदियों को सींचने के लिए काम आ रहा है।

हम अभी भी पानी के दो महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों को नहीं समझ पा रहे हैं। एक गंदे पानी से हम जीवन और बीमारियों के बड़े संकट में घिरे हैं, वह एक विषय है। और दूसरा जब-जब पानी की कमी होगी तब-तब पानी और प्रदूषित होगा। इस नियम का बिना पालन करते हुए हम दूषित पानी से मुक्त नहीं हो सकते। इसलिए जल संग्रहण के बड़े कार्यों को परिणाम न देना भविष्य के लिए कष्टकारी साबित हो सकता है। पानी को गंभीरता से नहीं समझे, तो आने वाले समय में हम बहुत बड़े कष्टों की तरफ चले जाएंगे। मतलब कल चाहिए तो आज जल जुटाइए।

(ये लेखक के अपने विचार हैं।)