

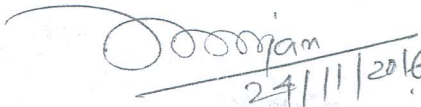
Central Water Commission
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The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings have also been uploaded on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


24/11/2016
for Assistant Director (publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Editor, Bhagirath (English) & Publicity

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For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
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Hindustan Times
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M.P. Chronicle
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Nai Duniya (Hindi)
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Blitz

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Burdened with toxins, Yamuna loses flow, life

CONTAMINATED The polluted water does not support aquatic life but is widely used for irrigation even as crores of rupees spent on its revival have yielded no result

Nisheeth Upadhyay and
Hemendra Chaturvedi

letters@hindustantimes.com

AGRA/MATHURA/VRINDAVAN/NEW DELHI: In 1569, Mughal emperor Akbar built one of the most well-planned Indian cities of the time — Fatehpur Sikri. He didn't know then that the architectural marvel he planned to turn into his capital would fail him because of water shortage, as lore goes. Akbar was forced to abandon Fatehpur Sikri for Agra, leaving his dream project to fall into ruins.

Water defined the fate of the region then, and little has changed today, thanks to the alarming state of the Yamuna. The river has

turned into a filthy stream, choked with sewage, industrial effluents and sludge at many places across Uttar Pradesh, which goes to the polls early next year.

Considered the holiest of rivers for Hindus in north India, the Ganga and Yamuna are invoked by political parties during election time. But apart from promises and politicisation of the clean-up work, the two vital lifelines remain orphans of criminal neglect. "The Yamuna serves all. There are no

war Chaturvedi, an activist involved in court battles to save the river, says politics of vote flows along the prominent ghats of the Yamuna.

"The Narendra Modi-led government made tall promises; it has been two-and-a-half years, can they prove that their announcements helped the river water in any big way? The state government is not doing anything either," he adds.

A POLLUTION TRAP IN DELHI

Delhi — the symbol of power and political will in the country — is strangling the Yamuna. The 22km stretch from Wazirabad to Okhla in Delhi is just 2% of the river's length, but it accounts for 70% of the Yamuna's pollution.

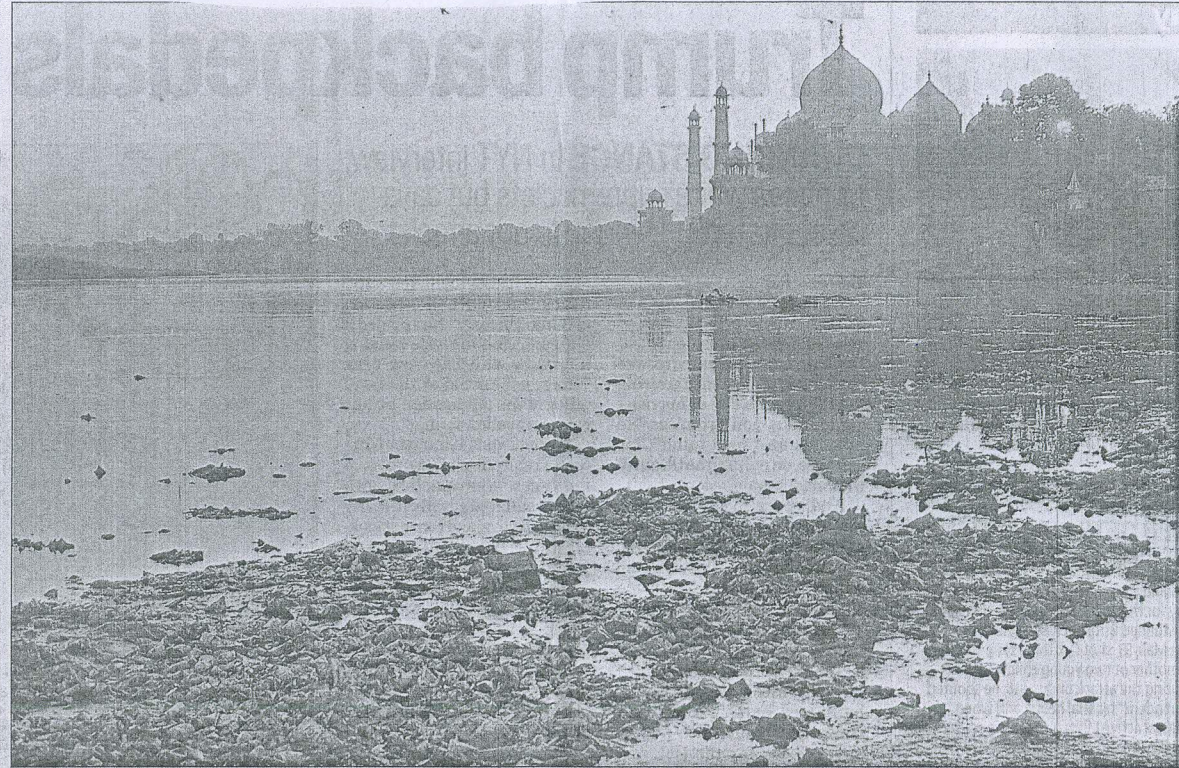
The water lifeline of the capital is gasping for life, with virtually no aquatic life — thanks to around 20 drains that dump untreated sewage into the river. Upstream from Wazirabad, before the river enters Delhi, it is home to turtles, different species of fish, crocodiles and several aquatic plants.

The heavily polluted Yamuna water is also supplied to the Agra Canal, which irrigates hundreds of villages.

"Water pollution levels here are several times more than the limit laid down for irrigation," says RS Dubey, author of a study in the International Journal of Engineering Sciences and Research Technology. "The water should also not be used for any other purpose," he says.

Residents of Kitham village, 50 km from Agra, say there was a time when they would readily drink its clear water.

"There are days now when the black water stinks so much that we can't sit out



■ The Taj Mahal seen in the backdrop of Yamuna filled with filth at Agra. The dying river is now taking a toll on heritage structures along its banks. VIPIN KUMAR/HT PHOTO

tially, but these vegetables become carriers of heavy metals in our food chain.

GOKUL BARRAGE

Activists say the Yamuna needs a strong current for the river to revive, and a part of the problem lies with the Gokul Barrage, constructed 15 km south-east of Mathura to trap water for drinking purposes. The river at the barrage has a weak current, as most of the gates are closed to maintain its level. "Delhi has killed the river and it is a 'naala' now. Nothing gets washed away as there is no flow," says Radhe, a diver often engaged by police to fish out bodies.

The lure of the once glorious Yamuna prompted the Mughals to build the Taj Mahal. Agra Fort, the marble tomb of

from another byproduct of the decaying Yamuna. In May this year, swarms of insects breeding in the polluted river were found excreting green waste on the walls of the Taj. Scientists engaged by the Archaeological Survey of India found a mosquito-like fly, *Goeldichironomus*, proliferating as the stagnant Yamuna no longer supported fish which prevent insects from growing.

"Algae to large fish, they all depend on the water. If any part of that ecosystem is disrupted, the food chain is gone," says Girish Maheshwari, head of the School of Entomology at Agra's St John's College. Uttar Pradesh is caught up in a high-voltage feud in the ruling Samajwadi Party family, and it remains to be seen whether the Yamuna will get its

REDUCED TO A TRICKLE

Politics of vote flows along the ghats of Yamuna as despite tall poll promises the condition of the river has deteriorated



Tomorrow:
Hindon, a dead river

News item/letter/article/editorial published on November 23/11/2016 in the

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SYL: Majithia ⁷⁻²³ hands over papers to landowners

MANISH SIRHINDI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KAPOORI (PATIALA), NOVEMBER 23
The Akali Dal today chose this small village on the Punjab-Haryana border to start the process of handing over the mutation documents to the owners whose land had been acquired for the canal about 34 years back.

Revenue Minister Bikram Singh Majithia targeted the Congress and blamed its leaders for doing injustice to the state farmers by proposing and executing the SYL project.

He said 105 blocks of Punjab were on the verge of turning into deserts and still, the state was being forced to share its water. That the Akali Dal would never allow, he said.

Claiming that Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had betrayed the people of Punjab on the SYL issue, Majithia produced the affidavit submitted by the Delhi Govern-



Revenue Minister Bikram Majithia hands over land documents to a farmer at Kapoori village. TRIBUNE PHOTO

ment in the Supreme Court in which the AAP had favoured the construction of the canal.

He said Capt Amarinder Singh, who was now projecting himself as the custodian of the farmers' interests, was the same man who had welcomed the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to lay the foundation stone of the project.

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Himalayan projects face flood risk

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Potential hydro power projects in the Himalayan region would need to factor in chances of increased floods from the formation of new lakes and the expansion of existing ones due to melting glaciers, says an analysis of Himalayan glaciers and their possible future impact on livelihoods in States adjoining the region. The results are part of a modelling study by Swiss researchers on the impact of climate change in the Himalayas.

According to the study, 441 hydro-power projects spanning India, Nepal, Pakistan and China, that is, 66% of constructed and potential hydro power projects, are on possible Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) tracks, which means they could be gorged with extra water from melting glaciers. Almost a third of these hydro power projects could experience GLOF discharges well above



A view of the Himalayan glacier.— PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

what these dams account for, says a study.

"If hydro-power projects were to be situated close to these glaciers, they would have to account for higher water flows," said Dr. Markus Stoffel from the University of Geneva, lead scientist with the study, "but that does not mean they cannot be built. It might need extra design or safety features."

India accounts for 129 of the hydro projects analysed. India's environment and water resources ministries are

engaged in a tiff with the power ministry over the construction of forthcoming hydro power projects in Uttarakhand. Broadly, they deal with the impact of these projects on the local ecology and on the natural flows of the rivers they are built upon.

Dr. Stoffel added that there was a paucity of data regarding the health of Himalayan glaciers, and depending on their location within the Himalayan range, there were varying rates of glacial melt.

The findings come even as researchers note that global warming could cause glaciers to melt rapidly, which is already evident in an increase in the number of glacier-fed lakes in Himachal.

In the Beas basin, six lakes in 1989 had increased to 33 in 2011, and in the Parvati Valley catchment area, there was an increase from 12 lakes (in 1989) to 77 lakes (in 2014). Most of the Himachal Pradesh lakes were relatively small or with a capacity of a million cubic metres, and only a few of them had a capacity larger than 10 million cubic metres of water.

Collaborative research

The Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme, which coordinated research into Himalayan glaciers and their potential impact downstream, is set to receive an additional \$3.5 million CHF (Swiss Francs; approx. Rs 24 crore) in funding for the next phase of the programme.

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Deposit of frozen underground water found on Mars 23-JF--

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Houston, 23 November

Scientists using data from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter have found a huge reservoir of water frozen beneath a region of cracked and pitted plains of the red planet, which may prove to be a vital resource for astronauts in future.

Researchers examined part of Utopia Planitia region on Mars, in the mid-northern latitudes, with the orbiter's ground-penetrating Shallow Radar (SHARAD) instrument.

Analyses of data from more than 600 overhead passes with the onboard radar instrument unveil a deposit more extensive in area than the state of New Mexico, which could hold about as much water as in Lake Superior, largest of the Great Lakes of North America.

The deposit ranges in thickness from about 80 metres to about 170 metres, with a composition that is 50 to 85 per cent water ice, mixed with dust or larger rocky particles.

At the latitude of this

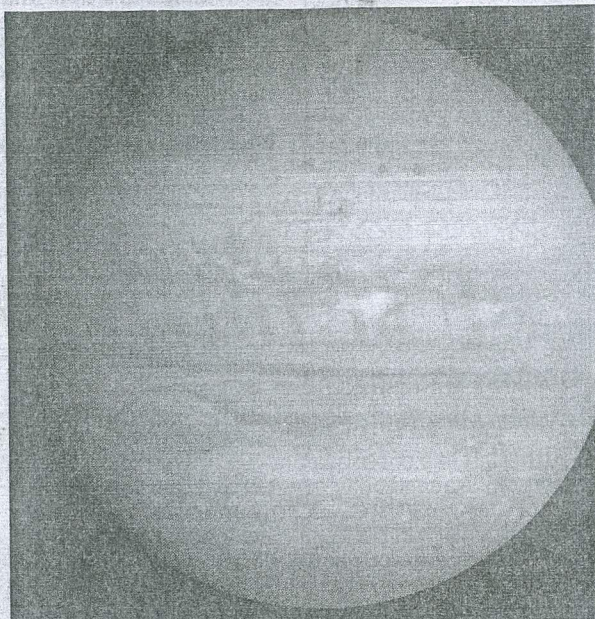
deposit - about halfway from the equator to the pole - water ice cannot persist on the surface of Mars today.

It sublimates into water vapour in the planet's thin, dry atmosphere. The Utopia deposit is shielded from the atmosphere by a soil covering estimated to be one to 10 metres thick.

"This deposit probably formed as snowfall accumulating into an ice sheet

mixed with dust during a period in Mars history when the planet's axis was more tilted than it is today," said Cassie Stuurman from the University of Texas, Austin in the US.

Mars accumulates large amounts of water ice at the poles. In cycles lasting about 120,000 years, the tilt varies to nearly twice that much, heating the poles and driving ice to middle latitudes.



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आईना

जल-महोत्सव 15 दिसंबर से

भोपाल। मध्यप्रदेश के खंडवा जिले में इंदिरा सागर बांध के बेंक वाटर में बने हनुवतिया टापू पर एक माह चलने वाला द्वितीय जल महोत्सव 15 दिसंबर से प्रारंभ होगा।

मध्यप्रदेश पर्यटन निगम द्वारा इस जल पर्यटन को अपनी तरह का अनूठा बताया जा रहा है। महोत्सव 15 दिसंबर 2016 से शुरू होकर 15 जनवरी 2017 तक चलेगा।