

# News Links on Water Sector

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**CENTRAL WATER COMMISSION**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT &  
GANGA REJUVENATION

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

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# Steep rise in temperature in Ladakh a matter of concern: Ladakh IMD Director

Date: 31/07/2024

Ladakh India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director Sonam Lotus on Wednesday said that a steep rise in temperature in Ladakh is a matter of concern. Notably, a maximum temperature of 30.5 degrees Celsius was recorded in Leh on July 30.

**The Ladakh IMD Director noted that while high temperatures are typical during Ladakh's hottest months of July-August, he added that a steep rise in temperature, particularly in Ladakh, is indeed a matter of concern as glaciers are the region's key water source, and their rapid melting due to intense heat poses a significant threat to the region's water supply.**

"Ladakh is a cold desert area but it doesn't mean that it is always cold here. It is cold here during winters in December-January when temperatures drop to even -20 or -25 degrees Celsius in Leh

This time, Leh recorded a highest temperature of 33.5 degrees Celsius. At the same time, on 28th July, Kargil recorded the highest temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius. These temperatures are not new. It is always hot in July-August, especially from the second week of July to mid-August, around 45 days," IMD Ladakh Director told ANI.



Source: [https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/steep-rise-in-temperature-in-ladakh-a-matter-of-concern-ladakh-imd-director/#google\\_vignette](https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/steep-rise-in-temperature-in-ladakh-a-matter-of-concern-ladakh-imd-director/#google_vignette)

# Ways to Optimize Your Water Usage – The Benefit of Smart Irrigation Technology

Date: 30/07/2024

Water conservation remains important and continues to become an increasingly common topic of discussion in communities across Indiana and the globe. Finding innovative ways to manage water usage is essential to the longevity and quality of our public supply.

One such solution is smart technologies such as digital irrigation systems that help homeowners optimize their water consumption effectively. This blog explores the significance of water conservation and how smart tech practices can revolutionize water management practices for both indoor and outdoor irrigation systems.

## WHAT IS A SMART IRRIGATION CONTROLLER?

An irrigation controller is designed to revolutionize the way you manage your outdoor watering needs. Powered by advanced technology, these systems can offer a range of features to help you optimize your irrigation system and conserve water effectively.



Source: <https://portage.life/article/ways-to-optimize-your-water-usage-the-benefit-of-smart-irrigation-technology/>

# China's Hydropower Dilemma Is Caused By Drought

Date: 29/07/2024

Hydropower is a mainstay of China's green energy scheme, helping in their bid to cut down on harmful emissions and their move towards cleaner fuel alternatives.

As the top global creator of hydroelectricity, China leans heavily on its extensive collection of dams and water reserves in places such as Yunnan and Sichuan. The power plants serve up a slice of the country's electrical needs while also assisting with the management of water sources and flood control.

**Dwindling water resources from sources such as large hydroelectric turbines threaten China's already strained economic stability. All of this highlights how drought, even when it happens at a regional level, can impact an entire nation. It also shows why diverse and flexible energy strategies are needed if water levels continue to plummet..**



**Source:** <https://www.worldatlas.com/climate/china-s-hydropower-dilemma-is-caused-by-drought.html>



# Snowfall in Hindu Kush Himalaya in Steep Decline

By Zara Gounden

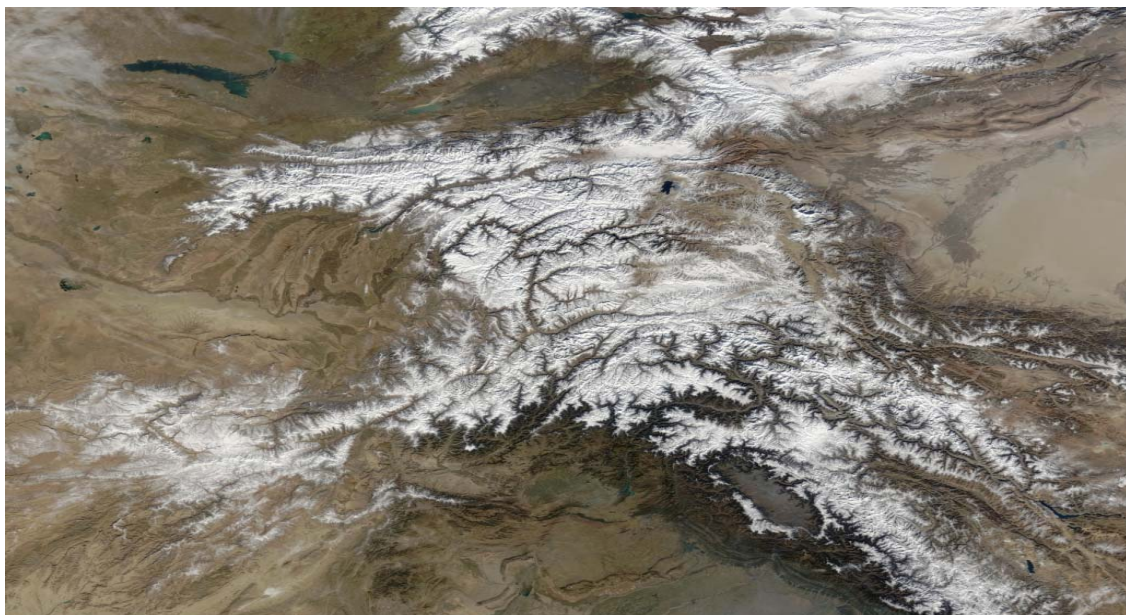
Date: 02/08/2024

In response to critically low snow cover in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region, and the potential for serious water shortages in downstream communities, experts from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) have called for immediate action in their [annual Snow Update Report](#).

The towering snow peaks of the Hindu Kush span approximately 4.2 million square kilometers and 800 kilometers across Afghanistan, northern Pakistan, and Tajikistan. The region's normally heavy snowfall and lingering snow cover serve as a critical water source for several major rivers.

The report, published on June 14, 2024, highlights that snowmelt accounts for about 23 percent of the total water flow in 12 major river basins originating in the Hindu Kush Karakoram Himalayas region. This snowmelt contributes 74 percent of the river flow to the Amu Darya, 77 percent to the Helmand, and 40 percent to the Indus.

The report indicates that snow levels are about 20 percent below average across the region this year, with especially steep declines in the west, where snow plays the most significant role in the water supply.



Source: <https://www.circleofblue.org/2024/world/snowfall-in-hindu-kush-himalaya-in-steep-decline/>

# U.S., Canada reach vital Columbia River pact. What it means for the dams, electric rates

By Annette Cary

Date: 06/08/2024

**The United States and Canada have reached an agreement in principle to modernize the 1964 Columbia River Treaty that has governed hydropower operations and management of flood risks on both sides of the international border. As outlined in the agreement, the treaty will provide a path for the two nations to work together for the next 20 years.**

It re-balances energy coordination between the United States and Canada, allowing the United States to keep more clean hydropower energy while giving Canada more opportunities to import from and export to U.S. markets, according to a statement from President Joe Biden posted Thursday morning.

Senior administration officials said in a virtual meeting with news media that the hydropower energy that Canada could claim under the “Canadian entitlement” was valued at about \$2.8 billion over 20 years under current market basis. It would drop to \$1.5 billion over 20 years under the tentative treaty agreement.



Source: <https://ca.news.yahoo.com/breaking-u-canada-reach-agreement-195937149.html>

# Iraq turns to desert cultivation after losing 60% of irrigated farmland

Date: 11/08/2024

Shafaq News/ Iraq has lost nearly 60% of its farmland irrigated by river water due to severe water shortages and climate change, the Ministry of Agriculture confirmed on Sunday.

**The ministry's spokesperson, Mohammad Al-Khuzai, told Shafaq News Agency that the drastic reduction in available water has forced Iraq to cut its winter wheat cultivation plan to just 1.5 million acres. "The shortage of water and harsh climate changes that have hit Iraq have led to this significant loss of agricultural land," he said.**

In response to these challenges, the ministry has expanded into desert areas, using sprinkler irrigation systems that rely on groundwater. Al-Khuzai noted that "the ministry has successfully cultivated four million dunams (approximately one million acres) of desert land to compensate for the loss of irrigated farmland."

"We have not only managed to produce wheat but have also achieved a surplus, with a total production of 6.4 million tons."



Source: <https://shafaq.com/en/Iraq/Iraq-turns-to-desert-cultivation-after-losing-60-of-irrigated-farmland>

# CWC to monitor all dams vulnerable to Glacial Lake Outburst Floods

Date: 08/08/2024

The Central Water Commission (CWC) has decided to monitor all the existing and the under-construction dams vulnerable to glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). This has been decided in the wake of the Teesta-III hydroelectric dam collapse in October 2023, a PIB press release stated.

The CWC has decided to monitor 902 glacial lakes and bodies of water including 477 glacial lakes and bodies of water having more than 50 hectares of water spread area every year.

The monitoring of these lakes will help in identifying the ones that have expanded substantially during the month, which can be the cause of major disasters. The monthly monitoring reports of the glacier lakes can be accessed on the CWC website.



Source: <https://theprint.in/environment/cwc-to-monitor-all-dams-vulnerable-to-glacial-lake-outburst-floods/2214822/>



# Apex court raises alarm over plastic waste in water bodies

Date: 07/08/2024

The Supreme Court has voiced serious concerns over the unchecked dumping of plastic and other waste materials into India's water bodies, warning that this pollution is causing significant environmental degradation and harming aquatic life.

A bench of justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti emphasised that without a unified effort from authorities and the cooperation of the public, any attempts to address illegal constructions and improve water quality in rivers, including the Ganga, will remain "illusory."

"The dumping of plastic is causing serious environmental degradation and also impacting aquatic life in the riverbanks and the water bodies in the country. Unless concerted effort is made by the responsible authorities with people's cooperation, irrespective of the efforts to target illegal/unauthorised constructions, the desired improvement of the quality of the water in river Ganga/all other rivers and water bodies in the country will remain illusory," stated the bench in its August 2 order.



Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/sc-raises-alarm-over-plastic-waste-in-water-bodies-unauthorised-constructions-101722970578798.html>

# Groundwater level falling fastest in Punjab, 70% wells register dip — some by 4 metres

By Navjeevan Gopal

Date: 08/08/2024

Nearly 70% wells in Punjab — 130 out of 186 — have registered varying degree of fall in water level, in some cases by more than four metres, by November 2023 — in comparison to the mean of water level fluctuation from November 2003 to 2022 — putting the state at the top of the list among north Indian states and Union Territories.

Of 186 wells in Punjab that were considered for the water level fluctuation, at least 43 wells (23.1%) in unconfined aquifers recorded a fall of more than four meters, 32 (17.2%) registered a fall of water level between two to four meters, and 55 (29.6%) witnessed a fall of zero to two meters. No change was observed in one well.



Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/groundwater-level-punjab-wells-register-dip-9501789/>

## Shri C.R. Paatil releases CWC's publication 'Assessment of Area Affected due to Floods in India'

Date: 25/07/2024

Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Paatil, released a publication brought out by Central Water Commission (CWC), 'Assessment of Area Affected due to Floods in India', in New Delhi today.

CWC, a premier technical organization of India in the field of Water Resources, has carried out scientific study by capturing all flood events utilising the satellite imageries for the period 1986-2022. This publication reveals that about 20.5 Mha of area has been protected from the floods in the country by taking various structural measures. Further, about 21 Mha of area in the country has been affected by flood as per analysis for the period 1986-2022.

The publication provides details of district-wise areas affected by floods. It would be useful for the development of early warning systems to mitigate the impact of floods, advance development of flood management strategies, planning emergency response measures and infrastructure development to prevent damages caused by floods. It would therefore help planners, policy makers, disaster managers, relief agencies, academicians etc. dealing with floods in their respective fields for taking various measures to mitigate the impact of floods and carry out further appropriate flood protection works.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion included Secretary (Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation), Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Chairman (Central Water Commission), Shri Kushvinder Vohra, and other senior officials of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and CWC.

[Link for PPT on the publication](#)



Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseSelfframePage.aspx?PRID=2037094>