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Blitz

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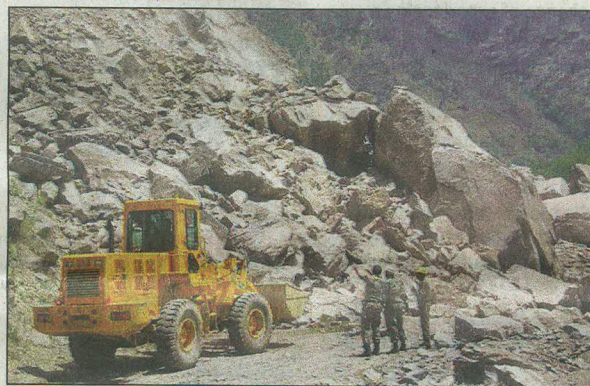
Massive landslide disrupts Badrinath yatra

D S Kunwar & Kautilya Singh | TNN

Dehradun: A massive landslide in the early hours of Thursday morning at Hathi Pahaad near Vishnuprayag, almost 32 km from the Badrinath shrine, disrupted the Badrinath yatra which had begun barely five days ago.

Over 1,000 devotees from across the country and abroad, some of whom were on their way to the shrine and some who were returning after a darshan, were stuck at different parts of the Vishnuprayag-Marwadi stretch, considered one of the most ecologically-sensitive slide zones in the Garhwal Himalayas.

No casualties were reported although sources said that



Boulders block the Vishnuprayag-Marwadi stretch after the landslide near Badrinath on Thursday

four machines, kept for road-clearing, were struck by heavy boulders and pushed into the Alaknanda river below.

State government officials, meanwhile, told **TOI** that the yatra was not suspended and would proceed on

course. Briefing mediapersons, additional secretary Rakesh Sharma said that a 100-member team from the Border Roads Organization (BRO), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and State Disaster Management department had been pressed into service along with six bulldozers and road-clearing machines to make the route operational.

"Over 600 pilgrims have been evacuated, and almost 400 more would be evacuated by Friday," said Sharma.

He added that a request has been made to increase the number of helicopters being deployed in order to speed up the process of evacuation by air.

HELPING OUT NEPAL

Starting from a few hours after the earthquake struck, the Indian relief and rescue effort has been relentless and unflagging

2

INDIAN AIR FORCE

FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT

C-17 Globemaster III, Il-76, C-130J Super Hercules, An-32



78
sorties

3,209
people airlifted

397.2
tonnes relief material

958
personnel

MEDIUM LIFT HELICOPTERS

8 (6 in Kathmandu, 2 in Pokhara)

40
sorties daily

196
sorties so far

454
casualties evacuated

63.75
tonnes of relief
material delivered

760
rescued



ARMY

THE EVEREST MISSION TEAM

34 MEMBERS, INCLUDING 4 officers, were on Clean Everest Mission. Had the experience of medical emergencies at Siachen, plunged into relief and rescue. But will continue with Everest mission once the crisis from the earthquake is over.

TEAM SPLIT INTO 2 WINGS

One focussed on the Army's own relief, and has managed to recover almost 60% of its stores. The second team went in with medical kits to help the local population. Small medical base stabilised 60-70 individuals

34
individuals evacuated

49.4
tonnes relief distributed

NDRF

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations are on in full swing in the disaster zone.

16
search and rescue teams

18
sniffer dogs

8,450
tents despatched on April 30

11
have been rescued

115
bodies retrieved

24x7
control room in Delhi

INDIAN NAVY

Though with limited scope of operations in land-locked Nepal, the Navy, riding on its stellar success in the Yemen evacuation operation, has waded into relief and rescue. A 16-member medical team from Mumbai is in Nepal; in the team are three Nepalese sailors to help in communication, besides a medical specialist and 6 doctors

DNA SAMPLING

The 72-hour 'golden window' to locate survivors is long shut, but India might send DNA sampling kits with subsequent NDRF teams to help identify the unidentified dead

UAVNETRA

A 4-member NDRF team carrying the DRDO-designed unmanned aerial vehicle Netra is in Kathmandu. The UAV is recceing the damage

AVIATION HELICOPTERS

Dhruv ALH, Cheetah



ENGINEER TASK FORCES

3 teams inducted. In Barpak, they are opening roads

ON THE WAY

From Kanpur to Pokhara

5,000
blankets

500
tents

50
tarpaulin rolls

We will soon be launching a public awareness campaign on the importance of water conservation and rainwater harvesting. We also invite Delhiites to share their own water conservation tips on our Facebook page

—Sanjam Chima, Spokesperson, DJB

We have only one water tank for our 8-storey building. It is mounted on the roof and takes a long time for water to reach our homes. If a resident leaves the tap running and steps out of the house, the rest of the building is doesn't get water. We always suffer in the summer.

—A.K. Srivastava, Resident of DDA flats, Vasant Kunj

There is shortage of water and contaminated supply in many parts of North Delhi. For instance, in Burari, half the residents have to rely on tankers that visit once a week. In the Walled City, the pipelines are very old and haven't been changed so the first 30 minutes of water supply has to be flushed out.

—Ashok Bhasin, President, North Delhi Residents' Welfare Federation

As the pipelines in the Walled City are old, the quality of water is bad. Recently, there was no water supply in the area and we asked our MLA to send a tanker. But it never came. We ended up having to pay a private tanker as we had no other option.

—Mohd. Gulzar Ansari, General secretary, RWA Mohd Ismail Marg, Bara Hindu Rao

DJB CONFIDENT BUT RESIDENTS FEAR SHORTAGE

As temperatures rise, woes over water supply begin troubling Delhiites. However, DJB officials say this summer will be different

Damini Nath

This year has turned out to be different. Water shortage that usually begins to plague Delhiites as temperatures rise hasn't set in yet. Summer is here, but wide-spread water woes are missing so far.

This season, the Capital has two new water treatment plants — albeit running at less than half their capacities — that have added to the supply. But, as usual, distribution losses and the demand-supply gap continue to hover and residents in the parts of the city fear shortage as it gets hotter.

The Delhi Jal Board added the 50-million gallons per day (MGD) Dwarka plant to its supply network in March, but it is currently producing around 20 MGD. The 20-MGD plant in Bawana was commissioned in April and is treating 6 MGD.

But, officials say thousands of leakages have been plugged and new pipelines laid, making the supply more efficient. DJB vice-chairperson Kapil Mishra said, "Emergencies may arise during peak summer, but on the whole, we are better prepared this summer."

With lakhs of Delhiites being added to the piped network this year, the pressure on the supply will only increase. A senior DJB official said if Haryana supplied enough water, both the new plants would work at full capacity. "Delhi needs 1,080 MGD of water and we currently supply 845 MGD," said the official.

However, activists say there is enough water, but the network leads to huge distribution losses.

Convenor of Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan Manoj Misra said: "Delhi gets more water than it deserves, but the distribution system is such that it leads to about 40-50 per cent losses."

But, DJB officials said distri-

DJB'S NETWORK

PIPELINE



14,132 km reaching 82.2% of the population

TUBEWELLS



4,345 + 78 more being added this summer

TANKERS



800 + 250 more to be procured soon



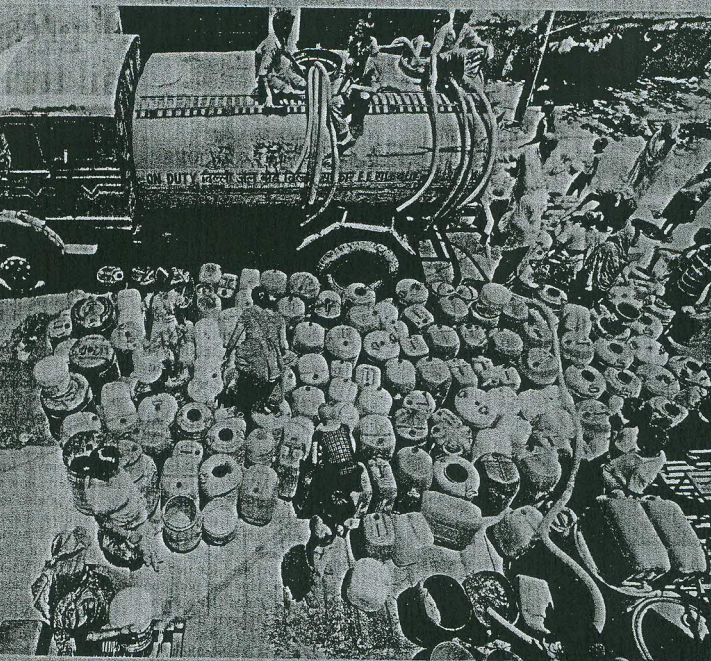
DISTRIBUTION LOSSES 40%

(As per Economic Survey of Delhi 2012-13)

PREPARATIONS FOR SUMMER

bution losses had been brought down to 20-25 per cent. International norms for a city like Delhi say distribution losses should be under 15 per cent.

Meanwhile, residents at the tail-end of the supply network are worried about water shortage. A Vasant Kunj resident, A.K. Srivastava, said the water pressure was so low that if someone



4,400 major leakages repaired in the past year

Water supplied to 913 unauthorised colonies out of 1,639

24 water emergency control rooms being run

Number of tanker trips to go up from 6,100 to 6,400 per day

37% reduction in complaints from 2013 to 2014

in his eight-storey building left a tap running, the whole apartment complex would go dry.

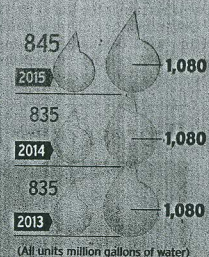
"Since there is only one tank on the roof, it takes very long for water to fill," said Mr. Srivastava. Residents in parts of North and Central Delhi have a problem with contaminated water. Ashok Bhasin, the president of the North Delhi Residents' Wel-

fare Federation, that represents 178 RWAs, said iron content in water was a major problem in Old Delhi.

"The pipes in the Walled City are so old that we get red-coloured water. We get water for only an hour-and-a-half and for the first 30 minutes we have to flush the water," said Mr. Bhasin.

DJB SAYS 15 DRIPS PER MINUTE ADD UP TO ALMOST 3 GALLONS OF WATER WASTED PER DAY
65 GALLONS WASTED PER MONTH
788 GALLONS WASTED PER YEAR

SUPPLY | DEMAND



WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A WATER EMERGENCY

- ▶ CALL TOLL FREE 24X7 DJB HELPLINE AT 1916
- ▶ REGISTER COMPLAINTS ONLINE AT DELHIJALBOARD.NIC.IN AND DJB.GOV.IN
- ▶ LODGE COMPLAINTS VIA DJB APP AVAILABLE ON GOOGLE PLAY STORE

AREAS WHERE SUPPLY IS DEFICIENT OR WATER IS CONTAMINATED



TIPS TO CONSERVE WATER

- Don't leave taps running while brushing teeth, shaving, washing dishes and clothes
- Don't use a hose to wash your car. Instead, use half a bucket of water
- Use a broom to sweep your driveway, garage or side-walk instead of water
- CHECK FAUCETS AND PLUMBING FOR LEAKS
- CHOOSE EFFICIENT WASHING MACHINES
- ONLY RUN THE WASHING MACHINE WITH A FULL LOAD
- Water your lawn only when needed
- Collect and use rainwater for watering your gardens
- Don't run online boosters when there's no supply as the water meter runs fast with air pressure

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

Race against time to bring relief to quake-hit



Residents look for their belongings amid the rubble at Bhaktapur in Nepal on Thursday. — PHOTO: THE NEW YORK TIMES

Army finds it tough to reach aid to villages

Jayant Sriram

As the official death toll in Saturday's earthquake crossed 5,500 Thursday, the focus of relief operations shifted to the villages and remote areas near the epicentre as Nepal's Army fought against time to take food supplies and bring back the injured.

The Hindu rode with a Nepali Army rescue helicopter to Sindhupalchok district, about 65 km north-east of Kathmandu, which has reported the highest death toll. The mission was to carry food supplies to the village of Tatopani and the surrounding areas, about three miles from the Chinese border, and bring back at least 40 people who had been rescued in the past two days. To do this, however, the helicopter had to set up

base in one of the only open strips of land available — in the small village of Narantan.

From the sky, during the 20-minute flight to Sindhupalchok, the scale of the damage, and the incredible difficulty of mounting any rescue mission, was immediately evident. Miles of mountainous terrain, serrated with agricultural plots, were dotted with small settlements of destroyed houses. Landslips had occurred on several slopes and strips of orange here and there indicated areas where the Army has been able to reach and set up relief tents. The estimate, conservative at best, is that about 70-80 per cent of the houses in this region have been destroyed.

Small copters, frequent trips

From Narantan, where the landing strip is the size of a small football field, a series of smaller helicopters, able to seat about 5 persons, touched down every 10-15 minutes to unload injured

and rescued persons from the surrounding hills. In turn, they would take bags of rice and boxes of biscuits and instant noodles from the supply helicopter back to the areas from where they came. This process had been repeated for two days.

Dr. Subhesh Gimore, a geophysicist from Kathmandu says he and a team of three others were conducting a feasibility study for a hydro-power project in the Liping River near the Chinese border when the quake struck. "Ironically, we were using a French instrument to do a scan below the surface at the time. We all immediately knew what was happening," he said. Dr. Gimore and his team were rescued three days later from the Dry Port near Liping. Similarly, Lal Prasad Bhattarai, a teacher, was taking 35 people from his micro-finance co-operative on a hike to the India-Nepal border. He says, with a laugh, that it was meant to be a team bonding trip. After the earthquake, many of his team managed to survive but saw many people die

when the second quake caused landslips on Sunday. They walked for two days until they were found by locals at Narayan Chowk and brought to the village. When an army helicopter arrives, there is an elaborate process of checking who qualifies to be taken directly to Kathmandu. An army doctor assesses injuries, and the serious ones are stretched on to the flight. Foreign tourists are also given priority.

While the Nepal Army has stepped up these operations over the past two days, it says the scale of the operation is overwhelming. Our next stop is the Army's battalion station in Chautara, also in Sindhupalchok. From the helipad, which offers a 360-degree view of the surrounding hills, a senior officer admits that they might not reach everybody affected. "Some of these places are so remote that they have no administration or local police. We have no idea what is going on or whether we will be able to reach the survivors in time."

15-year-old survives five days under rubble

Damakant Jayshi

KATHMANDU: On the sixth day since the killer earthquake struck Nepal, a 15-year-old trapped under the debris was found alive, even as the death toll reached 5,630, police said on Thursday. The number of injured is 7,879.

Pemba Lama was rescued by a team of Armed Police Force, 120 hours after he was buried in the rubble of a Kathmandu guesthouse where he was working. He told journalists that he survived by squeezing out leftover ghee and water in a cloth.

Shiv Shrestha, 37, of Nuwakot district was rescued on Wednesday by a team that included Indian workers, Ekantipur.com reported.

Mr. Shrestha had gone to Mailung Dobhan for a picnic with 13 others. He survived by drinking muddy water from the spot he was buried in. Ten members of the group are missing. The



Pemba Lama being rescued by the Armed Police Force from the collapsed Hilton Hotel in Nepal on Thursday. — PHOTO: REUTERS

residents of Bhotechaur village in Sindhupalchok district waiting for rescue teams to reach them, started a search for people trapped in the rubble. The government news agency, RSS, reported that they had recovered 37 bodies. Most houses in the village have been destroyed.

The police said four helicopters were sent to Palungtar in Gorkha district on a search mission. Gorkha and Sindhupalchok are among the

worst-affected districts. Relief from different parts of the world has continued to pour in, and the Norwegian government pledged a further aid of 100 million Kroner. This is in addition to the 30-million Kroner it announced soon after the quake. Many people are still living in the open, fearing another quake or because their houses were destroyed. Hence, the demand for tents is high, but the supply is inadequate.

Nepal's fragile economy shattered

KATHMANDU: What took moments to flatten will take years to rebuild. In mere seconds a powerful earthquake devastated a swathe of Nepal. Rebuilding the impoverished

Himalayan nation's fragile economy will require a long slog, financed by foreign aid and money from its army of overseas workers.

Initial estimates peg the economic damage from the tremor that killed more than 5,000 people at billions of dollars. The tourism industry, a pillar of the economy, has been shattered and it's unclear

when the travellers will return.

"It's been devastating. Their tourism economy has obviously come to a halt," said Rajiv Biswas, Asia-Pacific economist with IHS. "I don't know when it would be realistic for tourists to again visit Nepal."

Mr. Biswas forecasts the cost of reconstruction could exceed \$5 billion or about 20 per cent

of Nepal's economy. An initial estimate by the U.S. Geological Service reckons damages of \$1 billion to \$10 billion. Other analysts say it's far too early to assess the full cost.

Tourism provides 7 per cent of Nepal's jobs and accounts for 8 per cent of the economy, according to the Asian Development Bank.

"Tourists are fleeing because of the continuing aftershocks, which have brought fear and terror," said Hari Man Lama, of Incentive Tours, a travel company in Kathmandu. — AP

Sharif calls up Modi

Smriti Kak
Ramachandran

NEW DELHI: The need for regional cooperation in drawing up blueprints for disaster mitigation during natural calamities came for discussion between Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistan counterpart Nawaz Sharif during a call on Thursday.

Mr. Sharif had called Mr. Modi to condole the deaths caused in India's massive earthquake on 25. Following the conversation, Mr. Modi suggested that the two nations should hold exercises for working out plans to minimise damage during natural disasters.

"I suggested to PM that SAARC nations should conduct regular joint exercises on disaster rescue. SAARC nations come together to hold exercises of rescue teams, doctors etc. on how we minimise damage during natural disasters," Mr. Modi said.

Transgender chip in with

Shiv Sahay Singh

KOLKATA: On a day when most people in West Bengal opted to stay home to take advantage of a bandh, transgenders of Kolkata went to the streets to collect for the victims of the earthquake.

Hundreds of transgenders on Thursday evening held a condolence meeting, adorned for the victims.

"Though we are among the most deprived and socially excluded segments, we thought helping in whatever manner we could," Rajanika Sinha, secretary of Association of Transgenders/Hijras in Bengal told The Hindu.

SOME OF THESE PLACES ARE SO REMOTE THAT WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS GOING ON OR WHETHER WE WILL BE ABLE TO REACH SURVIVORS IN TIME

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Aftershocks could persist till next year

Zia Haq

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NEW DELHI: The Nepal earthquake was so large that its aftershocks could persist for years, as a forecast released by US Geological Survey (USGS) predicts major tremors until May 31, 2016, many of them between the potentially risky magnitudes of 6 and 7 next month.

There's even a small chance of an aftershock of "greater" intensity than the April 25 event during the one-year period.

The geological agency expects aftershocks to occur in the "zone of current activity and at its edges", which means it will be felt in areas already devastated, complicating recovery

and weakening structures further. Aftershocks felt so far in the Himalayan nation have been in line with the USGS projections.

According to the USGS, aftershocks of magnitude 5 and larger are "as a rule of thumb" considered potentially damaging.

Until May 3 this year, up to 14 aftershocks of magnitude 5 or greater are expected, along with a 54% chance of a magnitude 6 aftershock.

Chances of major tremors are highest throughout May this year, with a better-than-50% probability of at least three tremors greater than magnitude 6. According to the forecast's classification, more than 50% translates to a

"significant chance". There's very little doubt that Nepal will continue to feel more than dozen quakes of up to magnitude 5 in May.

Between now and May 31 next year, the "potential for an aftershock larger than the mainshock remains, but is small (1-2% in each time period)," the forecast, viewed by HT, says.

Aftershocks, or additional quakes arising from land-masses reshuffling after a big incident, are usually smaller than the mainshock, but sometimes may be large enough to be "felt widely throughout the area" and cause additional damage, particularly to structures already weakened by the main quake.



■ A cracked school wall in Nepal's Bhaktapur area. The country has declared a 3-day mourning period for the quake victims. RAJ K RAJ/HT

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Fresh rain spell gives jitters to farmers in Amritsar

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, APRIL 30

Yet another spell of unseasonal rainfall this morning gave jitters to farmers as their heaps of wheat lying in the open in various grain markets got drenched. The rain may also delay the harvest-

ing of late varieties of wheat.

Talking to The Tribune at the Bhagtanwala grain market here, farmer Gurdayal Singh said, "My entire produce was lying in the open as there was no place inside the shed. The authorities here didn't provide us any tarpaulin sheets to cover our pro-

duce, leaving it vulnerable to the vagaries of weather."

Another farmer Amrik Singh said there was no provision for drainage of water due to which the grain market witnessed waterlogging, thus damaging their wheat. "We are already reeling under losses as our yield has

dropped significantly and now the fresh spell of rain has compounded our problems. Our produce will now gain more moisture, making its procurement difficult," he rued.

The farmers alleged there was hardly any space for them to stock their produce

in the market, which was overflowing with wheat as its arrival had gained momentum now. A section of farmers also expressed dissatisfaction over the pace of procurement.

District Mandi Officer Sukhbir Singh Sodhi said today's rainfall didn't

have much effect on the wheat lying in the grain markets. Only the procurement process got a bit delayed due to it, he added. He said the procurement was going on smoothly and if the current pace continued they would wind it up within 15 days.

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40% of India still banks on monsoon for agriculture

Subodh.Varma@timesgroup.com

In the 21st century, why does the forecast of a deficient monsoon send the same ripple of fear through India as it would 5,000 years ago? The short answer is that for almost 40% of the population, agriculture has not changed—it is still dependent on the “rain god”, or the South-West monsoon as it is known today.

Here are the facts: about 46% of India's net sown area (land on which cultivation is done at least once a year) is irrigated. The balance 54% is unirrigated and hence dependent on water that rains down from the clouds, mostly in the four monsoon months.

Back in 1997, a government committee calculated that the Ultimate Irrigation Potential (UIP) for India was about 140 million hectares (Mha). That's the possible extent of irrigation facilities that can be created. How much of this is actually utilized currently? In 2011-12, the net irrigated area was just 65 Mha, as per latest data available with agriculture ministry.

Clearly, the single most important input needed by farmers—water—has not been provided for a very large number of farmers leaving them vulnerable to the erratic monsoon. That's why the ancient fear still lurks in these modern times.

Providing irrigation requires huge investment on the part of the government. Private capital is not going to get involved in a significant way because building canals demands long lock-in period for capital and low returns. In recent years, the investment in agriculture grew from 7.5% of the investment in the

AT THE MERCY OF RAIN GODS



Source: Ministry of Agriculture; Census

whole economy in 2004-05 to 7.7% in 2013-14. Within this, the share of government investment actually declined from 6.7 to 4.7%, while private sector share increased from 7.8 to 8.6%. The declining government investment in agriculture is the reason behind increasing vulnerability of farmers to water scarcity.

The irony is that in all these years government did spend money on irrigation projects but not as much as needed and its usual inefficient manner. Between 2004 and 2014, the central government provided over Rs 53,000 crore to states for irrigation projects, according to a reply to a Parliament question. But out of 297 projects, 163 were running delayed, including some for over 20 years.

So, how have the farmers been managing all these years? They have had no other option but to turn to pumping groundwater out through tubewells. In 1990-91, the share of tubewells in all irrigation was 30% but this jumped to 45% in 2011-12. In 1960-61, tubewells contributed just 1% to irrigation. Canal irrigation declined from 36% in 1990-91

NET SOWN AREA 140.8 million hectares
IRRIGATED 65.3 million hectares



% Irrigated Area 46.4

Population dependent on rain-fed land	44%
Agri production in rain-fed land	44%

to 25% in 2011-12.

This does not mean that the tubewell dependent farmer is untouched by a failure of monsoon. Here is how it blows back on him too: his expenses for buying water from tubewell owners shoot up manifold in the absence of rain. Most small and marginal farmers do not own pumpsets and tubewells, they buy water from larger farmers.

There is a larger hit the economy is taking because of lack of irrigation. Productivity is much lower in rain-fed cultivation. It ranges from one to two tons per hectare for foodgrains compared to up to four tons for irrigation. That's why about 44% of India's foodgrain production comes from 56% unirrigated land, while the irrigated land produces 56% output.

According to Kapil Dev Sharma, formerly with the National Rainfed Authority of India, it is not necessary to just build canals. Very small interventions, like lined ponds, can also go a long way. Over 27 Mha land can be provided one supplemental irrigation by building such ponds that cost only Rs 18,500 per hectare.

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Govt alerts discoms, water utility for summers

HT Correspondent

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government is planning strict punitive action against power discoms if they are not able to fulfil the promises they have made to the government ahead of summers.

According to Delhi government officials, discoms have submitted their summer preparedness plans and availability of power is not likely to be a problem.

"Discoms have assured us that they will be able to meet the power demand this summer. So the problem is not availability but distribution. Last year, power was affected for 10 days after a storm hit the city. This year, we have been gearing up for better distribution," a government official said.

Power demand in the city is expected to touch 6,500 MW this year. Last year, it peaked at 5,925 MW in July - the highest ever recorded in any city in India.

"We have punitive provisions but these cannot be based on hypothetical situations. If a discom fails to live up to the promise it has made, an enquiry will be made and accordingly action will be taken," said a Delhi Energy Regulatory Commission official.

Discoms are currently looking at preventive maintenance, load balancing at the sub stations, deployment of additional manpower and setting up a dedicated team for monitoring complaints.

WATER PREPAREDNESS

The Delhi Jal Board, which has been asked by the government to generate more revenue to feed the subsidy, is better placed to meet the city's water demand this summer.

According to senior DJB officials, the infrastructure has improved massively this year and that will help the city tide over a water crisis in summers.

"We believe there will be no problem. Dwarka Water Treatment

GEARING UP FOR THE SUMMER SEASON

DELHI'S POWER DEMAND

Year	Peak Demand (MW)
2014 (July 15)	5925
2013 (June 6)	5653
2012 (July 5)	5642
2011 (August 2)	5028
2010 (July 1)	4720w

The demand is expected to touch 6,500 MW this year



NEW WATER PLANTS

All water treatment plants have been made functional this year.

8 MGD

Bawana water treatment plant

25 MGD

Dwarka water treatment plant

20 MGD

Okhla water treatment plant

845 MGD

Daily Water requirement

Plant has started to function. It is already providing 25 MGD water daily and has a capacity of 40 MGD in total. Though the network is not ready to tackle that much capacity as of now, it should be ready in another two to three months," said a senior DJB official.

An official said, if Haryana fulfils its end of the bargain and provides the amount of water that it is supposed to, the city will tide over

the summer without any problem.

"The estimated requirement of water is 210 litres per person per day in summer. This is 40 litres more as compared to the requirement in winter. Considering that all water treatment plants have been made functional this year, it seems that the city is better placed to tackle the problem," said Sanjay Sharma, research head, Citizens Front for Water Democracy.

According to Kapil Mishra, vice chairperson of DJB, they will hold Haryana to its promise of providing water to Delhi. "The Supreme Court has ordered Haryana to release water. It will be contempt of court if they do not. We have improved the infrastructure. We are getting new tankers and involving people as well as MLAs to make sure that everything is transparent," Mishra said.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on May-10-2015 in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
Indian Express
Tribune
Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

Worst-ever agrarian crisis in Vidarbha, says Rahul

amar Rashid

AMRAVATI: In an attempt to strike a chord with the distressed farmers of Vidarbha in Maharashtra, Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi walked 15 kilometres under a scorching sun through five villages on Thursday, meeting farmers and urging the families and widows of those who have committed suicide not to lose heart.

The "Samvad Padayatra" left farmers overwhelmed, with many skipping work to catch a glimpse of Mr. Gandhi.

Undertaking the yatra in Amravati, which has recorded an appalling 295 farmer suicides already this year, Mr. Gandhi accused the Narendra Modi government of working for select capitalists at the cost of farmers.

He said the BJP government in Maharashtra had



Ratnakala Walke, mother of Nilesh who committed suicide at Gunji village in Amravati of Maharashtra, after Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi visited her house. - PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

abandoned farmers. "Some people say that only three suicides have been reported from Maharashtra. Someone in Haryana said farmers forced to commit suicides were cowards, and the State government would not help cowards. I want to tell farmers in Maharashtra, don't lose

heart. We will stand with you. We will fight for you," Mr. Gandhi told presspersons at Tonglabad.

Mr. Gandhi discussed the agrarian crisis with farmers individually in their homes.

Unseasonal rains have damaged Rabi crops on nearly 50,000 hectares of land, af-

fecting one lakh farmers in Vidarbha, where a majority of Maharashtra's 601 farm suicides took place this year.

He said he had never witnessed such an abysmal agrarian crisis in the past in the region.

Four farmers committed suicide since January in Tonglabad village, where he concluded his yatra. The family of Manikrao Thavkar was overwhelmed by Mr. Gandhi's visit. "He heard us like he belonged to our family. We feel very privileged that Rahul Gandhi visited our humble dwelling. At least someone is listening to us," said "Sindhu, widow of Thavkar.

However, the family was left a bit disappointed as Mr. Gandhi did not make any concrete assurances to them or provide them any immediate monetary relief. "We were expecting that he would at least

declare for us some compensation amount for immediate relief. Though he promised he would look into our grievances, we aren't expecting much," said Mangesh, Thavkar's son.

Mr. Gandhi's previous visits to villagers may not inspire much confidence. Be it him staying at the house of a Dalit woman, Sunita Kori, in Amethi or visiting Kalavati Bandurkar, the widow of a farmer in Amravati, Mr. Gandhi's stopovers brought little change to their lives.

Reacting to Mr. Gandhi's yatra in his home-turf, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said his government was ready to accept suggestions from him to improve the condition of farmers but suggested that he avoid politicising farm issues.

He said it was a Congress-led government which ruled the State till recently.

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Hindustan Times
Statesman
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and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

U.P. unable to stop farmer suicides

Mohammad Ali

MEERUT: Though the Akhilesh Yadav government in Uttar Pradesh has sanctioned about Rs. 1,135 crore as compensation and relief money to the farmers whose crops were damaged in the unseasonal rain last month, the phenomenon of suicide/attempted suicide has not stopped. On Wednesday alone two farmers committed suicide in the western parts of the State.

Anandpal, a 55-year-old farmer from Alem town of Shamli district allegedly hanged himself from the ceiling of his residence. According to the Shamli police he was depressed as he had received a bank notice to repay Rs. 1.27 lakh but was unable to do so after his wheat crop was damaged in the unseasonal rain and hailstorm.

Assessment of crop damage has been almost done in all the 56 affected districts and revenue officials are busy distributing compensation and relief

money. In Bareilly, the administration has distributed Rs. 24 crore as compensation but still one case of suicide and another of attempted suicide was reported on Wednesday. While one farmer succumbed to burns at the district hospital, another farmer, who tried to kill himself by jumping in front of a train, was saved by his family members.

Raju (35) had set himself ablaze on April 24 and sustained more than 90 per cent burns. "After the crops were destroyed, he knew that he was not going to get any more money from anywhere. This drove him to take the extreme step," his wife Vinita told the media.

According to Manoj Kumar, ADM (Finance and Revenue), compensation for crop damage was being distributed without delay among the affected and identified farmers. "We have received another instalment of Rs. 10 crore which will be distributed without any delay," he said.

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Hindustan Times

Statesman

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Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

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100 yrs on, Wegener plates move and kill

2015 is the centenary of the theory of continental drift, the explanation for quakes, including Nepal



IN FACT

BY PRATIK KANJILAL

EXPRESS EDITORS INTERPRET

THE DEVASTATING earthquake in Nepal marked the centenary of Alfred Wegener's theory of continental drift or plate tectonics, which explains seismic activity in the Himalayas. India impinges upon Asia at the rate of 2 cm per year, buckling the seabed of the ancient Tethys Ocean which stood between and throwing up the Himalayas. In the century since the publication of Wegener's *Die Entstehung der Kontinente und Ozeane* (*The Origin of Continents and Oceans*) in 1915, India has ploughed 2 metres deeper into Asia. The velocity may be infinitesimal but it's a whole subcontinent on the move, generating titanic forces. The US Geological Service estimates that it will cost Nepal \$10 billion to rebuild, and the damage done to millions of lives is irreversible.

In his rather short lifetime (1880-1930), Wegener was appreciated for his work at the confluence of meteorology, climatology and polar research, the sexy science of the period. On the first of four expeditions to Greenland, he built the island's first weather station near Danmarkshavn. Decades before jet streams were formally recognised, he may have observed the activity of the polar stream, which modern jetliners like to ride in higher latitudes. And polar weather stations remain crucial for tracking climate change.

But science remembers Wegener for an intuitive insight — he noted that the continents fit with each other like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. India from the Malabar coast up to Gujarat could comfortably nestle up against the western shores of Africa, with the island of Madagascar sandwiched in between. And the western seaboard of Africa, from the Cape to the Bight of Benin, is like a mirror image of the eastern coast of South America. The match suggests that aeons ago, the continents were joined at the hip.

Wegener published the basis of his theory in 1912, in a paper in *Geologische*

Geological Union. Two years later, he was drafted for the Great War and wounded. While convalescing, he wrote the landmark work on continental drift, *The Origin of Continents and Oceans*. Little more than a monograph at 94 pages, it appeared exactly a century ago. Perhaps the title owed something to Charles Darwin's *The Origins of Species*, which helped to validate Wegener's theory — fossils of the same species are found on the shores of continents which would fit nicely together, but for the thousands of miles of ocean in between.

In his 1915 work, Wegener proposed the existence of a gigantic *Urkontinent* (Hellenised in the literature as Pangaea), a supercontinent whose plates disarticulated and drifted apart in the world ocean to produce the present continents. And then they barged into each other, creating volcanic and seismic activity — and mountains like the Himalayas. And grief, besides.

Initially, continental drift was severely contested. In 1922, Wegener wrote: "For a proper judgement upon [the issue], an enormous mass of facts must be collected together from such sciences as geophysics, geology, palaeontology, palaeoclimatology, animal and plant geography, and geodesy." Tectonic plates were mapped after his lifetime, establishing the validity of his theory.

Wegener explained "displacement theory" (plate tectonics) for the lay reader in the May 1922 issue of the UK magazine *Discovery*: "Antarctica, Australia, and India were formerly in immediate contact with South Africa, India then being the southern end of a long projection from the Asiatic Continent, which is now almost entirely crumpled up and forms the Himalayas." The "crumpling" continues, accumulating stresses for centuries until they are released in quakes. The BBC reports that a fortnight ago, fieldwork by CEA, the French agency for alternative and atomic energy, had found a buildup on one faultline from 1344. It was released in Saturday's earthquake.

SUGGESTED READING

Synopsis of *On the Origin of Continents and Oceans* (1915) by Alfred Wegener himself, reproduced in *The Living Age*, May 1922 issue of the UK magazine 'Discovery'. Available on the Internet (<http://bit.ly/1EUmNo9>)

News item/letter/article/editorial published on May 1.05.2015 in the

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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
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The Hindu
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The Times of India (A)
Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान को राह दिखाएगा नदिया

कृष्णनगर में
निर्मल बांग्ला दिवस पर
बोलीं मुख्यमंत्री
नदिया देश में खुले
शौच मुक्त का पहला
जिला घोषित



कोलकाता/कृष्णनगर. मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी ने कहा कि पश्चिम बंगाल का नदिया जिला देश को स्वच्छ भारत अभियान की राह दिखाएगा। स्वच्छ भारत अभियान के लिए देश व्यापी प्रचार हो रहा है पर वास्तविक रूप से नदिया जिला प्रशासन ने अभियान को सफल बनाकर दिखाया। उनके अनुसार खुले में शौच मुक्त जिले की कड़ी में नदिया जिला शीर्ष पर है। देश के चार जिलों में उक्त अभियान को सफलता मिली है। इसमें बंगाल के तीन और राजस्थान का बीकानेर जिला शामिल है। नदिया के अलावा हुगली व बर्दवान जिला क्रमशः दूसरे व तीसरे स्थान पर है। कृष्णनगर के कॉलेज मैदान में गुरुवार को आयोजित कार्यक्रम मिशन निर्मल बांग्ला के सम्बोधन में मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि स्वच्छ भारत अभियान की तर्ज पर

बंगाल में इस दिन निर्मल बांग्ला दिवस मनाया जा रहा है। जिलों में स्कूली बच्चों को लेकर कार्यक्रम किए जा रहे हैं।

मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि केवल नदिया जिला नहीं बल्कि बंगाल के सभी गांवों को मॉडल गांव बनाया जाएगा। राज्य के समस्त जिला प्रशासन को इसके लिए आगे आना होगा। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि कहना मुश्किल है कि केंद्र सरकार की बहुप्रचारित स्वच्छ भारत अभियान का देश भर में कितना प्रभाव पड़ा है। बंगाल के तीन जिलों ने खुला शौच मुक्त गांव बनाने की दिशा में उत्कृष्ट कार्य कर यूनिसेफ और विश्व बैंक की प्रशंसा हासिल की है। नदिया जिले के शहरी और ग्रामीण इलाकों में 3.47 लाख शौचालय बनाए गए। जिला प्रशासन ने मार्च 2015 तक सभी घरों में शौचालय बनवाने में सफलता हासिल की।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on May-7.5.2015 in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
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Tribune
Hindustan (Hindi) ✓

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

09 • नई दिल्ली • शुक्रवार • 01 मई 2015 • हिन्दुस्तान | आज का दिन

डीएमआईसी के इंजीनियरों ने सर्वे का काम किया पूरा

बहाव बदल हिंडन पर सिर्फ एक पुल बनाएंगे

ग्रेटर नोएडा | सत्यवीर नागर

दिल्ली-मुंबई इंडस्ट्रीयल कोरिडोर के लिए हिंडन नदी की धारा को बदला जाएगा। दरअसल, गुर्जरपुर गांव के नजदीक हिंडन नदी सर्पिलाकार (अंग्रेजी के अक्षर एस के आकार) में बह रही है। लिहाजा नदी पार करने के लिए डीएमआईसी को यहां तीन पुल बनाने पड़ते। धारा बदलने से यहां पर सिर्फ एक ही पुल बनेगा। इस काम के लिए डीएमआईसी के इंजीनियरों ने सर्वे पूरा कर लिया है। इसके लिए प्राधिकरण को भूमि का अधिग्रहण करना पड़ेगा।

ग्रेटर नोएडा के बोड़ाकी रेलवे स्टेशन से मुंबई के जवाहर लाल नेहरू बंदरगाह तक 1,480 किलोमीटर लंबा रेलवे कोरिडोर बनाया जा रहा है। कोरिडोर का करीब 20 किलोमीटर लंबा हिस्सा ग्रेटर नोएडा में पड़ता है। कोरिडोर दिल्ली-हावड़ा रेलवे ट्रैक से बोड़ाकी से जोड़ा जाएगा। फिलहाल रेलवे हिंडन नदी पर पुल बनाने की योजना को अंतिम रूप दे रहा है। नामौली और गुर्जरपुर गांव के पास जहां कोरिडोर हिंडन नदी पार करेगा, वहां नदी

अधिग्रहण करेंगे

नदी का बहाव बदलने के लिए गुर्जरपुर गांव के किसानों की करीब 50 एकड़ जमीन अधिग्रहीत की जाएगी। ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण की वर्तमान मुआवजा दरों के हिसाब से इस जमीन की कीमत पुलों के निर्माण पर आने वाले खर्च से कम होगी। मुआवजा को लेकर उप जिलाधिकारी सदर बच्चू सिंह, डीएमआईसी और रेलवे के अफसरों ने ग्रामीणों के साथ बुधवार को बैठक की थी।

ग्रामीण जमीन देने को तैयार

प्रशासन और डीएमआईसी ने जमीन के बदले ग्रेटर नोएडा के बराबर मुआवजा देने का प्रस्ताव ग्रामीणों को दिया है। ग्रामीणों ने अफसरों का प्रस्ताव मान लिया है। डीएमआईसी ने सर्वे शुरू कर दिया है। ग्रामीण जुगनू ने बताया कि पांच वर्ष पूर्व उनकी जमीन डीएमआईसी ट्रैक के लिए ली गई थी, अब नदी को सीधा करने के लिए ली जा रही है। किसान जमीन देने के लिए तैयार हैं।

सर्पिलाकार में बह रही है। यहां मात्र एक किलोमीटर की दूरी में हिंडन नदी पर तीन पुल बनाने पड़ेंगे। डीएमआईसी के इंजीनियरों ने इस सर्वे रिपोर्ट की



गहनता से जांच की। मौके पर मुआवजा किया। इस दौरान पाया गया कि हिंडन नदी की धारा को बदलकर सीधा कर दिया जाए तो मात्र एक पुल बनाना होगा।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on May - 01.05.2015 in the

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Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

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A a j (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

पंजाब नहीं कर रहा है इंदिरा नहर फीडर की मरम्मत

बीकानेर @ पत्रिका. इंदिरा गांधी नहर फीडर जर्जर हालत में है। इसका अधिकांश हिस्सा पंजाब में तो कुछ हिस्सा हरियाणा में है। इंदिरा गांधी नहर फीडर से इंदिरा गांधी मुख्य नहर में पानी आता है। इस फीडर की मरम्मत करने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार ने 2009-10 में 950 करोड़ की स्वीकृति दी थी। इस स्वीकृति से अभी तक कोई भी काम नहीं हुआ है। स्वीकृत राशि में से 10 प्रतिशत राशि राजस्थान सरकार को देनी थी। यह राशि राज्य सरकार ने जमा करवा दी है। इंदिरा गांधी नहर फीडर की मरम्मत के लिए केन्द्र सरकार ने पंजाब सरकार को स्वीकृत राशि में से 105 करोड़ रुपए दे दिए हैं। फिर भी इंदिरा गांधी नहर फीडर की मरम्मत का काम नहीं हुआ है।

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Central Water Commission
Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

725(A), North, Sewa Bhawan,
R.K. Puram, New Delhi – 66.

Dated

1. 5. 15

Subject: Submission of News Clippings.

The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

S.M. Maheshwari
2/5/15
Assistant Director (publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Editor, Bhagirath (English) & Publicity

Director (T.D.)

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
uploaded at www.cwc.nic.in