Central Water Commission
Water Systems Engineering Directorate
******

2nd Floor (S), Sewa Bhawan
R K Puram, New Delhi-66

Dated 21.06.2019

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 will also be uploaded on the CWC website.

21/6/2019

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News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21.06.2019 in the **Business Standard, New Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

IMD plays down drought fears

Water levels dip further in Maharashtra's reservoirs

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 20 June

BS.

The southwest monsoon is well on course to covering large parts of the country in the next few weeks. This should wipe away fears of widespread drought this year because El Niño and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) are still supportive of the rains, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday.

However, water levels in reservoirs did not paint a flushed picture and, in fact, dipped further in Maharashtra, while remaining below normal in Andhra Pradesh.

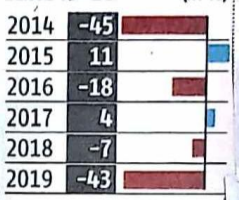
"I cannot understand why there is fear of drought when the monsoons have not even covered the entire country. Just 10 days of good rains will wipe off the entire deficit," K J Ramesh, director-general of the IMD, told *Business Standard*. Ramesh, who will demit office this year, said he was amazed by all the negative reportage on the performance of the southwest monsoon this year, while scientifically there was no evidence to support such hearsay. "El Niño is in negative territory and no weather model — global or local — indicates any sign of its strengthening during the next two-three months, while the IOD — that could impact Indian monsoon — is in positive territory," said Ramesh, adding he sees no cause for worry.

The progress of the southwest monsoon has been rather sluggish due to the impact of Cyclone Vayu. The cumulative rainfall deficit as of June 20 is around 43 per cent less than normal. The rains, which ideally should have covered parts of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, have barely managed to reach Maharashtra in the west coast on Thursday and crossed Bengal in the east coast.

Turn to Page 17 ▸

RAIN CHECK

Monsoon departure from June 1 to June 19–20 (in %)



Water level in major reservoirs as of June 20
(% departure from normal storage)

State	% Departure
Andhra Pradesh	-83
Maharashtra	-71
Tamil Nadu	-43
Kerala	-38
Telangana	-36
Jharkhand	-26
Gujarat	-24
Karnataka	-23
Chhattisgarh	-11

Source: Central Water Commission

IMD plays down...

"Farmers should start sowing as soon as their area gets a minimum 70 millimetres of rainfall, which will happen in most parts of the country in the next few weeks," said Ramesh. However, many don't share Ramesh's optimism.

Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, CARE Ratings, said the delayed start to the monsoon is a matter of concern, though it is too early to say how much it will impact sowing and the final yield of kharif crops. "The water level in reservoirs is also not up to the mark in several places, while pre-monsoon showers even lesser. Therefore, the timely arrival of the southwest monsoon was extremely crucial this year," said Sabnavis.

The water level in 91 important reservoirs spread across the country is also a matter of grave concern. In Maharashtra, the water level in the reservoirs went down to 71 per cent below normal last week to 68 per cent this week. It remained 83 per cent below normal in Andhra Pradesh.

Overall, the water levels in 91 major reservoirs as of June 20 this year was 27.26 billion cubic metres (bcm), which is less than 29.69 bcm during the same period last year and lower than the 10-year average storage of 29.19 bcm.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21.06.2019 in **The Hindu, Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

Kerala offers to send 20 lakh litres of water by rail to T.N.

After initially declining to accept it, State says it will take decision today

Hindu-21

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami will on Friday take a decision on Kerala's offer to supply 20 lakh litres of water by train from Thiruvananthapuram to Chennai to tide over the water crisis, Municipal Administration Minister S.P. Velumani said on Thursday evening.

The Minister's response came after the Kerala Chief Minister's Office posted a statement on Facebook stating that Tamil Nadu had declined its help to supply water (on a one-time basis).

"Kerala is willing to assist Tamil Nadu in tackling the crisis caused by water scarcity. We could deliver 20 lakh litres of drinking water through the rail network. In response to our offer, we have been informed that at present Tamil Nadu has sufficient supply and doesn't require additional assistance from Kerala," the statement said.

Bone dry: Workers collecting water from the Puzhal reservoir on the outskirts of Chennai on Thursday. ▪ AFP

Opposition leader and DMK president M.K. Stalin criticised the Tamil Nadu government for "rejecting" the help from the neighbouring State and urged that the water be accepted. Despite rainfall deficit, the storage in Kerala's reservoirs is much better than in Tamil Nadu.

The Tamil Nadu government in the evening released a statement "tweeted by" Mr. Velumani, in which he confirmed that there was an offer through the Secretary to the Kerala Chief Minister to his counterpart in Tamil Nadu seeking to know whether drinking water in 20 wagons could be sent.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Kerala offers 20 lakh litres of water to T.N.

"Since the Chief Minister was on a medical check-up, his Secretary had discussed with the Municipal Administration Minister and the MAWS Secretary and conveyed gratitude to Kerala CM's Secretary on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu," according to the statement.

Since the daily requirement of Chennai a day is 525 MLD (million litres per day), the Chief Minister's Secretary also conveyed that the offer of 20 lakh litres was being managed from here and "if there is a requirement, help from Kerala would be sought certainly."

"Tamil Nadu government officials have opined that it would be helpful if Kerala sends 2 MLD. The Chief Minister would take an appropriate decision after a review meeting on the drinking water issue scheduled tomorrow (Friday)," Mr. Velumani said. He denied reports that the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister had rejected the Kerala government's offer.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21.06.2019 in **Business Standard, New Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

Making dam water reach the farmer

Intervening in a debate in the state Assembly on July 21, 2015, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra remarked that the state has 40 per cent of the country's large dams, "but 82 per cent area of the state is rainfed. Till the time you don't give water to a farmer's fields, you can't save him from suicide. We have moved away from our vision of watershed and conservation. We did not think about hydrology, geology and topography of a region before pushing large dams everywhere. We pushed large dams, not irrigation. But this has to change."

Devendra Fadnavis accurately sums up the great tragedy of Indian irrigation. For 70 years since Independence, we have continued to build "the temples of modern India" but recurrence of droughts and water shortages only seems to intensify by the day. We have spent more than ₹400,000 crore on their construction but trillions of litres of water stored in these dams is yet to reach the farmers for whom it is meant. As former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh would say, "the outlay-outcome gap" keeps widening. In irrigation-specific terms, this is the growing divergence between the irrigation potential we have created (113 million hectares) and how much of this potential we have actually utilised (89 million hectares) for the purposes for which it was meant.

WATER: REFORM OR PERISH

MIHIR SHAH

Bridging this gap has to be the goal of the second set of key reforms needed in India's water management. This gap of 24 million hectares reflects the failure of our irrigation sector but it is also a massive low-hanging fruit, by focusing on which we could quickly add millions of hectares to irrigation. And we could do this at less than half the cost of building new dams, which are becoming more and more unaffordable, with massive delays in completion and an unbelievable cost overrun of 1,382 per cent in major projects and 325 per cent in medium dams, on an average! Which is quite apart from their humongous human and environmental costs.

Major river basins like Kaveri, Krishna, Godavari, Narmada and Tapti have reached full or partial basin closure, with few possibilities of any further dam construction. In the Ganga plains, the topography is completely flat and storage cannot be located there. Further up in the Himalayas, we have one of the most fragile ecosystems in the world, comparatively young mountains with high rates of erosion. Their upper catchments have little vegetation to bind the soil. Rivers descending from the Himalayas, therefore, tend to have high sediment loads. There are many cases of power turbines becoming dysfunctional following siltation. Climate change is making the predictability of river flows extremely uncertain. Diverting rivers will also create large dry regions, with adverse impact on local livelihoods. The neo-tectonism of the Brahmaputra valley, and its surrounding highlands in the eastern Himalayas, means that modifying topography by excavation or creating water and sediment loads in river impoundments can be dangerous. Recent events in Uttarakhand and Nepal bear tragic testimony to these scientific predictions.

We, therefore, need urgent reforms focused on demand-side management, leaving behind our obsession with ceaselessly increasing supply, which has sadly been fuelled also by the political economy of corruption. These reforms have already been tried and tested in many part of the globe: advanced nations such as the US, France, Germany, Japan and Australia; East and South Asian countries like China, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia; Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia; Turkey and Iran in West Asia; African nations such as Mali, Niger, Tanzania and Egypt, as also Mexico, Peru, Colombia and Chile in Latin America. But even more significant are the successful examples of reform pioneered within India in command areas like Dharoi and Hathuka in Gujarat, Waghad in Maharashtra, Satak, Man and Jobat in Madhya Pradesh, Paliganj in Bihar and Shri Ram Sagar in Andhra Pradesh. These successes have now to be taken to scale.

Reforms here imply a focus on better management and last-mile connectivity. This requires the de-bureaucratisation or democratisation of water. Once farmers

themselves feel a sense of ownership, the process of operating and managing irrigation systems undergoes a profound transformation. Farmers willingly pay irrigation service fees to their Water Users Associations (WUAs), whose structure is determined in a completely transparent and participatory manner. Collection of these fees enables WUAs to undertake proper repair and maintenance of distribution systems and ensure that water reaches each farm.

This kind of Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) implies that the state irrigation departments only concentrate on technically and financially complex structures, such as main systems, up to secondary canals. The tertiary-level canals, minor structures and field-channels are handed over to the WUAs, which enables better last-mile connectivity and innovative water management. This includes appropriate cropping patterns, equity in water distribution, conflict resolution, adoption of water-saving technologies and crop cultivation methods, leading to a rise in overall water-use efficiency, which is among the lowest in the world in India.

Of course, PIM is not a magic bullet and studies across the globe reveal specific conditions under which, and under which alone, PIM works. These need to be carefully adhered to. While these are issues for the states to tackle, the Centre also has a critical role in incentivising and facilitating states to ensure that they undertake these reforms. Release of funds to states for large dam projects must be linked to their progress on devolutionary reforms and empowering WUAs. In the 12th Plan we had proposed an incentive fund specially created for this purpose. States committed to the national goal of "*har khet ko paani*" will not view this as an unreasonable imposition. And to overcome any apprehensions, the Centre should also play an enabling role,helping officers and farmers from different states to visit pioneering PIM proofs-of-concept on the ground, so that they can learn and suitably adapt them to their own command areas.

If these reforms are effectively implemented, millions of hectares can be quickly added to irrigated area, at very low cost, without even building a single new dam.

The writer is Distinguished Professor, Shiv Nadar University, and former Member, Planning Commission, Government of India. Every fortnight, he outlines multiple dimensions of long overdue reforms in the water sector

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21.06.2019 in **The Hindu, Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

'Polavaram project will be completed in 2021'

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy visits site, reviews progress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
POLAVARAM DAM SITE

The Polavaram Multipurpose Project will be completed by June 2021 and not in 2020 as expected. The Minister for Water Resources Anil Kumar Yadav, making an announcement at the dam site, after a visit and review meeting by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday, said the officials, when asked by the CM to give a timeframe, said they would be able to complete the project in another two years. Accepting their "timeframe", Mr. Jagan asked the officials to go ahead, Mr. Anil Kumar said.

The erstwhile Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government had said that it would be able to send water into the canals of the project by gravity when there was flood at the dam site in this year (2019) itself. But it could not do it because of early elections in the State.

Taking stock: A.P. Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at the Polavaram project site on Thursday. ▪ A.V.G. PRASAD

After the landslide win by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), a few leaders of the party, speaking informally, have said that the government would complete the project by June 2020.

Relocation of families

Mr. Anil Kumar, addressing the media along with Agriculture Minister K. Kanna Babu, said no work was possible in the four months during which the dam site would be flooded. But the big task ahead for the A.P. government was the relocation of 28,000 families living in 113 colonies that would get marooned or inundated once Godavari river goes into spate after June 15.

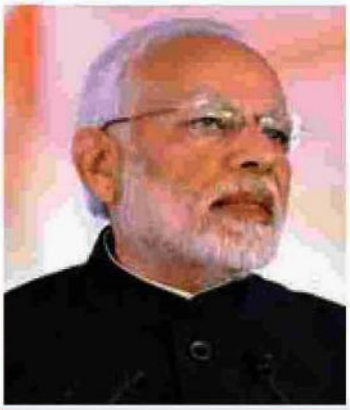
All the colonies that were below the +41.5 metre contour would be evacuated as there was a danger of the floodwater entering into the homes because of the cofferdams. There was a threat to the villages because the Spillway and Spill Channel were still incomplete, the Ministers said.

Earlier, Mr. Jagan, who came to the dam site for the first time after becoming the Chief Minister, asked the officials several questions on technical details pertaining to the project.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21.06.2019 in the **Pioneer, Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

Conserve rainwater: PM to CMs

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI



"Most-of these measures need to be taken at the local level by mobilising gram panchayats and communities, and dovetailing resources from various ongoing Government programmes. Recent studies have also shown a marked reduction in fecal contamination of groundwater resources in many States owing to improvements in sanitation and use of toilets"

Concerned about the water crisis and drought conditions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote to Chief Ministers of all States advising them to conserve rainwater during the forthcoming monsoon.

The PM had earlier written a personal letter to 'Gram Pradhans'(village chiefs) urging them to conserve rainwater. The issue of drought conditions and water scarcity was discussed at the highest level at the NITI Aayog's governing council meeting last week.

According to a NITI Aayog report, Delhi is among 21 major cities that will run out of groundwater by 2020. Situation in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu is also grim. It is not much better in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. About half of Maharashtra - including the districts of Latur, Beed and Osmanabad in Marathwada region - comprising nearly three-fourth of 36 districts of the state are facing severe drought situation. In Karnataka, two dozen of its 30 districts - nearly 80 per cent - are reeling under drought.

In his letter, the PM advised the CMs to focus on the construction of farm pond structures, desilting and rehabilitation of irrigation tanks, micro-watersheds, construction of groundwater recharge structures, building of rainwater harvesting structures - both roof-top and ground-level tanks. "Most-of these measures need to be taken at the local level by mobilizing gram panchayats and communities, and dovetailing resources from various ongoing government programmes. Recent studies have also shown a marked reduction in fecal contamination ofgroundwater resources in many states owing to improvements in sanitation and use of toilets," Modi stated in the letter.

The Prime Minister also asked them to take this mater on high priority and issue necessary instructions to the concerned departments and districts to draw up action plans with concrete.

According to the Drought Early Warning System (DEWS), about 42 per cent of India is 'abnormally dry' which around 6 per cent is more than last year. The pre-monsoon season this year is the second driest in 65 years, with gross rainfall deficiency recorded at 25 per cent, said private forecaster Skymet. Chennai and its suburbs are experiencing severe water scarcity this summer, with borewells and lakes going dry, forcing people and commercial establishments to depend on water supplied through tankers from villages

in neighbouring districts.

A study by the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) from earlier this year found that groundwater levels in Delhi are depleting at an astonishing rate of 10 cm per year.

"Measurable outcomes and implement them under your personal supervision. I am requesting the Cabinet Secretary to follow up with your Chief Secretaries. The Central Government will continue to provide full support to States in the matter. We need to collectively take timely measures to enable optimum utilization of the coming monsoon rainfall by way of storing and conserving it for future use," Modi said.

According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), monsoon rain deficiency has touched 43 percent till June 20 in the country. The monsoon has covered just about 10-15 percent of the country so far, whereas normally, two-thirds of India should have received monsoon rains by this time of the year.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21.06.2019 in the **Financial Express, Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

New ministry to tackle growing water crisis

ASSOCIATED PRESS
New Delhi, June 20

THE GOVERNMENT HAS created a new ministry to respond to a growing water crisis, with more than 60% of the country's 1.3 billion people dependent on farming and favourable monsoon rains.

President Ram Nath Kovind told Parliament on Thursday that the new ministry of water power will tackle water conservation and management.

Kovind said traditional water conservation practices are disappearing as ponds and lakes are filled to build houses and other developments, and that vanishing water sources have worsened the crisis for the poor.

Millions of people have been forced to rely on water from tank trucks in Tamil Nadu, which had a 62% shortfall in monsoon rains last year.

Kovind said water shortages are one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century and are likely to be worsened by climate change. He said the creation of the new ministry 'is a decisive step in this direction, which will have far-reaching benefits'.

The government is assessing the possibility of connecting rivers in various states to help with regional water shortages. Several states have disputes over the sharing of water carried by rivers and have petitioned the Supreme Court to obtain larger shares.

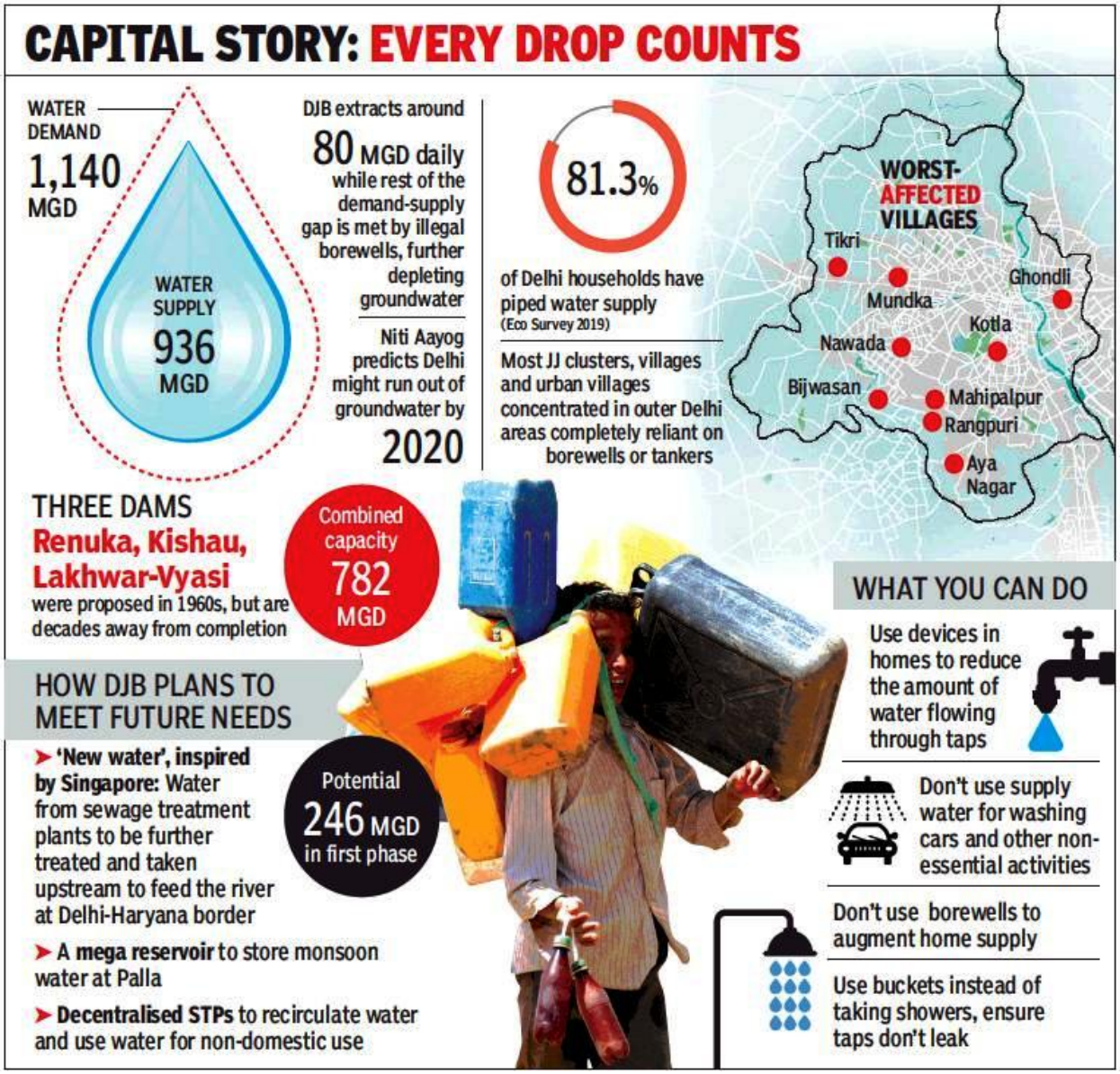
Experts recommend the restoration of open areas to recharge groundwater, the prevention of polluted water from entering groundwater, and the collection of rainwater from roofs.

Kovind, whose position is largely ceremonial, addressed both houses of Parliament at the start of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second term after his party's massive victory in elections last month.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21.06.2019 in **The Times of India, New Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

Day Zero in capital? The clock is ticking

But While Delhi Is Fast Running Out Of Water, It May Not Go Chennai Way



Chennai, India's sixth largest city, has run out of water and its underground aquifers have been depleted. Delhi could be on its way to 'Day Zero' too, according to Niti Aayog, which has predicted that the capital will exhaust its groundwater by next year. Experts, however, say the situation in Delhi isn't as dire as in Chennai, but certain pockets could well face a similar crisis owing to high groundwater extraction through illegal borewells.

At present, Delhi has a water demand of 1,140 million gallons per day (MGD). It is able to supply only 936 MGD. And though the latest Central Groundwater Board (CGWB) data said 15% of the city could access groundwater only at depths 40 metres below ground, 'Day Zero', or the moment when severe restrictions would be evident in water supply, is unlikely to come anytime soon. "The situation in Delhi isn't as bad as Chennai," reiterated Jyoti Sharma, founder of FORCE, an NGO focused on water and sanitation. "The Yamuna is a major source of water for Delhi. There also are around 1,000 waterbodies. It is important to utilise the water available and recycle it effectively. Delhi also has two excellent policies in place making it mandatory for houses ranging between 100 to 500 square metres and over 500 square metres to ensure rainwater harvesting."

Experts feel the Yamuna and waterbodies are crucial to ensuring Delhi does not approach 'Day Zero' like Chennai. FORCE, for instance, has estimated that Delhi can provide 165 litres per day per person if it exploits the annual rainfall. "An average family needs 700 litres of water per day, meaning the daily demand per person is 100-135 litres. This can be easily met if rainwater is effectively tapped," said Sharma. "Any additional requirement can be met by recycling water. This is already being done, with watering of parks using such water."

Shashank Shekhar of Delhi University's geology department leveraged the capital's geographical advantage in avoiding a Chennai-like situation. "Chennai is located close to the sea, so saline water is a problem. It also doesn't have a river. Delhi can tap the water through the Yamuna floodplain," he said. According to Shekhar, Delhi's push towards sewage treatment plants and recycling of water is key to the future, though people have to be educated about excess use and wastage of water. He added that individual water meters could be installed in all housing societies and apartment blocks so people are careful about using more water than they need.

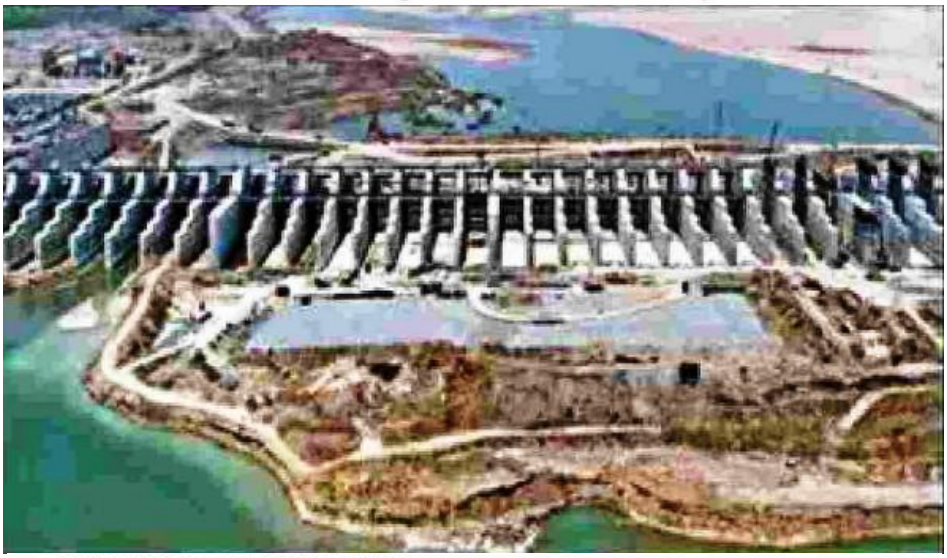
To conserve water, experts also encourage people to shift to buckets for baths instead of using showers and bathtubs. In addition, watersaving devices installed on faucets for as little as Rs 100 can reduce wastage of water.

A Delhi Jal Board official said that even though parts of Delhi like the south and south-west region might actually run dry if appropriate steps were not taken, the Niti Aayog projections don't hold true for all of Delhi. "There are places in Delhi where water is still available at a ground depth of 5 metres," the official pointed out. However, in a bid to counter the alarmingly plunging groundwater levels — water in some areas in south Delhi like Kapashera can be found only 79 metres below ground — DJB has taken steps such as implementing the zero liquid discharge policy. "The policy mandates recycling of waste water by bulk consumers and reuse of the water for horticulture purpose so it both recharges and saves groundwater," the official clarified.

Another DJB official said they were not focusing on sealing the borewells due to the shortfall in supply. "We cannot supply water in these areas due to low availability but are also expected to shut their only source of water. How can that be?" the official said.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21.06.2019 in the **Millenium Post, Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

Kaleswaram project to be inaugurated today



OUR CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD: The Kaleswaram lift irrigation project in Telangana, touted as the worlds largest multi-stage lift irrigation scheme, would be inaugurated on Friday.

It would be inaugurated in the presence of Governor of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh ESL Narasimhan.

State Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao had gone to Mumbai and Vijayawada last week to invite his Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh counterparts Devendra Fadnavis and Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy respectively for the inauguration.

Rao would perform a pooja at Medigadda barrage as part of the inaugural of the project on Friday.

The project is expected to supply water to 70 per cent of districts in the state to meet agriculture, drinking water and the industrial needs.

Meanwhile, the ruling TRS and opposition Congress are engaged in a war of words on the project with Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader M Bhatti Vikramarka alleging irregularities with regard to Kaleswaram project.

He told reporters in Delhi on Thursday the project is being inaugurated in a hurry without even 15 per cent of it being completed.

"If you (Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao) say that everything is being done transparently, then place all information regarding that (project) comprehensively on website. Let people of the state and the country know, he said.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21.06.2019 in **The Tribune, Gurugram** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

T-21 (1)

Glacier melting up 2 times since 2000

WASHINGTON, JUNE 20

Melting of Himalayan glaciers has doubled since the start of the 21st century due to rising temperatures, losing over a vertical foot and a half of ice each year and potentially threatening water supply for hundreds of millions of people in countries including India, a study has found.

The analysis, spanning 40 years of satellite observations across India, China, Nepal and Bhutan, is the latest and perhaps most convincing indication that climate change is eating the Himalayas' glaciers, researchers said.

It indicates that glaciers have been losing the equivalent of more than a vertical foot and a half of ice each year since 2000 — double the amount of melting that took place from 1975 to 2000.

"This is the clearest picture yet of how fast Himalayan glaciers are melting over this time interval, and why," said Joshua Maurer, a PhD candidate at Columbia University in the US. The glaciers may have lost a quarter of their enormous mass over last four decades, said Maurer, lead author of the study published in journal Science Advances.

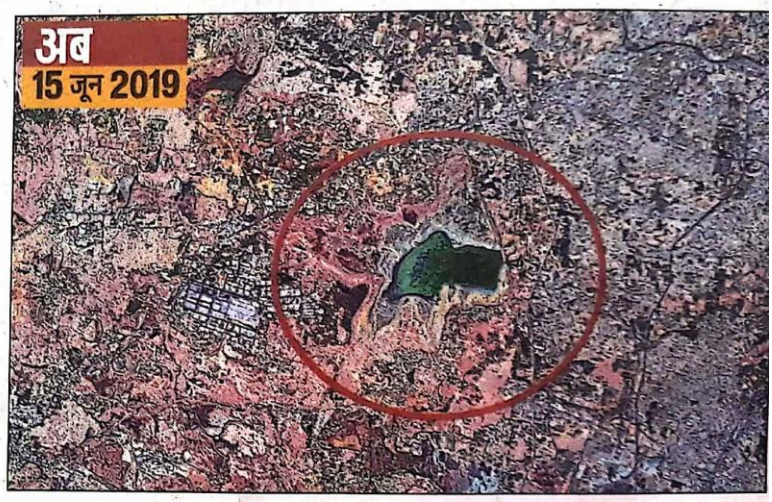
Currently harbouring some 600 billion tonnes of ice, the Himalayas are sometimes called the earth's "Third Pole". The study synthesises indicates melting is consistent in time and space, and that rising temperatures are to blame. Temperatures vary, but from 2000 to 2016, they have averaged 1 degree C higher than those from 1975 to 2000. — PTI

HIMALAYAN LOSS

- From 1975 to 2000, the glaciers across the region lost an average of about 0.25 metres of ice each year in the face of slight warming
- Starting in 2000, the loss accelerated to about half a metre annually
- Recent yearly losses have averaged about 8 billion tonne of water, or the equivalent of 32 lakh Olympic-size swimming pools

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21.06.2019 in **Hindustan Times, New Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

आफत : चेन्नई की प्यास बुझाने वाली झील सूखी



डराती तस्वीरें : तमिलनाडु की राजधानी चेन्नई की लाइफ लाइन कही जाने वाली चेम्बरमबक्कम झील (लाल घेरों में) की सेटेलाइट के जरिए ली गई ये दोनों तस्वीरें डराती हैं। एक साल के भीतर ही झील लगभग सूख चुकी है। यहां बारिश का पानी एकत्र होता है और फिर पाइप लाइन के जरिए करीब 40 प्रतिशत चेन्नईवासियों की प्यास बुझाई जाती है। यह इस ओर भी इशारा है कि पानी से जूझ रहे दक्षिण के इस शहर में हालात और बिगड़ने जा रहे हैं। ● एजेंसी

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21.06.2019 in the **Rajasthan Patrika, New Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

राज्य ने तमिलनाडु के लिए पानी छोड़ने से किया इनकार

सीडब्लूआरसी की बैठक में तमिलनाडु ने की जून कोटे का पानी छोड़ने की मांग

पत्रिका न्यूज़ नेटवर्क
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बेंगलूरु. जलाशयों में पानी नहीं होने और पानी का अंतर्वाह भी बेहद कम होने के कारण राज्य सरकार ने तमिलनाडु के लिए पानी छोड़ने से मना कर दिया।

कावेरी जल नियमन समिति (सीडब्लूआरसी) की नई दिल्ली में हुई बैठक में तमिलनाडु ने कहा कि उसे 1 जून से 18 जून तक केवल 1.72 टीएमसी फीट पानी कर्नाटक से मिला है, जबकि जून महीने में 9.19 टीएमसी फीट कोटा निर्धारित किया गया है। हालांकि, राज्य के अधिकारियों ने साफ कह दिया है कि जलाशयों में पानी बिल्कुल नहीं है और आवक भी नहीं है इसलिए पानी छोड़ने की स्थिति नहीं है। हालांकि, तमिलनाडु ने जोर देकर मांग की कि कर्नाटक को जून महीने के निर्धारित कोटे का पानी छोड़ना चाहिए। राज्य सरकार के अधिकारियों ने अपना पक्ष रखते हुए कहा कि अगर बारिश होती है और स्थिति बेहतर हुई तो इसपर विचार किया जा सकता है।

बैठक की अध्यक्षता केंद्रीय जल आयोग (सीडब्लूसी) के मुख्य अभियंता नवीन कुमार ने की। मौसम विभाग के अधिकारियों ने भी बताया कि कावेरी बेसिन में 1 से 20 जून के बीच औसत से काफी कम बारिश हुई है। बैठक के बाद नवीन कुमार पत्रकारों को बताया कि समिति ने फैसला किया गया है कि कावेरी बेसिन में मानसून की स्थिति और जलाशयों में जल भंडारण के बारे में कावेरी जल प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (सीडब्लूएमए) को लगातार अवगत कराया जाएगा, ताकि उसपर आगे की कार्रवाई हो सके।

सीडब्लूएमए की अगली बैठक 25 जून को निर्धारित है। इससे पहले 28 मई को सीडब्लूएमए की हुई बैठक में यह फैसला हुआ था कि कर्नाटक को जून महीने में 9.19 टीएमसी फीट पानी तमिलनाडु के लिए छोड़ना है। कर्नाटक भी इसके लिए तैयार हो गया था बशर्ते मानसून सामान्य रहे।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21.06.2019 in the **Rajasthan Patrika, New Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

इंदिरा गांधी नहर में प्रदूषित पानी रोकने की मांग

नहरी क्षेत्रवासियों ने केन्द्रीय मंत्री शेखावत से लगाई गुहार

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नई दिल्ली. श्रीगंगानगर की जन जागरण समिति प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने सांसद निहालचंद मेघवाल के नेतृत्व में गुरुवार को केंद्रीय जलशक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत से मुलाकात की। प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने जलशक्ति मंत्री से इंदिरा गांधी नहर में कारखानों के दूषित पानी से होने वाले प्रदूषण को लेकर अपनी शिकायत दर्ज करवाई।

प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने मंत्री से कहा कि प्रदूषित पानी के चलते आस पास के क्षेत्रवासी गंभीर बीमारियों के शिकार हो रहे है। पिछले कई वर्षों से गंभीर समस्या होने के बावजूद राज्य सरकारों के आपसी समन्वय नहीं होने के चलते कैनाल में दूषित पानी प्रवाहित होने से नहीं रोका जा सका है। प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने शेखावत से इस मामले में टास्क फोर्स गठित करने की मांग की ।

जलशक्ति मंत्री ने प्रतिनिधिमंडल को उचित कार्रवाई का आश्वासन देते हुए कहा कि वे इस मामले में राजस्थान के मुख्यमंत्री अशोक गहलोत और पंजाब के मुख्यमंत्री कैप्टन अमरिंदर सिंह से बात कर मामले को सुलझाने का प्रयास करेंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि वे स्वयं इस दर्द से अच्छी तरह वाकिफ है क्योंकि यही दूषित पानी उनके लोकसभा क्षेत्र जोधपुर तक जा रहा है। उन्होंने जल्द ही राजस्थान और पंजाब की राज्य सरकारों के साथ मिलकर टास्क फोर्स बनाकर इस समस्या को सुलझाने का आश्वासन प्रतिनिधिमंडल को दिया।

पूर्व केंद्रीय मंत्री व श्रीगंगानगर सांसद निहालचंद मेघवाल ने कहा कि वे पिछले 22 साल से लगातार इस समस्या को सदन में उठा रहे है। कई लोग इस प्रदूषण के शिकार होकर कैंसर जैसी गम्भीर बीमारियों से ग्रसित है और कई जान से हाथ धो चुके है।

उन्होंने मुख्यमंत्री अशोक गहलोत से मांग की कि वे इस मामले में संज्ञान लेकर उचित कार्रवाई करने में सहयोग दें। प्रतिनिधिमंडल में सांसद निहालचंद के साथ प्रदूषण संघर्ष समिति संयोजक महेश पेढीवाल, सह संयोजक रमजान अली और सुरेंद्र पारीक समेत कई लोग शामिल रहे।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21.06.2019 in the **Navbharat Times, New Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

रिपोर्ट: 2020 में पानी के लिए मचेगा हाहाकार

एनबीटी: पीने के पानी को लेकर देश के तमाम हिस्सों से अच्छी खबरें नहीं हैं। जलशक्ति मंत्रालय ने एक दस्तावेज तैयार किया है, जो बताता है कि पश्चिम बंगाल, मेघालय और बिहार के तमाम घरों में पेयजल सप्लाई तक उपलब्ध नहीं है। मंत्रालय के इस दस्तावेज को तमाम राज्यों को भेजा गया है, ताकि वे अपनी तैयारी कर सकें। वहीं, नीति आयोग की एक ताजा रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि दिल्ली, बेंगलुरु, चेन्नै और हैदराबाद समेत देश के 21 शहरों का ग्राउंड वॉटर 2020 तक खत्म हो जाएगा और इससे करीब दस करोड़ लोग प्रभावित होंगे। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक 2030 तक देश की 40 फीसदी आबादी को पीने का पानी नहीं मिलेगा। 2020 आने में ज्यादा समय बचा नहीं है। हालात ये हैं कि समुद्र के किनारे बसे चेन्नै में 3 नदियां, 4 नहरें, 5 नमी वाले इलाके और 6 वन पूरी तरह सूख चुके हैं।