

भारत सरकार  
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय  
जल संसाधन नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण विभाग  
केंद्रीय जल आयोग  
जल प्रणाली अभियांत्रिकी निदेशालय



Government of India  
Ministry of Jal Shakti  
Dept. of Water Resources, RD&GR  
Central Water Commission  
Water System Engineering Directorate

### विषय - समाचार पत्रों की कटिंग का प्रस्तुतीकरण।

जल संसाधन विकास और संबद्ध विषयों से संबंधित समाचार पत्रों की कटिंग को केंद्रीय जल आयोग के अध्यक्ष और सदस्य (कार्य योजना एवं परियोजना / अभिकल्प एवं अनुसंधान / नदी प्रबंध) के अवलोकन के लिए संलग्न किया गया है। इन समाचारों की कटिंग की सॉफ्ट कॉपी केन्द्रीय जल आयोग की वेबसाइट पर भी अपलोड की जाएगी।

अंजन

5.8.2019

वरिष्ठ कलाकार

जल प्रणाली अभियांत्रिकी निदेशालय

संलग्नक: उपरोक्त

उप निदेशक, (ज. प्र. आ.) निदे०

विवेक  
05/08/2019

निदेशक, (ज. प्र. आ.) निदे०

प्रोफ. शाह  
05/08/19

सेवा में,

अध्यक्ष, के. ज. आ., नई दिल्ली ✓

सदस्य (कार्य योजना एवं परियोजना/ अभिकल्प एवं अनुसंधान / नदी प्रबंध) और

जानकारी हेतु - सभी संबंधित केन्द्रीय जल आयोग की वेबसाइट [www.cwc.gov.in](http://www.cwc.gov.in) पर देखें।





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## **SAD: Water dispute Bill anti-Punjab**

**TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

**NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4**

Less than a week after the Lok Sabha passed a Bill that seeks to streamline the adjudication of inter-state river-water disputes, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), BJP's oldest ally, today protested against it, saying it will not allow a drop of water to any other state as Punjab had no surplus water.

The SAD claimed the Bill was against the interests of the people of Punjab. Party president Sukhbir Singh Badal, after a hurriedly convened meeting of the party core committee at his residence here, said the party would safeguard the interests of Punjab by any means, apprise the PM and Jal Shakti Minister GS Shekhawat on the gravity of the situation and urge them not to press the Bill in the Rajya Sabha in its present form.

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## Monsoon below normal in state

**VIJAY MOHAN**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

T-5

**CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 4**

Widespread rain in the region over the past week notwithstanding, monsoon continues to remain significantly below normal in most parts of Haryana, with the state recording a deficit of 29 per cent so far.

The state has received 167.7 mm of rain till Sunday against the normal of 230.8 mm, according to the India Meteorological Department.

The shortfall is the highest among other states in the region. Himachal Pradesh trails closely with a deficit of 28 per cent. Punjab, which witnessed a positive period for a few days in July, again slipped into the red with a shortfall of 7 per cent as of Sunday.

Of the state's 22 districts, only Sirsa has received above normal rain, with the surplus being 21 per cent. While rain in Karnal and Kurukshetra districts was 11 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively, above

**167.7 MM**

of rain till Sunday against the normal of 230.8 mm, according to the India Meteorological Department

the long-term average, Yamunanagar and Rewari recorded 14 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively, below long-term average. Deviation of up to 20 per cent from the average is considered normal.

Panchkula and Rohtak districts are the hardest hit, with the deficiency being 70 per cent and 62 per cent, respectively, followed by Fatehabad, with 55 per cent and Panipat with 51 per cent.

In Kaithal, Jhajjar, Mahendergarh, Mewat and Palwal, the shortfall is above 40 per cent, while in the remaining districts the shortfall ranges from 20 per cent to 39 per cent. In Gurugram, the shortfall was 29 per cent.



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**TELLING NUMBERS** TE-5

## The extent of groundwater over-exploitation, state by state

GROUNDWATER resources are over-exploited in 1,186 out of 6,881 "assessment units" (blocks, talukas, watersheds etc) in the country, the Jal Shakti Ministry said in reply to a question in Lok Sabha. This was as assessed in 2017, and translates to 17%, or one in every six of these units. All these over-exploited assessment units are in 17 states and Union Territories. Punjab has the highest extent of over-exploitation at 79 per cent of its blocks, followed Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, each at 50 per cent or more. Tamil Nadu, which has the highest number of blocks (1,116 firkas), also has the highest number of over-exploited units at 462 firkas, or 40 per cent. In Maharashtra, where the Marathwada region is drought-hit, 3 per cent of the talukas are over-exploited. In Uttar Pradesh with 830 units (820 blocks and 10 cities), 11 per cent are over-exploited. In the eight Northeastern states none of the assessment units (districts and blocks) is over-exploited.

### STATES WITH HIGHEST GROUNDWATER DEPLETION, 2017

State	Total units	Semi-critical		Critical		Over-exploited	
		Units	%	Units	%	Units	%
Punjab	138	5	4	2	1	109	79
Rajasthan	295	29	10	33	11	185	63
Delhi	34	7	21	2	6	22	65
Haryana	128	21	16	3	2	78	61
Himachal	8	1	13	0	0	4	50
Tamil Nadu	1,166	163	14	79	7	462	40
Telangana	584	169	29	67	11	70	12
All India	6,881	972	14	313	5	1,186	17

Note: The units assessed are blocks in Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan; Mandals in Telangana; Districts/Valley in Himachal; Firkas in Tamil Nadu; Tehsils in NCT Delhi  
Source: Jal Shakti Ministry

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## Godavari in spate, 70K affected in AP

AMARAVATI, AUGUST 4 5-5

Heavy floods in the Godavari has affected over 74,000 persons in parts of East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh with around 18,000 persons shifted to relief camps, officials said.

Another warning signal was issued at Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowaleswaram as water flow in the river, which has been in spate since last week following heavy monsoon rain, crossed the 13 lakh cusecs mark this morning and almost the entire quantum was being let out into the Bay of Bengal. However, there were no casualties reported and teams of the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force reached out to those affected with essential supplies and food.

All required measures have been taken by the collectors of these two districts and the situation is under control, according to a press note issued by the state Disaster Management Authority (SDMA).

Power supply remained cut off, while road and communication networks were badly hit in the two districts, it said. As per preliminary estimate, the damage to roads and oth-



A temple is seen submerged in overflowing Godavari in Nashik

er infrastructure was pegged around Rs 6.45 crore. Flood water battered at least six mandals in the two districts with the impact more on East Godavari where 52,500 persons were affected, the SDMA said adding a total of 21,568 were hit in West Godavari.

In all, residents of 280 villages in both districts were facing the brunt of flood fury, authorities said. — PTI



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## A village shows a state how to save water

RAAKHI JAGGA  
MANSA, AUGUST 4

TE-5

IN MARCH 2016, Kothe Aspal, a small village in the Mansa district of Punjab, saw the construction of soak pits in every house with the hope of conserving water. The district falls in that part of the Malwa region of Punjab where the groundwater is unfit for drinking. Mansa is provided with canal water for drinking purposes. As such, in every village home where most water use happened — be it for washing dishes or bathing — a soak pit was made to collect water, clean it and hopefully add to the water table. Three years later, the dried hand pump of the village school is not dry anymore, and that small exercise of making soak pits is finally paying off.

The way a soak pit cleans water is by passing it through a bed of stones and then allowing it to seep underground. This resulting increase in the water table yields water that, although not fit for drinking, is good



Hand pumps in Aspal Kodhe village of Mansa are no longer dry .Gurmeet Singh

enough for other routine use. This has reduced the village's dependence on the canal water.

Kothe Aspal's success is being recognised at the national level with even the Union Ministry of Rural Development honouring it for constructing soak pits and running them successfully, informs Apneet Riyait, the deputy commissioner of Mansa.

Looking at the success of this project, 53 new soak pits are being constructed across Mansa district. Further, while the initial round of funding was derived from the funds allocated under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, this time Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has decided to partially fund (roughly 30 per cent of Rs 8,400) the construction of soak pits under its Corporate Social Responsibility mandate.

"Though small but this effort holds great significance at a time when Punjab's groundwater table has receded and many of its blocks have been overexploited," says Riyait.

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# TN water crisis: Judiciary only hope

Encroachment on water bodies by influential people are the main cause of crisis in the state when monsoon fails

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHENNAI, 4 AUGUST

**W**hile the gripping water crisis continues in many part of Tamil Nadu, including capital Chennai, certain news from various quarters are not at all that soothing.

The judicial activism, it seems as of now, is the only remedy for controlling the present crisis. On 29 July Veeramani and his son Nallathambi were hacked to death by a group of six in Muthalaipatti for exposing encroachment on water body. Such encroachments by influential people are the main cause of water crisis in the state when the monsoon fails.

The only solace is the fact that the judiciary in the state is taking extra efforts to book these criminals who not only stealing the livelihood of people but also annihilating

those who oppose the crime.

Days after the double murder happened in Muthalaipatti, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court last Friday initiated suo motu proceedings, taking cognisance of news reports on the murder.

A Division Bench of Justices M. Sathyanarayanan and B. Pugalendhi directed the Superintendent of Police, Karur, to file a report on the progress made in the investigation in the case.

Taking cognisance of the fact, orders were passed directing the authorities to act against the encroachments, the court sought a report on the original extent of the waterbody, the reason for reduction in the extent of the waterbody, present number of encroachments, and steps taken to remove encroachments or to prevent fresh encroachments. The court ordered them to submit the

report on 14 August.

Only a few days ago Madras High Court had transferred the probe of another murder case that happened five years ago of an activist from the local police to the CB-CID.

An activist Thanikachalam (60) in Vellore has been brutally murdered on the night of 11 November, 2014 while he fought for the betterment of his community. He gave up his life while trying to saving a dying water body. A district topper from his local school in Pudur and the family's first graduate from AC Tech in Chennai, it seemed like Thanikachalam was heading towards a comfortable corporate life.

But it was not enough for him as he quit his job and decided to help the community which eventually led to his murder after he fought for reviving two water channels in the village which were encroached and converted to

farm lands by some influential people from the village.

In the murder case of Veeramani and Nallathambi, while ordering the transfer of probe to CB-CID, the court stated that it had no hesitation in concluding that the police has failed to effectively investigate the case and accused them of shielding the men involved.

The court observed that several orders were passed on removal of encroachments of water bodies and other public spaces by the High Court. It also pointed out that the Tamil Nadu Protection of Tanks and Eviction of Encroachments Act of 2007 and the Tamil Nadu Land Encroachment Act of 1905 are already in place, but there was lack of monitoring and fixation of responsibility.

The lethargic attitude of the officials allowed encroachments as if it were a right of the encroacher. The court

pointed out that it could take action against officials for failing to comply with or for belated compliance of the court orders.

All the six killers from gang including Perumal, Prabhakaran, Kaviarasan, Sasikumar, Shanmugam and Stalin surrendered before the Madurai District Court on 31 July, following which they were remanded in judicial custody. The villagers are found to be sceptical about the outcome of the case which involves influential people.

While the Chennai water crisis is still a hot topic of discussion in public domain, it has been observed that most of them put the blame squarely on the encroachment mafia as responsible for it.

The words of activist turned former IAS officer M G Devashayam while talking to The Statesman, after the 2015 floods and at the same time pointing finger on government

and holding them responsible for the present situation, he said. "The government is also violating rules. Both central and state governments."

He further said, "They are building airports, highways, IT parks etc in ecologically sensitive areas. Chennai airport which flooded and closed built on Adyar river banks.

The Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) is built on Buckingham canal, the elevated high way on Cooum River. These are all government of India projects.

In Chennai State government built a road connecting Velachery and Tambaram on the middle of Pallikarani marsh. Koyembedu Bus stand in low lying area, the IT corridor is also built in the same way.

Other cities also have similar instances of governments violating rules. So the only hope now lies on judiciary, like in many other issues.



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# Centre to Push for Maha-like Water Regulator for States

**MWRRA empowered to fix water charges, resolve disputes, effect enforcement...**

**Anubhuti Vishnoi**  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** While a conversation on water conservation has been initiated with the Centre's pan India roll out of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, the Jal Shakti ministry has a much bigger task at hand—of bringing in systems to encourage and ensure more responsible water usage in the country through measurement, auditing and possible pricing mechanisms.

The recently created Jal Shakti ministry has found a part of the answer in Maharashtra's water regulatory model.

To nudge state governments to move towards bringing some regulatory oversight over water usage and a water pricing mechanism in the future, the water resources ministry is closely considering the Maharashtra water regulatory model for voluntary replication across states. The ministry held an inter-state meeting in Pune a few months back to introduce state governments to the Maharashtra Water



## LEGISLATIVE ROUTE

The Maha regulatory body was set up by a state legislation and other states may have to consider the same route

Resources Regulatory Authority (MWRRA), which has been operating since 2005. The MWRRA is empowered to fix water charges, resolve disputes, effect enforcement and oversee the role of the service provider and the relationship with users of the water supplied.

Plans are now afoot to ask states to consider the 'model' regulatory framework.

ET gathers that discussions were on with the Maharashtra govern-

ment on providing MWRRA-related assistance to interested state governments.

"The MWRRA is so far seen as one of the most effective water regulatory mechanisms. We would like the states to consider it as a possible model and even tweak it if necessary. The idea is mainly to bring in some kind of water auditing mechanism in every state. This could help bring in more effective and judicious usage of water," a senior official from the ministry told ET.

The MWRRA was set up by a state legislation and other states may also have to consider the legislative route for setting up similar bodies, the official added.

While a few other states have also set up water regulatory authorities, they have not been fully functional or functioning effectively enough.

Considering that pricing of water is a politically sensitive issue, a regulatory system could prove critical to bringing in behavioural changes towards water and attaching of greater value to the depleting natural resource.

The ministry is also looking at ways to bring in category-based measurement of water usage. For instance, while it is broadly known that usage of fresh water is quite high for agricultural and industrial purposes, there is no accurate measure or regulation of the same almost across states, which does lead to considerable water wastage or excessive water withdrawal.



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## BS-5 The monsoon recovery

### Reservoirs are still not adequately restocked

**T**he way the monsoon has recovered this year after a delayed and weak start to near-normal in the very first half of its four-month run (June to September) does not have many parallels. A scary rain deficit of 33 per cent at the end of the first monsoon month of June shrank dramatically to below 9 per cent in just four weeks, thanks to copious precipitation in July. This, coupled with the weather office's prediction of 100 per cent normal rain in August and September, has swung the outlook for monsoon-dependent sectors, chiefly agriculture and hydel power, and rural demand from despair to cautious optimism.

The lag in crop planting, which had mounted to over 30 per cent by June-end, has, by and large, been made up. More sowing is expected in the next week or so, because over 66 per cent of the country has already received normal or excess rain. The anticipated continuation of the monsoon's good showing in the latter half of the season may ensure better crops and higher yields. But the fingers still need to be kept crossed. The intense bouts of rain, as has been the hallmark of this year's monsoon, are seldom without a downside. Parts of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar, and Assam have seen devastating floods. Similar deluges may damage crops, property, and infrastructure, and take human and animal lives in other parts of the country as well.

This apart, the upswing in the rains does not reflect adequately in the restocking of reservoirs. Till July 25, nearly 75 per cent of the major dams have got filled only up to 40 per cent of their capacity. The overall water stock in all the reservoirs taken together, being 63 per cent of capacity, presented a slightly better picture, though even this is below last year's corresponding level of 71 per cent. The river basins in the southern region, including those of the Krishna, Mahanadi, Godavari, and Cauvery, are particularly short of water. Some of the dams in Kerala, which brimmed over to cause catastrophic flooding in August last year, are not even half-full as yet. The silver lining, however, is that there is still time for replenishing these dams. The current vigorous phase of the monsoon and the projected normal showers in the next two months can normalise the situation. Restoring water reserves is essential to meet the needs of irrigation, industry, hydel power production, and the domestic sector in the post-monsoon period right up to the next summer.

Significantly, the unconventional track record of this year's monsoon has been attributed by weather experts largely to the interplay of two counteracting meteorological phenomena — El Nino (monsoon-inimical warming of the Pacific Ocean) and the Indian Ocean Dipole, or IOD (monsoon-friendly temperature gradient in the Indian Ocean). While El Nino, which affected the monsoon in June, is said to have turned neutral and lost its sting, the positive IOD continues to favour the monsoon. Unlike most other weather watchers who were uncertain about the progress of El Nino this year, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) was spot on to foresee that it would not endure long enough to undermine the Indian monsoon. The IMD will, hopefully, prove correct in predicting normal rain in the rest of the season as well.



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Rashtriya Sahara	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dainik Bhaskar	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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# Building dams against water theft

VINAY UMARI

The water debate in Gujarat is meandering into various channels. After a delayed and deficient monsoon, coupled with sub-normal ground water tables and reservoir levels, created acrimonious spats, two amended Bills on water, passed recently in the Assembly, have lent their mite to them.

The Assembly on July 26 passed the Gujarat Domestic Water Supply (Protection) Bill, 2019, and the Gujarat Irrigation and Drainage (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

While the state government says the amended Bills have been passed with the only aim of reducing water thefts in both domestic water supply and irrigation, others, including opposition parties and farmers, are wary of the legislation's intent.

The two amended pieces of legislation, among other things,

have laid down the level of punishment for water thefts. For instance, the Bill on domestic water includes setting up a water appellate authority, which would be the custodian of all water sources and have the powers of a civil court. On the other hand, the Bill on irrigation and drainage enhances the

punishment and fine for those stealing water from canals, which, many argue, happen to be farmers themselves.

"The availability of water is dwindling every day and it is the need of the hour to conserve and save as much as possible and use the available water judiciously, or else some areas in the state may not have enough for irrigation and domestic use,"

Gujarat Energy Minister Saurabh Patel had said while tabling the Gujarat Irrigation and Drainage (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

However, Patel stressed the responsibility of the government



PM Narendra Modi during the inauguration of a section of the Sardar Sarovar project in 2016. The project is the lifeline of Gujarat

PHOTO: PI

to protect the water infrastructure. "Is it not the duty of the government to ensure that the infrastructure meant for the beneficiaries is not destroyed or misused?" Patel asked.

However, parties in the opposition have been crying foul. "The government has brought in the legislation after falling to

provide water for domestic use and irrigation. On its part, the state government is wasting water on scaplanes and similar projects. The two pieces of legislation are aimed at hiding the government's failures in water management and distribution and to create an environment of fear. In fact, from 2001 to 2019 no action was taken

against industry for water thefts, whereas so many cases have been registered against farmers," said Manish Doshi, spokesperson for the Gujarat unit of the Congress. According to the state minister for water, Kuntarji Bavaliya, however, it is not the government's aim to harass anyone. "It is not our aim to harass citizens or farmers

per cent, which means for every cusec of water released, only 0.67 cusecs reach farms. Moreover, the computer-controlled system has not reached all the micro canals of the state.

"It is an advanced irrigation management system for computer-controlled canals but one-third of farmers are yet to get micro-canals embedded in the SCADA system. They are still dependent largely on groundwater and local reservoirs," said an official.

If the state government data on water storage level is anything to go by, Gujarat is behind last year's levels year-to-date (YTD).

According to the Narmada, Water Resources, Water Supply and Kalpasar Department data, as of August 2, 2019, gross water storage levels in North Gujarat, Central Gujarat, and Saurashtra, excluding Sardar Sarovar dam, are short by 321 million cubic metres (mcm), 232.78 mcm, and 743.24 mcm, respectively, compared to the same day last year.

This puts farmers, especially in the Kutch, North Gujarat, and Saurashtra regions in the quandary because rain in these regions has not been optimum, forcing them to steal water.

but those anti-social elements who are disrupting domestic water distribution under local administrative bodies," Bavaliya told *Business Standard*.

Experts say the state's water management and distribution efficiency need to improve.

Y K Alagh, former Union minister and former head of the Sardar Sarovar Dam project, says the extent and efficiency of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) under the mega dam project, aimed at computer-controlled water distribution to even micro and sub-micro canals, needs to be enhanced.

Apparently, the Sardar Sarovar dam's Narmada Planning Group document "Planning for Prosperity", published by the government when Alagh was vice-chairman of the project, had laid out a plan to ensure computer-controlled last-mile water distribution. However, experts have argued the SCADA system's efficiency is nearly less than half, for want of a

contractual agency to run it. According to the project document, the SCADA system's efficiency has been assessed at 67



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Rashtriya Sahara	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dainik Bhaskar	<input type="checkbox"/>		

and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

# Maha rains: Part of river bridge in Palghar washed away

PALGHAR, 4 AUGUST

A major portion of a bridge connecting Wada and Malwada on Pinjal river in Palghar was washed away on Sunday afternoon due to heavy rains, an official said.

Palghar police spokesperson Hemant Katkar said there were no reports of casualties in the incident but traffic on the vital connector had come to a standstill.

In other incidents due to heavy rainfall, 15 people were rescued in Bathane village in Virar by local police and the civic body's disaster control cell, an official said. Four others trapped in a flooded godown and eight people stranded in another place, both in Manor, were also rescued, the official said. A truck broke down on Khanbaugh bridge in Valiv here and three people inside were rescued after a police team deployed cranes, he said.

Thousands of people in Thane and Palghar districts of Maharashtra were affected on Sunday by power outage after substations were submerged and transformers damaged due to heavy rains.

**400 people shifted after Mithi crosses mark:** At least 400 people from a residential area near the Mithi river in Mumbai were shifted on Sunday after its water level crossed the danger mark following heavy rains in the city, an official said.

The city and its neighbouring areas have been witnessing incessant rains since the last two days, causing flooding in many areas.

**58 rescued by IAF from rain-hit Thane:** At least 58 people stranded at a village in Maharashtra's Thane district were rescued by the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Sunday, an official said.

The people were stuck at their water-logged homes in Ju-Nandkhuri village in Khadavli area of the district since morning after very heavy rains in the area.



A food delivery man pushes his vehicle through a flooded road after heavy monsoon rains hits Mumbai on Sunday.

Over 70,000 people hit by AP floods as Godavari still in spate

AMARAVATI, 4 AUGUST

The continuing heavy flood in Godavari river affected over 74,000 people in parts of East and West Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday with nearly 18,000 of them being shifted to relief camps, officials said.

A second warning signal was issued at Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowaleswaram as water flow in the river, which has been in spate since last week following heavy monsoon rains, crossed the 13 lakh cusecs mark on Sunday morning and almost the entire quantum was being let out into the Bay of Bengal. However, there were no casualties reported and teams of the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force reached out to the affected areas with essential supplies and food.

All required measures have been taken by the Collectors of these two districts and the situation was under control, the state Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) said in a release. Power supply remained cut off while road and communication network were badly damaged in the two districts, it said.

## Pune rains: Situation might get critical after dam water release

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PUNE, 4 AUGUST

Pune received heavy rains on Sunday with district authorities issuing an advisory asking people to be alert as the situation could turn critical, and ordering schools and colleges to be shut on Monday.

Low-lying areas in the district were on alert after water was released into the Mutha river on Sunday following incessant rains in the catchment areas of dams supplying water to the city.

Later in the day, district collector Naval Kishore Ram said orders had been issued to keep educational institutions here and Pimpri Chinchwad shut on Monday in view of the rains.

He said Mula, Mutha, Pavana, Bhima and Nira rivers were in spate and there was possibility of more water being released from the adjoining



dams as catchment areas continued to get heavy rain as on Sunday evening.

"We have issued an advisory for citizens asking them not to venture out of their houses unless absolutely necessary as the situation might get critical," Ram said.

He said between 2000-2500 people had been rescued so far from flooded areas of the district.

Seven members of a family stranded in a flooded house in Kamshet area were rescued

by a team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), an official from the agency said.

With more water being released from the Khadakwasla dam, water gushed into several low-lying areas in Balewadi, Baner, Aundh, Yerwada, Sinhgad Road and Bopodi.

**45 marooned villagers airlifted by IAF in Guj:** The Indian Air Force on Sunday airlifted 45 persons stranded in their flood-hit village in Navsari district in south Gujarat, said officials.



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Rashtriya Sahara	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dainik Bhaskar			

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## सीवर के शोधित पानी का 80 फीसदी हिस्सा बर्बाद

नई दिल्ली | मनोज मट्ट

लापरवाही

H-5/8

भूजल संरक्षण के लिए एक तरफ यमुना निगरानी समिति ने बागवानी, सिंचाई, धुलाई के लिए सीवर के शोधित पानी के इस्तेमाल का निर्देश दिया है। दूसरी तरफ दिल्ली में सीवर के शोधित पानी का 80 फीसदी हिस्सा बर्बाद हो रहा है। यह आलम तब है, जब जल बोर्ड ने सीवर के शोधित पानी के इस्तेमाल की नीति तो बनाई है, लेकिन संबंधित एजेंसियों की सुस्ती के चलते पूरी तरह से अमल में नहीं लाई जा रही है।

दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के उपाध्यक्ष दिनेश मोहनिया ने अनुसार प्रतिदिन 460 एमजीडी सीवर का जल शोधित किया जा रहा है, लेकिन हम प्रतिदिन 100 एमजीडी की खपत ही सुनिश्चित करवा पा रहे हैं, जिसमें सात रुपये किलोलीटर

- यमुना निगरानी समिति ने शोधित जल के प्रयोग का निर्देश दिया है
- सरकारी एजेंसियों की अरुचि से इस जल इस्तेमाल नहीं हो रहा

के हिसाब से नई दिल्ली नगर पालिका परिषद् और बवाना पावर प्लांट को बागवानी व अन्य कामों के लिए सीवर का शोधित जल दिया जा रहा है।

डीडीए, निगम जैसी बाकी एजेंसियों की तरफ से इस जल की कोई मांग नहीं है। मोहनिया कहते हैं कि हमने डीडीए से सीवेज के शोधित जल का इस्तेमाल करने के लिए कहा था, लेकिन उन्होंने दिलचस्पी नहीं दिखाई। डीडीए के जहांपनाह सिटी फॉरिस्ट में रोजाना कई हजार लीटर पानी का प्रयोग होता है।

## सरकार नदी बेसिन प्राधिकरण बनाएगी

नई दिल्ली। नदियों के जल का बेहतर प्रबंधन और अंतरराज्यीय बेसिन में जल विवादों को निपटाने के लिए सरकार नदी बेसिन प्राधिकरण बनाने की तैयारी कर रही है। इससे संबंधित मसौदे को सरकार ने अंतिम रूप दे दिया है। संसद में जल्द ही इसको लेकर विधेयक लाया जाएगा।

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Rashtriya Sahara	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dainik Bhaskar	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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**सेना की मदद ली, आज हवाई सर्वे करेंगे मुख्यमंत्री**

# कृष्णा नदी घाटी क्षेत्र में बाढ़ के हालात गंभीर

RP-5/8

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क  
rajasthanpatrika.com

बेंगलुरु, उत्तर कर्नाटक क्षेत्र के कृष्णा नदी घाटी में बेलगावी, बागलकोट, रायचूर तथा यादगीर जिलों में भारी बारिश व महाराष्ट्र के जलाशयों से पानी छोड़े जाने से हालात गंभीर बने हुए हैं। बाढ़ प्रभावित इलाकों खासकर ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में हालात चिंताजनक हैं। पुलों के ऊपर से पानी बहने के कारण कई गांवों का संपर्क कट गया है। फसलों को नुकसान हुआ है। बहुत से गांवों में पानी का स्तर बढ़ता जा रहा है, इसके चलते लोगों को सुरक्षित स्थानों पर पहुंचाने का काम किया जा रहा है। लोगों को सुरक्षित निकालने के लिए सेना की मदद ली जा रही है। इस बीच, राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन तथा राज्य आपदा निर्वहन टीमों को ना केवल लोगों को सुरक्षित स्थानों पर पहुंचाने के निर्देश दिए गए, बल्कि पशुओं की भी सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने को कहा गया है। अनेक स्थानों पर पशु बाढ़ के पानी में बह गए हैं और अधिकतर ग्रामीण अपने मवेशियों को छोड़कर जाने को इच्छुक नहीं हैं। अधिकारियों ने बाढ़ राहत कार्य के लिए सेना की भी मदद मांगी। सीमाचार को मुख्यमंत्री बीएस येडियुरप्पा क्षेत्रों का हवाई सर्वेक्षण करेंगे।



बेलगावी जिले के खानापुर तालुक के कल्लोल, यदुरा, मंजारी आदि गांवों के लोगों को सुरक्षित स्थान की ओर ले जाते बचाव, राहत दल के कर्मचारी।

## चौबीस घंटे बचाव कार्य जारी

बाढ़ग्रस्त इलाकों में चौबीस घंटे बचाव कार्य चलाया जा रहा है। लेकिन महाराष्ट्र के जलाशयों से भारी मात्रा में पानी छोड़ने तथा बेलगावी व बागलकोट जिलों में तेज हवाओं के साथ हो रही बारिश से संपत्तियों को भारी क्षति हुई है और लोग बड़ी संख्या में बेघर हो गए हैं। इन तीनों जिलों के लगभग सभी पुलों पर पानी की चादर चल रही है और अनेक गांव व मंदिर जलमग्न हैं। सड़क संपर्क पूरी तरह से टूट गया है और बचाव दल देशी नावों व यांत्रिक नावों के जरिए बचाव कार्य चला रहे हैं। बाढ़ग्रस्त गांवों में फंसे सैकड़ों लोगों को अग्निशमन दल के कर्मियों, पुलिस तथा ग्रामीणों ने बचाकर सुरक्षित स्थानों पर पहुंचाया है। बेलगावी, बागलकोट तथा रायचूर जिलों में कृष्णा नदी के किनारे सौकड़ों एकड़ भी खड़ी फसलें चोपट हो गई हैं। कृष्णा नदी खतरे के निशान से ऊपर बह रही है।

## रायचूर में हालात विषम

रायचूर के पुलिस अधीक्षक सीबी वेदमूर्ति का कहना है कि कृष्णा नदी का जल स्तर बढ़ने से लिंगसुगुर, देवदुर्ग तथा रायचूर तालुक में कृष्णा नदी के किनारे बसे 46 गांवों में बाढ़ जनित समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। लोगों को सुरक्षित स्थानों पर पहुंचाने के कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं। जिलाधिकारी बी. शरत ने कहा कि कृष्णा नदी के टापुओं में फंसे लोगों के लिए खाद्यान्न के साथ ही चिकित्सा उपलब्ध करवाई है। शक्ति नगर शिविर में दो मोटरबोट तथा एनडीआरएफ के 30 जवानों को किसी भी हालात से निपटने के लिए तैयार रखा गया है। लोगों को देशी नावों का इस्तेमाल करके कृष्णा नदी पार करने की कोशिश नहीं करने के लिए पहले ही चेतावनी जारी कर दी गई है। लिंगसुगुर तालुक के तवाड़ागड्डी ग्राम के लोगों को सुरक्षित निकालकर शीलाहल्ली में स्थानांतरित किया गया है।



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## Activists in Assam slam NGT for 'nod' to 2,000 MW dam

Work on Subansiri lower dam was stopped following protests

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
GUWAHATI

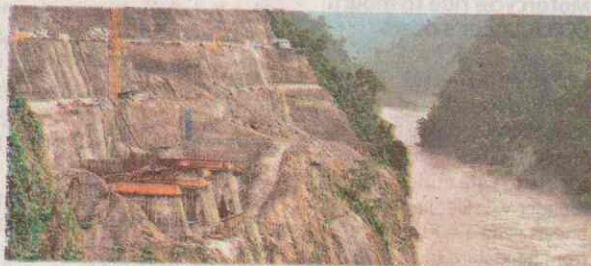
Anti-dam organisations in Assam have slammed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for virtually paving the way for a mega dam that was left incomplete in 2011.

The NGT had earlier this week dismissed petitions seeking reconstitution of a six-member expert committee that they claimed was biased towards environment-threatening big dams.

Former All Assam Students' Union (AASU) leader Tularam Gogoi, and president of NGO Assam Public Works Aabhijit Sarma had filed the petitions.

Anti-dam groups said that the dismissal of the pleas was a move by the Centre to resume work on the 2000 MW Lower Subansiri Hydropower Project (LSHP) at Gerukamukh on the Arunachal Pradesh-Assam border.

The National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) had started work on the project in 2009 but had to stop after a series of protests by local organisations.



The Lower Subansiri Hydropower Project is being built on the Arunachal Pradesh-Assam border. ■ FILE PHOTO

The NHPC officials said they have been losing ₹10 crore daily since 2011 because of non-completion of the project that was more than 65% through.

The work remained stalled as protests have not allowed transportation of turbines and other construction materials to the site in north-eastern Assam.

### Legality of committee

"The Centre had formed a six-member panel to study the project and give a report. Three of the members, who are from Assam, dissuaded construction in an earthquake-prone area. The three other members endorsed

the project. Following this, the Centre formed another panel with members from the government. This committee's legality was thus challenged," said Akhil Gogoi, leader of Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti that has been opposed to the dam.

"The people of Assam will not accept the NGT order. How can a committee with questionable legality submit a report, based on which an expert appraisal panel approve environment clearance," he asked.

The AASU said the Centre should first ensure the safety and security of the people living downstream of the dam before giving its nod.

Hindustan Times	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deccan Herald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hindustan (Hindi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statesman	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deccan Cronicle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Times of India (New Delhi)	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Economic Times	<input type="checkbox"/>	Punjab Kesari (Hindi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indian Express	<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Hindu (New Delhi)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribune	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dainik Jagran	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pioneer Delhi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial Express	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jansatta	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rashtriya Sahara	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dainik Bhaskar			

and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

## Markandeya project: No need for TN nod, state tells apex court

**NEW DELHI:** The Karnataka government has told the Supreme Court that the Markandeya project, commenced in Yargol village near Bangarpet with an estimated cost of Rs 240 crore in 2009, was meant to alleviate drinking water problems of Kolar, Bangarpet and Malur towns.

Since it is a drinking water project, there was no requirement to intimate Tamil Nadu or take its consent as per 1933 agreement.

The Karnataka government filed its statement of objections to the Tamil Nadu's plea to restrain it from proceeding further in the construction of a dam across Markandeya river.

"If Tamil Nadu's plea is granted, the state would be put to great injury and hardship, as it has already spent several crores on the construction of the drinking water supply project," the Karnataka government said.

A bench of Justices U U Lalit and Vineet Saran, which took up the matter on Friday, granted time to Tamil Nadu to respond to the Karnataka's contention. The court put the matter for consideration on August 20.

The Karnataka government said the Centre has granted clearance to the project on December 4, 2012. "Tamil Nadu was aware of the project which commenced way back in 2009. But for reasons best known to it, it did not initiate any action and allowed Karnataka to proceed with the drinking water project till 2018," the state government said.

In its application, the Tamil

Nadu government claimed the completion of the construction of the 50-metre high dam across Markandeya river with a length of about 400 metres would completely impound the flows and would jeopardise the existing irrigation and drinking water needs of the state.

In its response, the Karnataka government said, for the project, it was not utilising the regular rain flow water. On the contrary, the major portion of Bengaluru falls outside the Cauvery basin.

In deciding inter-state water dispute between Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, the Supreme Court has allocated an additional 4.75 tmcft water for consumptive (drinking purpose) use for Bengaluru.

"The project is under completion and in addition to that, towns of Kolar, Bangarpet, Malur and 45 en-route villages have been suffering from a shortage of drinking water and, therefore, people in this area would be deprived of drinking water, if the court allowed the Tamil Nadu's plea," it said.

The groundwater exploitation in those areas has been recorded as 50 to 85 % and those have been declared as grey areas. There is non-availability of potable groundwater in bore wells.

The project with a capacity of 500 mcft was undertaken by Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board, Bengaluru. In this regard, 70% to 75% of work has been completed, it said.

**DH News Service**



Hindustan Times	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deccan Herald	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hindustan (Hindi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Rashtriya Sahara	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dainik Bhaskar			

and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

## BEED DIARY

# Extended dry spell forcing farmers to uproot crops

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

**BEED/PAITHAN:** With drought having entered its 38th week in Marathwada, rainfall deficiency in Beed, one of the worst-hit districts of the state, stood at 37% on July 31 against 40% on July 24.

Beed has received just 140.38 mm of rainfall as of August 2 — lowest in the Marathwada region. According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), the average annual rainfall of Beed amounts to 666 mm.

The poor rainfall has affected kharif sowing at the onset of monsoon, and farmers have started uprooting their crops to avoid further loss. The state agriculture department has issued an advisory for intercrop cultivation but farmers have been unwilling to do so.

Mahesh Patodkar, a farmer from Mainda village in Beed district, said, "It's already too late and if we will continue with this crop we are likely to face major pest and diseases attack." Sakshi Kamble, a Class 5 student aged 11, has been helping her family by selling buckets of water at ₹5 each. She collects water from the dry riverbed in the Godavari at Paithan. Other children her age do the same. Sakshi leaves home around

8am, and often skips school for this. Sakshi and her friends said they had sold 15-20 buckets on the auspicious occasion of Ashadi Ekadashi when people wanted to take a bath in the holy Godavari.

She does not like to return home empty-handed as her mother, who was abandoned by her father two years ago, is bed-ridden. Her family comprises her mother Sangeeta Kamble, 37, brother Suraj, 7, and sister Divya, 4.

Pilgrims visiting the Paithan ghat on the banks of the Godavari purchase a bucket of water for ₹5 for washing their face, hands and legs, and then proceed to pray at the temple of Sant Eknath Maharaj.

A pilgrim, Nivrutti Dondhphale 47, said he and others have no option but to purchase water from these children as the river has been dry since February.

A similar situation prevailed at other places along the Godavari ghat. A villager, Manisha Shende, said, "The TV shows there was a flood-like situation in Pune and Mumbai, but we still we have to travel almost 1-2 kilometre to fetch a handa of water." The handa is a small kitchen utensil with 12 litres capacity.

The water conservation department of the state government said even two months after the onset of monsoon, water storage in Aurangabad division, which comprises Aurangabad, Beed, Hingoli, Parbhani and Osmanabad districts, was 3.39% as against 18.15% at the same time last year.

All the dams in the Marathwada region depend on the rivers that originate in the Godavari region. However, a lot of it is dotted by dams. Even after heavy downpours in Godavari's catchment area in Nashik district, the stretch of the Godavari river in Beed, Parbhani and Nanded districts continues to run dry.

Hence the entire region continues to depend on water tankers. According to State Water Supply and Sanitation Department, the divisional commissionerate has deployed 2,011 water tankers to supply water to 1,501 villages and 348 hamlets. Of these, 699 water tankers have been deployed in Beed alone.



■ A villager collects water from a pit in an almost dried-up riverbed.

SANJAY SADAVARTE/HT

Hindustan Times	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deccan Herald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hindustan (Hindi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statesman	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deccan Cronicle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Indian Express	<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Rashtriya Sahara	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dainik Bhaskar			

and documented at WSE Die, CWC.

# TB dam level leaves paddy farmers high and dry

**KOPPAL:** Poor storage in Tungabhadra reservoir, owing to below-par monsoon in its catchment Malnad region, has left the farmers from Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh high and dry.

It is said, the Malnad region, this season, has faced a rain deficit of 34%. In the corresponding period, last year, the reservoir had received about 160 tmcft water. This time, it is just 31 tmcft.

The Irrigation Consultative Committee (ICC) would take a decision to release water to canals only if the dam has a storage of 40 tmcft. Also, the delay in appointment of district in-charge minister, who chairs the ICC meeting, will further push the dates of water release.

Vast tracts of paddy fields in the district, considered the rice bowl of Karnataka, has been cultivated by the farmers dependent on the canal water.



**Tungabhadra reservoir near Hosapete has only 31 tmcft water leaving the farmers of the basin worried.** DH FILE PHOTO

Only a few farmers who own pumpsets have transplanted paddy and have sprinkled fertilisers twice.

The district has been experiencing light showers or drizzle, this season. But paddy crop needs large amounts of water.

If the monsoon activities fail to pick up in Chikkamagaluru and Shivamogga districts, the farmers in Tungabhadra command area and river basin may give up on Kharif crops.

**DH News Service**



AS ON AUG 03, 2019

## Tungabhadra in nutshell

Full reservoir level:

**1,633 ft**

Current level:

**1,608 ft**

Maximum storage:

**101 tmcft**

Current storage:

**30.44 tmcft**

Inflow:

**20,091 cusec**

Outflow:

**1,201 cusec**



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 04.08.2019...in the following newspaper

Hindustan Times	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deccan Herald	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hindustan (Hindi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statesman	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deccan Chronicle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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## बड़े भवनों में वर्षा जल संचयन होगा अनिवार्य

पटना, (पंजाब केसरी): बिहार के उप मुख्यमंत्री सुशील कुमार मोदी ने आज कहा कि राज्य में बनने वाले नये बड़े भवनों में वर्षा जल संचयन को अनिवार्य किया जाएगा।

श्री मोदी ने यहां ए एन कॉलेज परिसर में 'वन महोत्सव' के दूसरे दिन पौधारोपण के बाद आयोजित समारोह को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि सरकारी भवनों, अस्पतालों और विद्यालयों में वर्षा जल का संचयन कर भूमिगत-जल स्तर को बढ़ाया जायेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि नए बनने वाले बड़े भवनों में भी वर्षा जल संचयन को अनिवार्य किया जायेगा।

उप मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि राज्य के सभी तालाबों की मैपिंग करा ली



गयी है। एक महीने के अंदर उन्हें अतिक्रमण मुक्त कर उड़ाही का अभियान चलाया जायेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि राज्य के अन्य सभी जल स्रोतों का भी पुनः उद्धार किया जायेगा। श्री मोदी ने आह्वान किया कि हर परिवार एक पौधा जरूर लगाये और संरक्षण कर उसे पेड़ बनाये।

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Statesman	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deccan Chronicle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Rashtriya Sahara	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dainik Bhaskar	<input type="checkbox"/>		

and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

**पर्यावरण मंत्रालय ने शुरू की कवायद : राजस्थान की लूणी नदी भी प्रोजेक्ट में शामिल, आफरी को मिला जिम्मा**

## यमुना, ब्रह्मपुत्र समेत देश की 13 बड़ी नदियों का होगा कार्याकल्प

RR-4/8

गजेंद्र सिंह दहिया

patrika.com

जोधपुर. केंद्रीय पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय ने भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद (आइसीएफआरई) को देश की 13 बड़ी नदियों के कार्याकल्प के लिए विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट (डीपीआर) बनाने का जिम्मा दिया है। परियोजना में राजस्थान में बहने वाली एकमात्र लूणी नदी है, जिसके पुनरुद्धार का कार्य जोधपुर का शुष्क वन अनुसंधान संस्थान (आफरी) करेगा।

आफरी ने इसके लिए केंद्रीय शुष्क क्षेत्र अनुसंधान संस्थान (काजरी) से



एमओयू भी किया है। मध्यप्रदेश व छत्तीसगढ़ में बहने वाली नर्मदा, महानदी और गोदावरी की डीपीआर तैयार होगी। गोदावरी की डीपीआर हैदराबाद स्थित वानिकी जैव

विविधता संस्थान, महानदी की रांची स्थित वन उत्पादक संस्थान और नर्मदा की जबलपुर स्थित उष्णकटिबंधीय वन अनुसंधान संस्थान बनाएगा।

### गोदावरी, नर्मदा भी होंगी प्रदूषण मुक्त

वर्ष 2016 में नमामी गंगे कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत आइसीएफआरई को गंगा नदी की डीपीआर बनाने और उसे प्रदूषण मुक्त करने का कार्य सौंपा गया था। इसमें सफलता के बाद अब अन्य 13 बड़ी नदियों ब्रह्मपुत्र, व्यास, चेनाब, झेलम, रावी, सतलज,

गोदावरी, महानदी, नर्मदा, कृष्णा, यमुना, लूणी और कावेरी की डीपीआर बनाने का कार्य दिया गया है। आइसीएफआरई ने इन नदियों की डीपीआर बनाने के लिए अपने 9 विभिन्न संस्थानों को नोडल केंद्रों का दर्जा दिया है। नदियों को साफ करने की इनपर जिम्मेदारी होगी।

### डाटाबेस से किया जाएगा विश्लेषण

डाटाबेस द्वारा नदी क्षेत्र के नक्शे, नदी की सीमा, वाटर शेड, मिट्टी के प्रकार, और कटाव की स्थिति आदि का विस्तृत विश्लेषण किया जाएगा। डीपीआर में मिट्टी व जल संरक्षण, नम भूमि प्रबंधन के कार्य भी किए जाएंगे।



Hindustan Times  
Statesman  
The Times of India (New Delhi)  
Indian Express  
The Hindu (New Delhi)  
Pioneer Delhi  
Rashtriya Sahara

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Deccan Herald  
Deccan Chronicle  
The Economic Times  
Business Standard  
Tribune  
Financial Express  
Dainik Bhaskar

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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)  
Punjab Kesari (Hindi)  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)  
Dainik Jagran  
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Asian Age, Delhi



and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

# Kosi-Mechi river linking project gets Centre nod

Patna, Aug. 3: The Centre has approved the ₹4,900 crore project for interlinking of Kosi and Mechi rivers of Bihar; state water resources minister Sanjay Kumar Jha said on Saturday. This is the second major river interlinking project in the country to be approved after the Ken-Betwa project in Madhya Pradesh.

"Bihar has got the final remaining mandatory techno-administrative approval for the project from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)," Mr Jha said in a statement.

The central government has approved construction of 76.20 km canals on east-

**The central government has approved construction of 76.20 km canals on eastern bank of Kosi for irrigation purpose.**

ern bank of Kosi for irrigation purpose, the minister said. Terming it as a "green project", Mr Jha said it will not displace people nor require acquisition of forest land.

"The total land requirement is about 1,396.81 hectares. There are no national parks, wildlife sanctuaries or eco-sensitive zones within 10 km radius of the project," he said.

He said the project will

not only prevent recurring floods in north Bihar, but also irrigate over 2.14 lakh hectares of cultivable land in Araria, Purnea, Kishanganj and Katihar districts, collectively called Seemanchal region.

"The project is aimed at alleviating hardships of the people resulting from the floods and has the potential to usher in a green revolution in Seemanchal region," the minister said, adding that the project was a brainchild of chief minister Nitish Kumar.

The approval note for the project was issued by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for river valley and hydroelectric projects on Thursday.

— PTI



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Statesman	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deccan Herald	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Rashtriya Sahara	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dainik Bhaskar			

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# सकरी-नाटा नदी जोड़ की अब नयी डीपीआर बनेगी

## हिन्दुस्तान एक्सप्रेस

पटना | हिन्दुस्तान ब्यूरो

केन्द्रीय पर्यावरण मंत्रालय से कोसी-मेची नदी जोड़ योजना को हरी झंडी मिलने के बाद राज्य की दूसरी सकरी-नाटा नदी जोड़ योजना का भी रास्ता साफ होने लगा है। दक्षिण बिहार में सिंचाई की यह बड़ी योजना है। इससे मगध क्षेत्र की 68 हजार हेक्टेयर जमीन में सिंचाई होनी है। झारखंड के साथ इस योजना को लेकर चल रहे विवाद में हस्ताक्षेप करते हुए केन्द्रीय जल आयोग ने इसपर सैद्धांतिक सहमति दे दी है, लेकिन सकरी नदी से लगभग 90 लाख घन मीटर (नौ एमसीएम) कम पानी लेने का निर्देश दिया है। अब नये निर्देश के अनुसार डीपीआर बनाकर फिर से केन्द्र के पास राज्य सरकार को भेजनी होगी।

**कई वर्षों से लटकी थी योजना :** झारखंड से पानी को लेकर चल रहे विवाद के कारण योजना कई वर्षों से लटकी थी। सभी सवालों का जवाब देने के बाद भी झारखंड सरकार इसके लिए अनापत्ति प्रमाण पत्र नहीं दे रही है। केन्द्र भी हस्ताक्षेप



## सुलझा मामला

- केन्द्रीय जल आयोग के हस्तक्षेप से सलटा योजना का विवाद
- मगध क्षेत्र की 68 हजार हेक्टेयर भूमि में सिंचाई होगी

## योजना के जुड़े आंकड़े

- 1200 करोड़ का बना था एस्टीमेट
- 68 हजार हेक्टेयर में होगी सिंचाई
- 165 एमसीएम पानी का होना था उपयोग
- 156 एमसीएम के उपयोग की अनुमति

योजना राज्य सरकार की प्राथमिकता में है। केन्द्रीय जल आयोग ने इस योजना में हस्तक्षेप किया है। नयी डीपीआर बनाने का काम शुरू हो गया है। जल्द ही डीपीआर केन्द्र को भेज दी जाएगी।

- संजय झा, मंत्री जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार

## बिहार ने की थी नदियों को जोड़ने की वकालत

इसके पहले केन्द्रीय जल आयोग ने भी इन दोनों नदियों में पानी की उपलब्धता को लेकर सवाल खड़ा किया था। जवाब देते हुए बिहार सरकार ने भी कहा था कि सकरी-नाटा नदियों में पानी सिर्फ मॉनसून के समय ही रहता है। लेकिन दोनों नदियों को जोड़ने की योजना के जमीन पर उतरने से उसी पानी का अधिक से अधिक प्रयोग हो सकेगा।

## पानी देने से झारखंड सरकार ने कर दिया था इनकार

सकरी नदी झारखंड के कोडरमा से निकलती है, लेकिन बिहार के कौआकोल और नवादा के बीच इस नदी पर पंचरा में एक बीयर बना हुआ था। इससे काफी सिंचाई होती थी। आजादी के पहले की बनी यह योजना अब बहुत पुरानी हो गई और सिंचाई क्षमता भी घट गई। राज्य सरकार ने झारखंड को यही बताया है कि पंचरा बीयर में जितना पानी झारखंड से छोड़ा जाता था, उससे अधिक पानी की जरूरत नदी जोड़ योजना के लिए नहीं है। बावजूद वहां की सरकार ने पानी देने से इनकार कर दिया था।

करने को तैयार नहीं था, लेकिन अब केन्द्रीय जल आयोग ने इसका रास्ता निकाल दिया है। आयोग ने कहा है कि बिहार अपनी योजना के लिए 165

एमसीएम की जगह 156 एमसीएम पानी सकरी नदी से ले और इसी के अनुसार बिहार सरकार का जल संसाधन विभाग नया डीपीआर बनाकर फिर से दे।



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Statesman	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deccan Chronicle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Indian Express	<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Standard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Rashtriya Sahara	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dainik Bhaskar	<input type="checkbox"/>		

and documented at WSE Die, CWC.

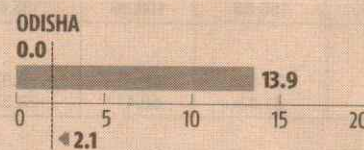
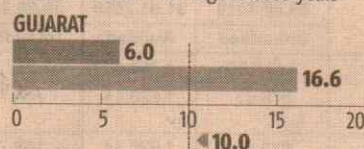
## CRISIL'S DRIP

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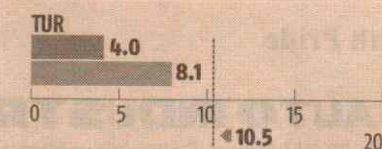
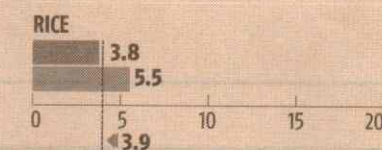
### RAINS CATCH UP, KEY AREAS STILL FACE SHORTFALL

#### State-wise DRIP scores

■ 2018 ■ 2019 ◀ Average of last 5 years



#### Crop-wise DRIP scores



Sources: Indian Meteorological Department, Ministry of Agriculture, CRISIL

#### Sub-par regional distribution comes to the fore



**RAINFALL SO FAR** — in terms of both, timeliness and distribution — has under-shot prediction. The onset of monsoon was delayed and the catch-up (up to July) has been

slow. Some key crop-producing areas are still facing a shortfall that, coupled with weak irrigation, could lead to more stress.

As of July 31, rainfall from the southwest monsoon was 9% below the long period average (LPA), which is within the normal bound. For rains to be deemed normal, they can be at most 4% below normal. The last week saw a steep catch-up given that rains until July 24 were 19 per cent deficient.

The brief period brought some relief to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, which were witnessing a prolonged dry spell.

What's worrying is that in several states, the picture is weak at the sub-regional level.

But just rainfall volume data does not tell the full story. We need to consider vulnerabilities due to inadequate irrigation for a comprehensive perspective on states and crops.

Higher the CRISIL Deficient Rainfall Impact Parameter (DRIP) score, more adverse the impact of deficient rains.

The latest DRIP scores show higher-than-trend scores for Gujarat, West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Haryana. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are also in this list, given a delayed catch-up in rains. In Karnataka and MP, given weak sub-regional rainfall patterns, DRIP scores are higher on-year.

Among crops, DRIP scores are highest for groundnut and rice while others such as tur, maize, cotton, jowar and soybean will require monitoring as scores are higher on-year.

DRIP scores show several states and crops grappling with deficient rains.



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Pioneer Delhi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial Express	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jansatta	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rashtriya Sahara	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dainik Bhaskar	<input type="checkbox"/>		

and documented at WSE Die, CWC.

## PM's Scientific Advisor to Prepare Plan to Assess Jal Shakti Abhiyan

**ET-3** Anubhuti Vishnoi  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The Jal Shakti Abhiyan will be assessed on a four-point outcome measurement format and the office of the principal scientific advisor to the Prime Minister will draw up the framework. It was decided at a review meeting chaired by the cabinet secretary on Friday.

The assessment will be done based on— increase in groundwater level, increase in surface water storage capacity, increase in soil moisture in farm lands and increase in area covered with plantation and number of saplings planted, **ET** has learnt.

Principal scientific advisor to the PM, Dr Vijay Raghavan will help develop clear measurable indices and parameters for the four desired outcome areas.



FILE PHOTO

The Centre is also set to add another six or more districts to the existing 256 water-stressed districts on which the Jal Shakti Abhiyan is focused, sources said.

While the Abhiyan is considered a launch pad for sustainable water resources management, it will lead to a "mainstreamed and programmed National Water Conser-

vation Mission", it was emphasised at the review meeting.

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan was launched on July 1 with PM Narendra Modi leading from the front to exhort the people to work towards water conservation.

A government statement issued on Friday said that the Abhiyan had delivered over 3.5 lakh water conservation measures in 256 districts. Of these, 1.54 lakh related to water conservation and rain water harvesting and 20,000 were linked to rejuvenation of traditional water bodies, 60,000 on reuse and recharge structures. 1.23 lakh watershed development projects were initiated and 4.25 crore saplings were planted. Over 2.64 crore people participated in the Abhiyan, said the statement.

Phase 1 of the scheme began on July 1 and will wind up on September 15 while Phase 2 will begin on October 2.

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Rashtriya Sahara	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dainik Bhaskar			

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# Piped water to be Modi 2.0 priority

Sunetra Choudhury

sunetra.choudhury@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** What toilets were to the Narendra Modi government in 2014 — the symbol of a nationwide crusade to end open defecation and build a cleaner India — piped potable water could well be for Modi 2.0.

The Jal Jeevan Mission, announced by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her first budget on July 5, is ready for cabinet approval and will be launched by the Prime Minister, Hindustan Times has learnt.

It may even find pride of place in his Independence Day speech.

The objective of the mission is to give access to piped potable water to every rural household

**THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT WILL BE TO PROVIDE PIPED POTABLE WATER TO EVERY RURAL HOUSEHOLD BY 2024**

by 2024. Only 18% of households in the countryside now have piped water supply, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government is aiming for an over fivefold jump in five years.

The blueprint for the Jal Jeevan Mission, which has been publicised with the tagline "har ghar, nal se jal", translating as

**CONTINUED ON P 8**

**from page one**

## Jal Shakti

"water from the tap in every home," is ready and has already been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee, government officials said. Only cabinet approval is pending.

Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Shekhawat said: "The day the scheme is approved, we will start working on it. The blueprint of this is absolutely ready."

Water is a state subject, and Jal Jeevan won't be an easy mission for the central government to accomplish. Shekhawat's big idea is to present it as a challenge to local administrations, and turn it into a contest between state governments for central funds. "Whichever state does the maximum amount of work, will get the maximum amount of funds," he said.

There is a catch. To receive central funds for water projects, the states and their district administrators will have to fulfil some tough conditions — create an underground storage facility with a sustainable source of water, ensure that the water is piped to households and devise ways for treatment and reuse of discharged water in activities like agriculture.

"We have spoken to all chief secretaries and secretaries to do all three things together. They should start preparing their respective plans," said Shekhawat.

"Since water is a state subject, implementation has to be done by states. They will have to work with commitment and priority and we are here to support them," the minister added.

He is right in projecting the scheme as a challenge. Nearly 163 million Indians lack access to clean water, the highest number

for any country, according to WaterAid, a non-government organisation. Frequent droughts have led to crop failures and led to rural distress in parts of India, where only around a third of the cropland has access to reliable irrigation systems.

According to data from the Jal Shakti ministry, in states like Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand, fewer than 5% of rural households have piped water. That compares with 99% of rural households that have piped water supply in Sikkim.

For the rural drinking water mission, the government raised its allocation by 22% to ₹10,001 crore in 2019-2020 from ₹8,201 crore last year.

A note prepared by the Jal Shakti ministry and reviewed by HT says the plan is to co-opt NGOs to help village councils and their subcommittees manage the planning and running of the local water supply system. In cases where there isn't enough water supply for a single village, water from multiple villages will be pooled and shared.

Experts pointed out the importance of groundwater in any national policy on water.

"There are two things. One, any national policy on water has to pivot around groundwater because groundwater is India's water lifeline. Secondly, there is a complete policy vacuum on the urban water sector. The impact of urban use is directly felt, both downstream and upstream, in terms of availability in rural areas," said Himanshu Thakkar of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People.



Hindustan Times ☒  
 Statesman ☐  
 The Times of India (New Delhi) ☐  
 Indian Express ☐  
 The Hindu (New Delhi) ☐  
 Pioneer Delhi ☐  
 Rashtriya Sahara ☐

Deccan Herald ☐  
 Deccan Chronicle ☐  
 The Economic Times ☐  
 Business Standard ☐  
 Tribune ☐  
 Financial Express ☐  
 Dainik Bhaskar ☐

Hindustan (Hindi) ☐  
 Nav Bharat Times (Hindi) ☐  
 Punjab Kesari (Hindi) ☐  
 Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi) ☐  
 Dainik Jagran ☐  
 Jansatta ☐

## HT INTERVIEW

GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT, Jal Shakti minister

# 'Water is a national issue, above political affiliations'

**T**he focus of the new ministry of Jal Shakti will be on awareness, technical support and handholding, Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said, explaining that because water is a state subject, this approach is necessary. At the same time, there are subjects not mentioned in the Constitution related to water where the Centre has the right to pass laws, he added in an interview to **Sunetra Choudhury**. Edited excerpts

**The situation in Chennai which ran out of water, will it happen anywhere else again?**

I hope it will never happen again. We have a water management problem. In Delhi, there is 1.1 billion crore litres of water which just becomes sewage. If we reuse that amount of water in agriculture, then Delhi will never face a problem. For that, the state has to create the infrastructure and Delhi and Haryana have to have an understanding.

**There are concerns about some of the water bills in Parliament, that they may be infringing on federalism. What would you say about such fears?**

The constitution says that if there is river, water and basin dispute, then parliament is competent to enact any law. The first act which was brought in this regard was in 1956. The bill of dam safety—some of my Opposition friends say that we are intervening in the federal structure, but I disagree. If there is any issue that is not mentioned in the Constitution, then Parliament has the right to legislate on it. Dam safety is not mentioned at all in any list. So we have competence in doing so.

India has more than 5,100 dams, another 400 are being built, we are the third largest



dam owning country in the world, after US and China. More than a thousand of them are more than a hundred years old and there is no security protocol for them.

If a reservoir breaks—there are 40 instances of this happening in India—there is so much damage, so many lives (at stake). Can we afford that? States don't even have the technology or support to maintain them. Many dams are on interstate rivers, so who handles them? In 1982, they tried to adopt a dam safety law but it was adopted only in two states Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have adopted it. So that entire work is now being done by us.

**It was interesting to see recently you at an event with Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, someone who has had a bitter relationship with the Centre.**

The project which I attended with Kejriwal is 85% funded by Centre. Ultimately, water should be beyond political considerations and affiliations. It is a national issue, a global issue. For India, it is more relevant because we have 18% of the world's population and only 4% of water supply. Our water is considered the most contaminated, so how will we do it? A country like Israel which got independence around the same time as us, gets less than 200 mm rainfall. Even so, it has abundance of water and exports drinking water. Even Cambodia, which is a poor country unlike Israel, has water security. And we with more than 1000 mm rainfall (in some parts), have a scarcity. They have done this with four pillars—aggregation of water, judicious use, recycling of it and rejuvenation of

rivers and reforestation. As far as groundwater is concerned, 65% of agriculture is dependent on that. It is an invisible source and a study says one fourth of it is drying up. So we have to start working on ground water recharge.

The problem is awareness and commitment. Even now, we talk about saving water by showering less and serving less water in meetings or what industry uses. Did you know that the domestic water usage is only 6% and industry is 5%? 89% of water is used by agriculture. Even if we save 10% of that, then India will have no water worries for the next five years.

**That's your focus then?**

Yes, it is. We give free electricity in farms, so the water keeps being pumped out and we keep taking it out without any concern. That's why I appreciate Haryana for its initiative. They encouraged maize growth instead of paddy, saying if you grow maize then we will procure all of it. They said we will give 2,000 per acre as incentive for growing maize instead of paddy. Maharashtra government did the same with sugarcane which is a water guzzler. They said that if you grow cane then you have to have drip irrigation. This saves 60% water. Take Punjab which has free power for farmers—they have a scheme which says, save power, earn money. Each state has to think of innovative ways that work for them. We have taken a resolution that by end of March 2020, the 240 water strapped districts will be mapped to show all aquifers.

**So you are basically creating awareness because in a state subject you can't do much? Awareness, technical support and handholding is what we are doing.**



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Rashtriya Sahara	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dainik Bhaskar	<input type="checkbox"/>		

and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

## Jal Chaupals in the city



### PEOPLE LIKE THEM

GEETANJALI KRISHNA

Recent reports have calculated that the almost a quarter of all groundwater extracted globally is extracted in India. India beats even China and US in groundwater extraction, which is perhaps why the rate of groundwater depletion in the country has increased by 23 per cent between 2000 and 2010. Many people react to such news with a shrug — after all, isolated individual efforts would be little more than drops in the ocean. But a recent experience of a Jal Chaupal, water budgeting meeting, in Mahuee, a village in UP's Banda district, made me realise that every drop counts after all.

As the monsoon clouds rumbled ominously overhead, a group of 50-odd people

gathered in a government school classroom where Sadashiv and Prashansa Gupta of Akhil Bhartiya Samaj Sewa Sansthan were waiting to kick off the meeting. Using a tool developed by WaterAid, they asked the group to estimate their individual water usage by activity — bathing, laundry, toilet, kitchen, livestock and more. Amid good-natured ribbing and a lot of laughter, the group collectively estimated exactly how many buckets of water they used daily for different tasks while Sadashiv painstakingly entered the figures on a water consumption table on the wall.

By now, the entire group was involved in the water budgeting exercise. Everyone wanted to speak in the next part of the activity — water availability. They enumerated every single water source in Mahuee while the facilitators estimated how much water each is capable of providing, highlighting the gap between the demand for water and its actual availability. Then the group collectively estimated groundwater depletion in their village by comparing the depth of new and old wells and tube wells. Using the example of a bank account which would run out of money if there are more withdrawals than deposits, the two facilitators ended the meeting by driving home the importance of recharging groundwater aquifers to ensure continued availability of water.

As the numbers kept adding up on the table, many in the room started looking visibly uneasy. For Munni Devi, as for others in the group, the meeting was eye-opening. "It has made me realise that even though we are drought-stricken every summer, we use so much water," exclaimed Munni Devi, 40 years old and heavily veiled. A young wag sitting behind her declared that the best way for him to help save water was to bathe once in 10 days. Everyone laughed but seriousness returned when an older man in the group pointed out that earlier, when their village pond had water, they'd bathe their animals there. "Since the pond dried up about three years ago, we've been using fresh tube well water for this purpose," she said. "The Jal Chaupal has made me realise that even people like me who live in a state of acute water shortage can cut down on water usage by becoming more conscious about it."

As the meeting ended, I realised that collectively making their own water budget had perhaps brought home the urgency of the water crisis that's looming over us all today. Back in Delhi where my neighbours were having their driveway hosed down with as much fresh water as Munni Devi uses in a day, it struck me that perhaps what we need is Jal Chaupals in our water-greedy cities too — not just in villages like Mahuee.



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Statesman	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deccan Chronicle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Rashtriya Sahara	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dainik Bhaskar	<input type="checkbox"/>		

and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

# Two villages pool hill water, bid goodbye to dry days

J'khand Hamlets Earn Praise In 'Mann Ki Baat'

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**Ranchi:** Aara and Keram, twin villages on Ranchi's outskirts, shot to fame recently when Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose them for praise during his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' programme. The villages, Modi said, had channeled and conserved rainwater flowing down from a nearby hill, using it for drinking and irrigation purposes.

Local residents said they were inspired after a visit in 2016 to Ralegaon Siddhi, the native village of social activist Anna Hazare in Maharashtra. Today, Aara and Keram have enough water even when monsoon plays truant.

Ramesh Bediya, head of the village forest conservation committee, said in three



**STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS:** Villagers construct a minor check-dam using loose boulders to retain rainwater

months since February this year, they managed to create around 650 check-dams to channel water running down from Domba Pahar.

He said, "We first approached the government (MNREGA department) to approve the project. They hailed our plan but asked us to wait as the model code of conduct was in place due to

the Lok Sabha polls. However, rather than wasting time, we began building minor check dams by using loose boulders available in plenty in the hills and forests here. Altogether 150 people worked on this in turns daily." The move has also helped them grow crops round the year.

Suraj Karmali, a resident of Aara village, said,

"Earlier, I only used to do farming during the kharif season. But last year I took up vegetable farming too as there is enough water."

In many ways, Aara and Keram are idyllic as well as ideal villages. What's helped them, the villagers said, was their faithful devotion to the "six principles for development" — shramdaan (mass movement), nasha-bandi (no alcohol), nas-bandi (family planning), charai-bandi (no uncontrolled grazing), kulhad-bandi (no felling of trees) and lota-bandi (no open defecation). The two clusters are "alcohol and tobacco free", as some posters loudly proclaim.

One cannot miss notice boards put up prominently at various places that announce adherence to the six principles. Every resident has to live by these rules, failing which the gram sabha imposes a fine of Rs 1,001 at the first offence, with subsequent violations leading to severance from government schemes.

MAKE INDIA  
**WATER POSITIVE**  
A TIMES OF INDIA INITIATIVE



Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (New Delhi)

Indian Express

The Hindu (New Delhi)



Deccan Herald



Deccan Chronicle



The Economic Times



Business Standard



Tribune



Hindustan (Hindi)



Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)



Punjab Kesari (Hindi)



Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)



Dainik Jagran

# India logs hottest July ever; warmer nights key factor, shows IMD data

Jayashree Nandi

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**NEW DELHI:** The mean temperature for July was the highest ever in India, according to data with the India Meteorological Department (IMD). It was the high minimum or night time temperature, and not the maximum temperature, which contributed to July recording the highest mean temperature on record.

The mean temperature for July was 28.65°C. The previous record was in 2015 when the mean was 28.64°C, and in 1987 when the mean temperature was 28.62°C, both El Nino years. This year again, weak El Nino conditions are prevailing. El Nino is a climate pattern characterised by above normal sea surface temperatures over the equatorial Pacific Ocean which contributes to above normal land temperatures in the tropical latitudes.

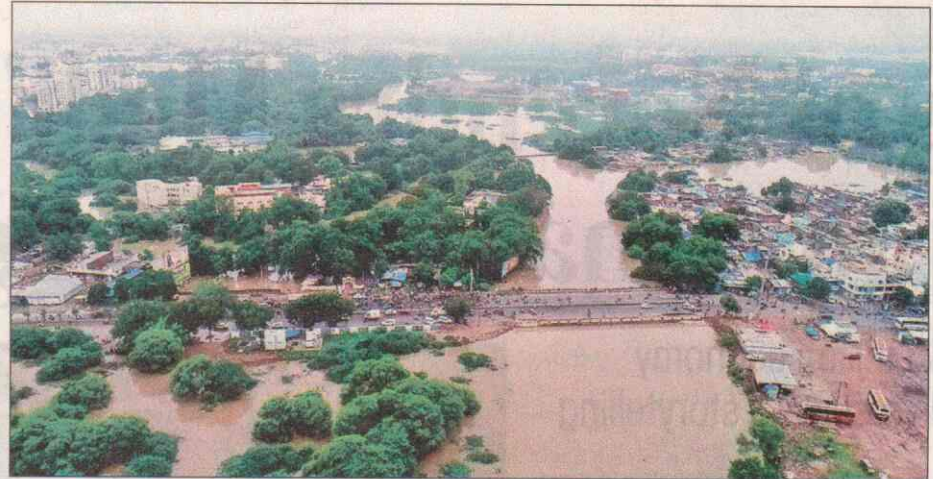
"The high minimum temperatures this July contributed to high mean temperature. This was mainly a result of clouding at night time in the first and second week of July in many parts of the country which trapped the heat of the surface. The mean maximum temperature of 32.40°C this year was also the third highest on record," said AK Srivastava, head, climate research division, IMD Pune.

The mean temperature in June was 30.26°C, the fourth highest since 1901 after 1958 (30.33°C), 2014 (30.33°C) and 1926 (30.31°C).

According to IMD's Climate Diagnostics Bulletin of India for June, Guwahati, Jhansi, Kota, Pilani, Bhopal, Guna, Gwalior, Aurangabad, Baramati, Karwar and Kozhikode recorded the highest temperature for the month. Jhansi recorded 48°C compared to the previous record of 47.8°C in 1924.

The delay in onset and uneven distribution of monsoon rains, which are having a massive impact on agriculture, are also linked to global temperature rise, scientists said.

The maximum temperature anomaly in June was more than 2°C over parts of Jharkhand, Bihar, east UP, Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Marathwada, Vidarbha, MP, Uttarakhand, HP, west Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema. It was more than 3°C



■ An aerial view of the flooded streets after heavy rainfall in Vadodara on Friday.

ANI

over parts of Vidarbha, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar, the bulletin added.

The minimum temperature was above normal over most parts of the country except J&K, Lakshadweep and some isolated places.

"This year, India saw episodes of extreme heat in June and an unusual monsoon pattern. Churu recorded 51.3°C on June 2, the highest ever; Palam observatory had also recorded 48°C on June 10... Monsoon onset was very late, there were hardly any rains till mid June. It ended with a 33% deficit but unusually high rains in some regions in July led to above average rains in July at 104%," said Mahesh Palawat, vice president, climate and meteorology, Skymet Weather.

"This time we noticed that a significant part of the month's expected rainfall was received only in a few days in Mumbai and some other parts of the west coast. Mumbai rains were unusual. There are heavy rains in Gujarat now, which happens almost every year in some parts of the state," said KJ Ramesh, former director general of meteorology at IMD.

Referring to the World Meteorological Organisation's latest analysis, UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Thursday said the findings for this year are "even more significant because the previous hottest month, July 2016, occurred during one of the strongest El Niño's ever. That is not the case this year. All of this means we are on track for the period from 2015 to 2019 to be the five hottest years on record..."

## 'North, Central may get heavy rains in 2-3 days'

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Widespread and heavy rains are likely over parts of north and central India in the next two to three days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

"A fresh low pressure area is likely to develop over northeast Bay of Bengal around August 4 and is likely to become more marked subsequently," said the IMD bulletin.

Fairly widespread rainfall, with isolated "heavy to very heavy falls", are likely over Punjab, Haryana, HP, Uttarakhand, east Rajasthan, west UP, MP, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana, Vidarbha, central Maharashtra, Konkan, Goa and the Gujarat region in the next two to three days.

"Isolated extremely heavy falls are also likely over north Konkan and Ghat areas of Madhya Maharashtra during the next three days," it added.

There is 9% deficiency in monsoon rains as on August 1 over the long period average (LPA) during the monsoon months in the 1951-2000 period, with the highest in peninsular India at 19%. Rainfall over the country is likely to be 100% of the LPA in August and September with an error margin of +/-8%, the IMD said on Thursday evening. In its long range forecast for the sec-

ond half of the monsoon season, the IMD said rainfall in August is likely to be 99%, with +/-9% error margin. It also reiterated its earlier forecast for the June-September monsoon season to be 96% of LPA.

On El Nino, the IMD report said, "Currently, the sea surface temperatures as well as the atmospheric conditions over equatorial Pacific Ocean indicate El Nino Southern Oscillation neutral to borderline El Niño conditions. The latest forecasts... global models indicate that these conditions are likely to continue during the remaining part of the monsoon season." El Nino is a climate pattern characterised by above-normal sea surface temperatures over the equatorial Pacific Ocean, which contributes to above-normal land temperatures in the tropical latitudes.

El Nino years in India are linked to below-normal monsoon rains and higher than normal frequency of heat waves.

"Deficiency will remain even if there is 100% rainfall in the second half of the monsoon. The June deficiency has reduced after the July rains. We are maintaining the forecast of 93% of LPA for the entire monsoon season. Only 45 days are left for the season," said Mahesh Palawat, vice president, climate change and meteorology, Skymet Weather.



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and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

# 67 habitations cut off in Godavari districts

Level to cross warning mark in Telangana; inflow from Maharashtra dams affects villages in Karnataka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

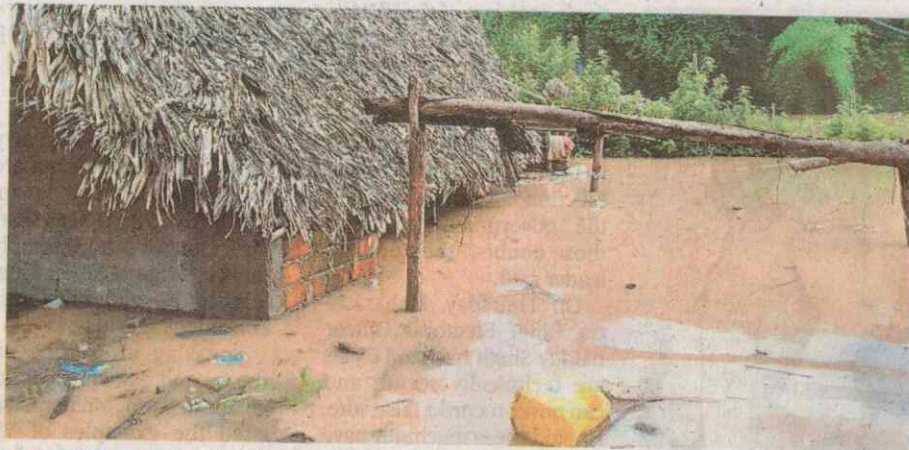
VIJAYAWADA/BELAGAVI

The flood in the Godavari increased at Bhadrachalam on Friday evening when compared to Thursday and it is expected to further increase on Saturday. The authorities announced that the water level in the river at the temple town in Andhra Pradesh had touched 40.8 feet at 6 p.m. and it was likely to cross the first warning mark of 43 feet in the night.

As a discharge of 7.13 lakh cusecs was recorded at the Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowleswaram at 6 p.m. on Friday, the irrigation authorities predicted that the flood would increase to 8.5 lakh cusecs by Saturday evening.

The number of habitations marooned by flood waters in Polavaram and Yelerupadu mandals in West Godavari district increased from 19 to 33.

The water level at the Polavaram dam site also rose to 48 feet with over two lakh



**Dangerous scenario:** Flood water inundates a village in Devipatnam mandal in the Agency area of Telangana's East Godavari district. ■ S. RAMBABU

cusecs flowing through the 48 crest gate vents of the incomplete spillway resulting in a marked reduction in the flood impact on the coffer dams.

As many as 34 riverside habitations in Devipatnam mandal in East Godavari district were totally cut off.

Even the Krishna river witnessed flood during the

day. The Almatti dam, recorded an inflow of 2.24 lakh cusecs and 2.3 lakh cusecs was released to prevent overflow of water.

## Fear in Karnataka

Farmers in Belagavi of Karnataka have been on tenterhooks after reports of a minor earthquake near Koyna in Maharashtra, around 250

km from here, though there is no specific advisory relating to it.

The district administration has sounded a high alert following heavy rain and water release from Maharashtra. A quake measuring 3.1 on the Richter scale was recorded near Koyna on Thursday at 9.30 p.m.

A week ago, the Karnataka

government had asked farmers to move away from rivers and low-lying areas. Water released from the dam in Koyna reaches Belagavi district in three days. The dam has a total impounding capacity of 105 tmcft of water. Now, it has a storage of 80 tmcft. Water is being released at the rate of around 2,000 cusecs from the dam every day.

Maharashtra is releasing water at the rate of 1.97 lakh cusecs from reservoirs into the Krishna, following heavy rain in Konkan and western Maharashtra.

Meanwhile, heavy rain continued to lash parts of Belagavi district. As many as 14 bridges and barrages continue to remain under water.

Heavy rain and water release from reservoirs have affected 32 villages fully and 37 villages partially. The district administration estimates around 3.26 lakh people in these villages to be affected in some way.

## LS passes Dam Safety Bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Dam Safety Bill, 2019 by a voice vote.

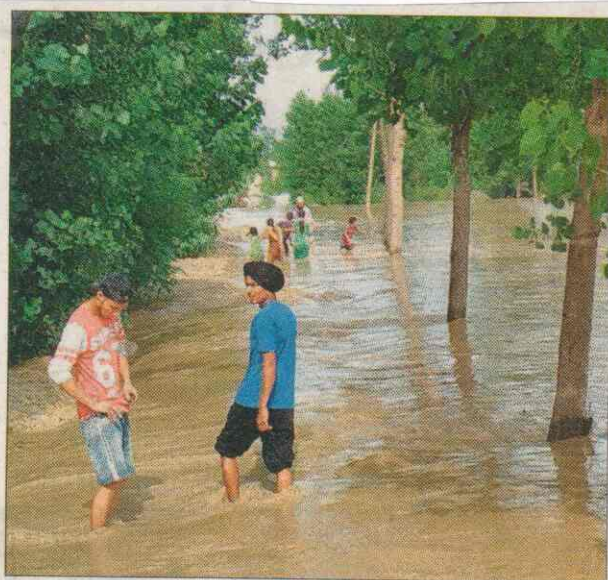
The Bill seeks to provide for institutional mechanism for surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of specified dams across the country.

Speaking in the House, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said the Centre had no intention of taking over the powers of States through the draft law, adding that "Water is a State subject."



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and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.



Locals wade through a flooded field near Anandpur Sahib.

## Sutlej tributary floods dozen Ropar villages <sup>T-3</sup>

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ANANDPUR SAHIB, AUGUST 2

Fields in nearly a dozen villages near the town were flooded when the water level in the Swan river, a tributary of the Sutlej, rose sharply due to heavy rains in the region on Friday.

The affected villages are Lodhipur, Mataur, Hariwal, Ballawal, Mehndli Kalan, Gajpur, Nikkuwal, Amarpur Bera and Chandpur Bela.

During monsoon, around 10,000 cusecs of water flows in the Swan, which originates from Una in Himachal Pradesh and merges with the Sutlej near Algran village.

At 9 am on Friday, 35,000 cusecs of water flow was recorded in the Sutlej while 49,000 cusecs in the Swan due to heavy rains in its catchment area. However, when the Swan water merged with the Sutlej near Algran village, it crossed the damaged bundh at Lodhipur village and flooded the fields in the area.

Notably, the villagers have been facing weather vagaries since 2010, when 1,000-feet stretch of Lodhipur bundh was damaged in floods. Though the then Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Badal visited the spot and promised to repair it, nothing has been done so far. Since then almost every year the crops are damaged in these villages during monsoon.

“The situation has improved as the flow of water in the Swan reduced to 11,000 cusecs by Friday evening. Officials of the Revenue Department have been directed to assess the crop damage and submit a report.

Jagvinderjeet Singh Grewal,  
ADDITIONAL DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, ROPAR

Later in 2011, the Directorate of Irrigation and Power Research, Amritsar, had conducted a survey on the flow of rivers and its impact in the area. On the basis of the survey, a proposal to construct a new bundh at Lodhipur (costing Rs 13.43 crore) was submitted to the government, but to no avail.

Even the promises made by former MP Prem Singh Chandumajra to channel the river are yet to see the light of day. Meanwhile, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jagvinderjeet Singh Garewal, who along with the officials of the Drainage, Irrigation and Revenue Departments visited the affected villages, said the situation had improved as the flow of water in the Swan reduced to 11,000 cusecs by Friday evening. He said the Revenue Department officials had been directed to assess the crop damage and submit a report.