



## SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE

ISIS fines women: \$30 for not wearing socks or gloves, \$23 for having a pack of cigarettes, \$10 for showing their eyes. Can't make this up

IAN BREMMER

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# The choppy ride of the Athirapally power project

A planned dam on one of Kerala's most beautiful rivers has made multiple trips to the court and MoEF over the last 25 years. Now, days into the new LDF govt, it has divided communist partners CPM and CPI. SHAJU PHILIP tells its story.

WITHIN A week of the LDF government assuming office in Kerala, the CPM and CPI have locked horns over the long-pending Athirapally hydroelectric project. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has declared the government's intention of going ahead with it, but the CPI is opposed on ecological grounds.

### The Project

The project, with an installed capacity of 163 MW, is planned on the Chalakkudy river in Thrissur district. A gravity dam of 23 m height and 311 m length was proposed 6.7 km upstream from the Athirapally waterfalls and 400 m upstream from the Vazhachal falls, both picturesque tourist zones. Six dams for hydel power and one for irrigation have already been constructed along the Chalakkudy river, which flows through the districts of Palakkad, Thrissur and Ernakulam before it meets the Periyar not far from the sea.

The project idea was mooted in 1979, and the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) moved a formal proposal in 1982. It took seven years for the project to get clearance from various agencies, but KSEB was forced to step back in the wake of public protests.

### The Left Line

The project got a fresh lease of life in 1998 when Pinarayi Vijayan was the Power Minister in the LDF government led by E K Nayanar. A study by a state government agency favoured the building of the project, and it subsequently got clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).

### Legal Battle

However, activists moved the High Court, which, in 2001, directed the KSEB and the MoEF to conduct a public hearing and follow all mandatory procedures for environmental clearance. In the public hearings, activists and local people opposed the project on the grounds that it would adversely impact the the endangered fauna and flora of the region.

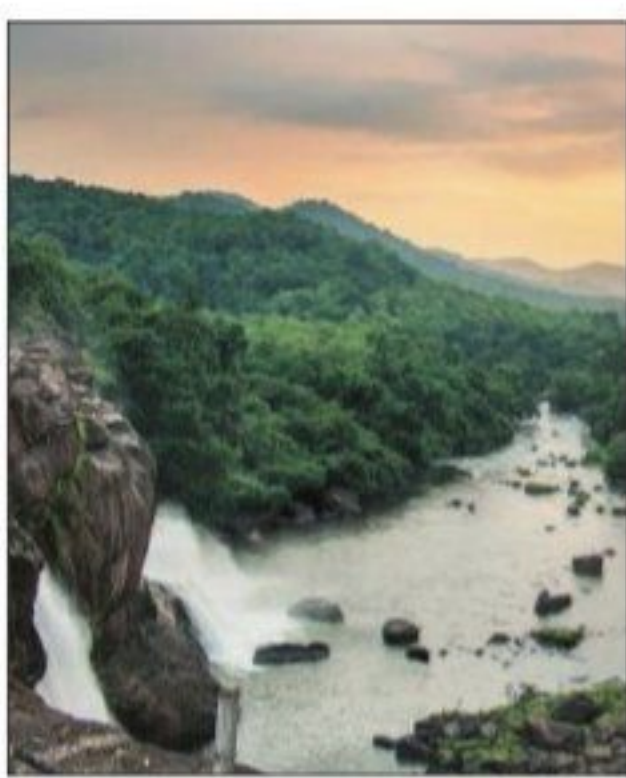
In 2005, however, the MoEF gave clearance again, based on the environmental impact assessment report prepared by Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited. The activists and Chalakkudy River Protection Committee moved the HC in 2006, which junked the clearance.

### Fresh Proposal

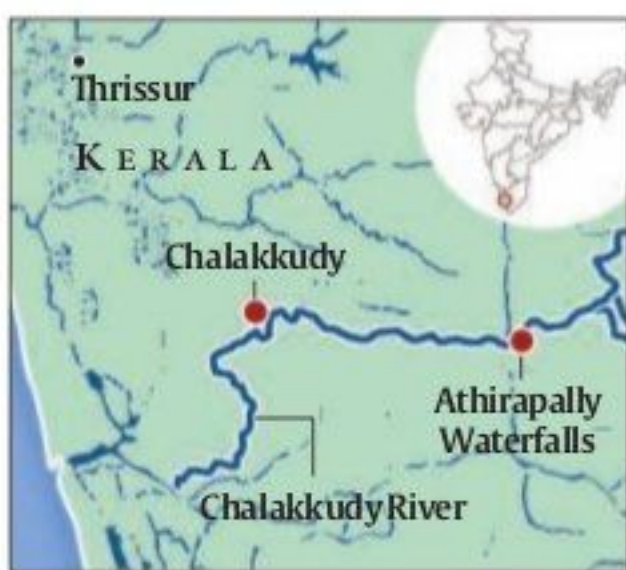
In 2007, the LDF government made a fresh proposal before the MoEF for environmental clearance, but union minister Jairam Ramesh opposed it. The MoEF said the Kerala Biodiversity Board and Kerala Forest Department had reported that the project would adversely affect the ecology of the area.

### Clearing Hurdles

In the meantime, the Western Ghats Ecology Experts Panel of Madhav Gadgil declared the Western Ghats region, including the Athirapally belt, an ecologically sensitive zone, banning mining, quarrying, thermal power plants and huge projects. However, the Kasturirangan report on the Western Ghats gave conditional sanction to the KSEB to pursue the power project. Armed with the new report, KSEB presented a fresh case for MoEF clearance. The MoEF assigned the Central Water Commission to examine the water flow in the Chalakkudy. The commission reported that the dam would have 1,055 million cubic m water in the lean season, and the project would not affect the flow.



The project site is close to two spectacular waterfalls. Prasanth Chandran



Subsequently, the MoEF extended the green clearance for the project until 2017, which has allowed the KSEB to go ahead with a set of conditions, including that the flow at the waterfalls should be maintained, and that power generation should be limited to four hours a night during the four summer months.

### Another Roadblock

In December 2015, the tribal community in the project area moved the High Court, saying it infringed upon their rights under the Forest Rights Act of 2006, and that the government could not proceed with the project disregarding their objections. This petition is pending in the HC.

### Dam Impact

The dam is expected to lead to the diversion of about 140 hectares of forest land, which is the habitat of the tiger, Asiatic elephant, the Great Indian Hornbill, Malabar Giant Squirrel, lion-tailed macaque and other species. An elephant corridor will be affected by the submergence of a large forest tract.

The hydel project would take away water from an existing irrigation system, which covers 20,000 acres of farmland downstream. About 5 lakh people reportedly depend upon the river for drinking and irrigation purposes. Tribal settlements in the project region would be submerged, and the project could mean the end the Athirapally waterfalls which attract lakhs of tourists every year.

### Project Viability

Those who oppose the project say it would generate only 26.7 MW of energy against the installed capacity of 163 MW. The power generation would be affected mainly due to the reduced flow in the river. Generation would go down further during the dry summer season.

**SIMPLY PUT**



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# Not a conducive environment now

The Draft Wetlands Rules, 2016, as it stands  
at present, should not see the light of day

India should stop paying lip service to protecting the environment. In his May 21 Mann Ki Baat programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said saving our environment is the need of the hour. Who can argue with this but is this what the PM and his government really want? We are raising this question (once again) because his government seems to be on the path to destroying rather than conserving the environment. Take for example, the Draft Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules (2016) that is up on the ministry of environment and forests website for comments till June 6, a day after the World Environment Day, which India will once again mark with fulsome promises.

**ourtake**

The rules have created a kerfuffle among environmentalists since they avoid mentioning of a regulator and do not list specific activities prohibited in these sensitive areas. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules of 2010 had prohibited reclamation of wetlands, setting up of new industries and expansion of existing ones, solid waste dumping, manufacturing, handling, storage or disposal of hazardous substances, discharge of untreated waste and effluents from industries, cities and towns, any construction of a permanent nature and any other activity that is likely to have an adverse impact on wetlands. However, the 2016 Rules prohibit only reclamation of wetlands and conversion for non-wetland uses, any diversion or impediment to natural water inflows and outflows of the wetland and any activity having or likely to have an adverse impact on the ecological character of the wetlands. In a letter MoEF, SANDRP, an informal network of organisations and individuals working in the water sector, has pointed out the key problems in the new rules: Dismantling of the Central Wetland Authority, no role for local communities or NGOs in the state wetland authorities, which have all the decision-making power and no guidelines about activities that should be prohibited or even regulated in the wetlands by states.

Wetlands help in flood mitigation, erosion control, ground water recharge, micro-climate regulation and aesthetic enhancement of the landscape. Wetlands alone support 20% of the known range of biodiversity in India. But they are losing to the demands of real estate. Despite their ecological importance, no wetlands have been identified in India in the past five years. Let's not celebrate environment day with any fanfare unless it is accompanied by a real effort to save the environment.

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8

SOUTH

# A.P. farmers cross police trenches, pledge to build irrigation weir

Leaders of BJP, Congress, YSR Congress and the Left have extended support to agriculturalists

MV. SUBRAMANYAM

**KURNOOL:** Scores of farmers set aside political affiliations and united to symbolically lay the foundation stone for the Siddeswaram irrigation weir (*alugu*) on Krishna river in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh, protesting official indifference, on Tuesday. They also offered to pool their resources and build the Rs. 600 crore weir.

## Protesters obstructed

The police responded by arresting leaders, detaining buses, lorries and tractors carrying farmers, and even digging trenches across the roads. Yet, coconuts were broken and the foundation stone was laid at Raithupalle near Nandyal by the Rayalaseema Jala Sadhana Samithi convener Bojja Dasaratharami Reddy and leader Y.S. Reddy.

The police removed the foundation stone and placed it in the Muchumarri police station on Monday, sources said. Leaders of major parties — the BJP, the Congress, the YSR Congress and the

Left parties — extended support. The police placed under house arrest Rayalaseema Adhyayana Vedika leader Bhooman of Tirupati, and many others. They stopped

former MLA Karra Subba Reddy's son Karra Harshavardhan Reddy at Peddadevalapuram and arrested YSRC leader Bharat Kumar Reddy, BJP leader Srinivasu-

lu, and Congress and Left party leaders at Atmakur.

## Await important canal

The weir would help flow about 50 tmc ft of Krishna

water to SRBC, Telugu Ganga, KC Canal and Handri Neeva and harness Tungabhadra flood waters through a canal close to Mantralayam, said Dasaratharami Reddy and RJAC convener N. Somasekhara Sarma.

"Why can't the government build Siddeswaram weir, when it built Pattiseema lift-irrigation project at Rs. 1,600 crore," a protester asked. The weir can potentially use foreshore waters of the Srisailem project and ensure uninterrupted flow to canals and drinking water systems in Rayalaseema and Mahabubnagar.

## Prohibitory orders

Checkposts were set up, prohibitory orders imposed at Atmakur, Sangameswaram and Siddeswaram and trenches dug across the road between Atmakur and Sangameswaram. Farmers, including women, confronted police at Pamulapadu and Erramatham. Despite the curbs, over 20,000 farmers in 400 vehicles moved to Sangameswaram temple.

## WATER WORRIES

Farmers cutting across political affiliations closed ranks in Kurnool on Tuesday to demand the construction of Siddeswaram weir

### What is a weir?

A low dam built across a river to raise the level of water upstream or regulate its flow.

### How will the Siddeswaram weir in Kurnool help farmers?

It is seen as the only solution to store water and meet the irrigation and drinking water needs of Rayalaseema districts. It will also enable generation of power.

### What is the issue? Farmers feel



**SHOW OF STRENGTH:** Vehicles in which farmers gathered in Kurnool despite curbs on Tuesday.— PHOTO: U.SUBRAMANYAM.

successive A.P. governments have let them down. They allege that Rayalaseema has been discriminated against.

### What happened on Tuesday?

Farmers gathered to lay the foundation stone for the weir in a gesture of protest. They said they were ready to Build, Operate and Transfer the weir which is estimated

to cost Rs. 600 cr

**How did the A.P. government react?** Police placed many leaders and activists under house arrest. The foundation stone plaque was removed.

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# Delhi address beckons migrants from drought-hit Bundelkhand — under flyover

**SARAH HAFEEZ**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

FOR HUNDREDS of farmers fleeing the drought-stricken districts of Bundelkhand this year, the most obvious "sheher" (city) to turn to for work and money is Delhi. And the first stop after their train chugs into one of the railway stations in the capital is Sarai Kale Khan, "pul ke neeche" (under the bridge).

Last Friday, the grilled clearing under the flyover just off the Nizamuddin railway station was packed with migrants. Hundreds of farmers, carrying sackloads of clothes, utensils and water, had alighted the Mahakaushal Express from Jabalpur that afternoon and moved to the shade under the flyover - it doubles as a temporary shelter and an unofficial "labour mandi (market)".

"People come to Delhi for earning money," said Yaseer, a 28-year-old from Hamirpur in Uttar Pradesh. Next to him was his 15-year-old brother Ramzan and neighbour Gahna Devi's family of seven. In transit, like many others, they were waiting for a construction contractor.

The contractor, Ishaq, had promised to take them to a site in the Okhla industrial area



People from Bundelkhand, now living under a flyover in Sarai Kale Khan. Amit Mehra

where they would get work for Rs 240 a day. According to the Delhi government, the minimum wage for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour are Rs 368, Rs 407 and Rs 447 per day, respectively.

A Delhi government spokesperson said there were no specific records of farmers migrating from Bundelkhand because of the "informal nature of their travel and work".

"We have been getting reports of farmers taking trains to

Delhi. It is difficult to keep count because so many people reach Delhi from all over the country. Many of these farmers travel to other parts of NCR as well. But there are night shelters near all railway stations," said the spokesperson.

Migrants from the region say this year saw the worst cycle of drought yet. "I have been coming to Delhi for the last five summers because of the drought in Bundelkhand. This year has been the worst. The crops, both Kharif

and Rabi, have been failing because of droughts and hailstorms," said Yaseer, adding that he owned a 2.5 acre plot in Hamirpur's Rath.

Gahna Devi (55) and her husband Babulal (60) say they were forced to step out of their village to find work, for the first time. Their village, Rath Purab, is deserted, they added.

"Out of 2,000 residents, only 100, mostly the aged and the ill, are still in their homes. All the others, men, women and chil-

dren, have left in search of work. They will send back money to those left behind. Many homes are locked shut. Most of us freed our cattle to fend for themselves," said Gahna.

However, Udayveer Singh Yadav, district magistrate of Hamirpur, said there was no real change in the seasonal migration pattern this year.

"Roughly 10-15 per cent of people from my district might have migrated. There is a crisis but it has not forced everyone out. The state and central governments have been sending relief and assistance," said Yadav.

Officials and migrants say lakhs of people have travelled to Delhi from villages across the 13 districts of Bundelkhand astride the Uttar Pradesh-Madhya Pradesh border. According to them, it has also skewed the demand-supply cycle in the informal labour market.

"My contractor used to call me around this time every year asking for labourers... This year, he did not call. When I called him, he said there was not much work. I pleaded with him to give us work and two meals a day. I told him he could pay our wages later before he agreed," said Ramesh Pal, a farmer from Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district.

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

# Wetland norms: No clarity on conservation

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**New Delhi:** New wetland rules are a much watered-down version of the 2010 norms, which could make identification and conservation of such ecosystems more difficult, if notified.

Green experts and lawyers have communicated their concerns to the ministry of environment and forests (MoEF). Monday was the last day for submission of comments on Wetland Rules, 2016. These rules were expected to be more stringent in the aftermath of the Chennai floods last year, but they have taken a turn for the worse.

**It's not clear why the new rules have been drafted. The most ambiguous clause is the bit about curbs on activities around wetlands**

To begin with, it's not clear why the new rules have been drafted at all, especially when the 2010 norms haven't been implemented by most states yet. The most ambiguous clause in the new rules is the bit about restrictions of activities.

While the 2010 guidelines clearly categorised what is completely restricted and what is regulated, the new rules use vague terminologies, said experts. They have a "wise use of wetlands" clause for the maintenance of their ecological character and call for an "ecosystem approach".

While the new rules prohibit reclamation or conversion of land-use, they don't specify



Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay

The definition of wetlands has omitted "the zone of direct influence on wetlands", which is the catchment or drainage area of a wetland and crucial to its existence

► The preamble doesn't define why the new rules are being made. It states vaguely--"(The) Centre is desirous of main-streaming full range of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem service values in sectoral development planning and decision-making based on integrated management approach", but not how these rules are stronger than the previous rules

► The rules have done away with the Central Wetland Regulatory Authority (CWRA), which was formed as a central body responsible for appraising proposals for notification of wetlands under the previous rules

The new rules have no specific timelines for notification of wetlands, seeking comments from public, setting up of state and central authorities that will appraise the notification of new wetlands

► Rule 4, which deals with restriction of certain activities in wetlands, are also vague, say experts. The new rules say "principle of wise use; maintenance of ecological integrity" should be applied, but such comments are open to interpretation

► Under the previous rules, there was categorisation of "prohibited"

**The rules also state that reclamation or conversion of wetlands can take place with prior approval of the Centre in exceptional cases**

and "regulated" activities in wetlands. There was also a provision of carrying out environment impact assessment (EIA) for projects on wetlands. These have been done away with

► The previous rules spelled out certain activities that couldn't be carried out without the permission of the state government, such as withdrawing

water, discharge of treated effluents from industries or cities, dredging, construction of pontoon bridges, aquaculture and many others. No such activities are restricted under the new rules

► Experts also complain that the new rules have adopted a bureaucratic approach where a state wetland authority is constituted for identification and notification of wetlands. The authority needs to first make a detailed report and, then, recommend its notification to the state government. It can then be considered for gazette notification after listening to objections

upon the idea of sustainable development as the basis for which wetlands need to be protected. However, sustainable development is a contentious concept and can mean anything and everything," said Kanchi Kohli, legal research director at Namati. "If decisions are based on the 'wise use' clause, they can be arbitrary and lead to a selective understanding. In this light, the 2016 draft is far from being an improvement from the 2010 rules."

Several organisations, including Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan (YJA), EIA Resource and Response Centre, Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE), Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and many birders as well as wildlife enthusiasts have sent their feedback to the ministry.

Interestingly, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is still hearing two petitions on non-implementation of Wetland Rules, 2010 filed by Anand Arya and Pushp Jain. In the 12 responses received from various states and UTs, no wetlands have been notified. "NGT had recently ordered states to complete the process of identification of wetlands in five to 10 districts depending on the size of the state by July 22. Why change the rules when the issue is sub-judice? This is really bizarre," said Arya, a birder.

In its submission, YJA states: "The Wetland Rules, 2016 is an avoidable and unnecessary piece of statutory rule making and it seeks to replace an existing statute, which was far superior in its intent, language, clarity and was easy to implement. The only problem with the 2010 rules was its poor implementation..."

if dumping of waste, dredging, discharge of untreated waste and other activities are prohibited on wetlands. Further, the norms say that in exceptional cases, such prohibitions can be changed with

prior approval of the Centre. The revised guidelines have done away with the Central Wetland Regulatory Authority (CWRA) that is responsible for appraising notification on new wetlands. Instead, they

suggest setting up of state wetland authorities that will develop an integrated management plan for water bodies and get them notified by the state government.

The rules have no mention

of how communities or people can ensure conservation of wetlands. They have no provisions for carrying out environment impact assessment (EIA) for projects on wetlands either. "The new rules draw

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# Most city lakes a picture of neglect

7 Dec 16.  
Jasjeev.Gandhiok p-2  
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**New Delhi:** Delhi's water woes could be minimised if the city's 460 wetlands are rejuvenated and the groundwater recharged, activists say. With dumping of waste and algae deteriorating the water quality, most of these sites are a picture of neglect.

TOI visited two such spots—Bhalswa Lake and Sanjay Lake—to gauge the gravity of the situation. While the condition of Sanjay Lake has slightly improved, Bhalswa Lake has been turned into a dumping ground.

"I have been coming here for the past two decades and even though I have seen improvement, there is a long way to go. Littering remains a problem at Sanjay Lake and strict action should be taken against the offenders," said Dilip Sharma, a resident of Mayur Vihar.

There are others who want activities such as bathing and washing clothes to stop at these sites. According to 55-year-old Gyanchand, a resident of Pat-

parganj, the number of migratory birds has also gone down over the years because of the garbage problem at the lake.

Water activist Manoj Misra, concretisation of catchment areas was causing problems. "Catchments have been concretised in order to beautify the lakes, but this has prevented the natural flow of rainwater into them. These lakes were once a part of the Yamuna, but now they are cut off from it because of the concrete structures," he said.

Even Bhalswa Lake has faced similar problems. Locals claim the stench is unbearable because of garbage being dumped on one side of the lake.

Manu Bhatnagar, principal director (natural heritage) of Intach, said that work to rejuvenate both these lakes had already started. "We have submitted our plans to DDA. Efforts will be taken to treat the lake water. There are also plans to introduce fish species to attract birds," said Bhatnagar.

He also stressed the importance of recharging groundwater levels, which are in decline.



**A MESS:** Garbage has been dumped on one side of Bhalswa Lake

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# Extreme climate increasing level of toxins in crops: Study

**Nairobi:** As they struggle to deal with more extreme weather, a range of food crops are generating more of chemical compounds that can cause health problems for people and livestock who eat them, scientists have warned.

A new report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) says that crops such as wheat and maize are generating more potential toxins as a reaction to protect themselves from extreme weather. But these chemical compounds are harmful to people and animals if consumed for a prolonged period of time, according to a report released during a United Nations Environment Assembly meeting in Nairobi.

"Crops are responding to drought conditions and increases in temperature just like humans do when faced with a stressful situation," explained Jacqueline McGlade, chief scientist and director of the Division of Early Warning and Assessment at UNEP.



**ANTARCTIC WATERS DEFY WARMING:** A persistent chill in the ocean off Antarctica that defies global warming is caused by cold waters welling up from the depths, scientists said. The deep, centuries-old water last touched earth's atmosphere before the machine age and has never experienced fossil fuel-related climate change. It is continually pulled to the surface by the unique currents around Antarctica

Under normal conditions, plants convert nitrates they absorb into nutritious amino acids and proteins. But prolonged drought slows or prevents this conversion, leading to more potentially problematic nitrate accumulating in the plant, the report said. If people eat too much nitrate, it can interfere with the ability of

red blood cells to transport oxygen in the body.

Some drought-stressed crops like cassava, flax, maize and sorghum plants, when then exposed to sudden large amounts of rain that lead to rapid growth, in turn accumulate hydrogen cyanide, more commonly known as prussic acid. REUTERS

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## Dams to blame for loss of animal and plant life every year

<sup>TDO-1.6 P-25</sup>  
**London:** Reservoir islands created by large hydropower dams — hailed as conservation sanctuaries to protect species — undergo sustained loss of animal and plant life every year, a new study has found. New research led by the University of Stirling in UK found a global pattern of sustained species extinctions on islands within hydroelectric reservoirs. They discovered that reservoir islands across the world do not maintain the same levels of animal and plant life found prior to flooding.

Despite being hailed as conservation sanctuaries, the islands undergo sustained loss of species year on year, a pattern known as 'extinction debt'. The findings represent a significant environmental impact that is currently missing from assessment procedures for proposed dams. "On average, islands have 35% fewer species than nearby mainland sites, however one South American bird community suffered 87% loss of species on reservoir islands," said Isabel Jones, PhD researcher at the university. 771



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# Ban on fishing in Pong reservoir from today

**RAJIV MAHAJAN**

**NURPUR, MAY 31**

In the wake of breeding season, the Department of Fisheries has banned fishing in the Pong Dam Reservoir from June 1. Fishing is restricted in the reservoir every year from June 1 to July 31.

The department has deployed a flying squad and 16 patrolling teams in the Pong reservoir. Besides, a power motor boat equipped with latest techniques has been

deployed to check illegal fishing in the reservoir.

Fisheries Department Director Gurbachan Singh said the department had geared up to curb illegal fishing during the breeding season. He said fishing was non-bailable offence and person indulged into the crime would not be spared.

"The department is all set to boost fish production in the current breeding season and has planned to put 70 lakh fish seed in the reservoir. After floating tenders for the

procurement of fish seed, the department has short-listed three parties for supplying the seed," he said. He said the department was emphasising natural breeding and conservation of prominent fish species in the water body.

As per information, the Pong reservoir is producing Singhara fish species which fetches maximum price in the market. Besides, species of Rahu, Katla and Mahasheer produced in the reservoir were in immense demand.

As many as 2,300 fishermen have been earning their livelihood by catching fish in the reservoir. The department has launched a number of welfare schemes for the uplift of fishermen engaged in fishing in this reservoir.

During fish breeding season, each fisherman is being paid Rs 1,200 per month as financial relief. The Department of Fisheries is also providing free accidental insurance cover and quality fishing nets to them.

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# Sri Sri told to cough up Yamuna penalty

HT Correspondent

• letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Art of Living foundation will have to pay the remaining ₹4.75 crore environment compensation charge for holding an event on the Yamuna floodplain after the NGT on Tuesday rejected its plea to accept a bank guarantee instead.

The national green tribunal, which goes on summer break from Wednesday, said the foundation was indulging in multiplicity of litigation to wriggle out of paying the money and imposed a cost of ₹5,000 on the foundation as its application "lacked bonafide". Art of Living has to pay both the amounts within a week.

"Your conscience should be clear, let people say what they want to. You fulfil your obligations," the bench told the Art of Living counsel.

The foundation said in a statement: "We find the verdict unjust and, if need be, after reviewing the order we will go to the Supreme



■ Activists have accused the foundation of flattening the Yamuna floodplain and polluting it with plastic and construction debris. HT FILE

Court. We have not violated any law or done any wrong."

A group of activists had asked the NGT not to allow the event on the eco-sensitive floodplain, accusing the foundation of flattening the ground, destroying birds' nesting sites and choking the polluted Yamuna with construction debris.

Before giving the go-ahead to the festival that triggered a huge row, the country's only green court on March 9 asked Sri Sri Ravi Shankar founded Art of Living to deposit ₹5 crore as initial compensation. The rest of the amount would be decided after a committee assessed the damage, it said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Sri Sri told to cough up Yamuna penalty

The foundation paid only

₹25 lakh, promising to deposit the remaining amount after the event.

A bench headed by NGT chairperson justice Swatanter Kumar had ordered a committee tasked with reviving Yamuna to assess the damage and submit a report.

Last week, the court asked the committee to inspect the festival site.

In a hearing on May 25, the NGT asked the foundation if it had deposited the money for damaging Yamuna's biodiversity. The foundation, its counsel said, was ready to furnish the amount as bank guarantee instead of "payment of balance amount". A bank guarantee is a promise from a bank or a lender to pay on behalf of its account holder.

The foundation on Tuesday said it did not agree with the tribunal's observations.

"We were ready and willing to give a bank guarantee which served the purpose but our application has been wrongly dismissed. We will test the legality and see how we can correct the judgement. The Art of Living has neither polluted air, water or earth. We have left the WCF site in a better condition than what we had got. We have an extensive repertoire for environment

work and find these allegations unacceptable," a statement issued by the foundation said.

It also rejected the tribunal's offer of including two more people in the expert committee that has to assess the damage to the floodplain. "(We)...filed an application to reconstitute an independent and an unbiased expert committee to examine the alleged impact of the World Culture Festival on the Yamuna floodplains on the ground that the existing Committee had prejudged the issue and created a self imposed bias for itself. The NGT today offered to appoint two more members on the Committee on the condition that we withdraw our application and give up the grounds taken in it. We did not accept the offer," the statement said.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 1-6-16 in the

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

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

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

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

## सात जून से पहले मानसून पूरा की उम्मीद नहीं-1-6-16

नई दिल्ली, (घाती): हवाओं की गति अनुकूल नहीं होने तथा बारिश का उचित पैटर्न नहीं बनने के कारण इस साल केरल में 7 जून से पहले मानसून आने की उम्मीद नहीं है। मौसम विभाग के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी

**विशिष्ट संयोग नहीं बना**

**केरल में अभी  
मानसून पूर्व बारिश  
शुरू हो चुकी है**

ने बताया कि हवा का विपरीत प्रवाह अभी बिल्कुल नहीं है। हवा का दबाव भी अभी मानसून के लिहाज से नहीं है। उन्होंने बताया कि मानसून के कई कारक होते हैं जिनका विशिष्ट संयोग पूरा होने पर ही कहा जाता है कि देश में मानसून आ गया है मानसूनी हवा विषुवत रेखा से 3000 किलोमीटर दक्षिण स्थित मैसकेरिन हाई से चलकर उत्तर पूर्व की ओर बढ़ती हुई भारत आती है। आमतौर पर यह केरल के तट से 01 जून को टकराती है। मौसम विभाग ने इस बार इसके 7 जून को केरल तट पर आने की भविष्यवाणी की थी। इसमें चार दिन आगे-पीछे का विडो पीरियड होता है।

अधिकारी ने बताया कि केरल में अभी मानसून पूर्व बारिश शुरू हो गई है, लेकिन 7 जून से पहले मानसून के केरल में आने की उम्मीद नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा कि इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि देश के अन्य भागों में भी मानसून देर से पहुंचेगा। न ही यह मानसूनी बारिश के औसत से कम रहने का संकेत है। उन्होंने कहा कि पहले कई बार ऐसा देखा गया है कि केरल में मानसून देर से आने के बावजूद अन्य हिस्सों में यह समय से पहले आ गया है। मौसम विभाग इस बार औसत से ज्यादा बारिश की उम्मीद कर रहा है।

दिल्ली स्थित राष्ट्रीय मौसम पूर्वानुमान केंद्र के प्रमुख बी.पी. यादव ने बताया कि हवा में उत्तरी कारक अभी भी है। इसका मतलब है कि उत्तर भारत की गर्म हवा दक्षिण की ओर जा रही है जबकि मानसून आने के लिए जरूरी है कि हवा का प्रवाह दक्षिण से उत्तर की ओर हो। इसके अलावा दक्षिण भारत के चिह्नित 14 में से कम से कम 60 प्रतिशत केंद्रों पर लगातार दो दिन बारिश होनी चाहिये। साथ ही हवा का दबाव आदि जैसे कारक भी हैं जिन्हें देखते हुये मौसम विभाग मानसून आने की घोषणा करता है। उन्होंने दिल्ली तथा आसपास के इलाकों में पिछले तीन दिन में हुई बारिश के बारे में कहा कि यह मानसून से पहले की बारिश नहीं थी। नमी के साथ पश्चिमी विक्षोभ के कारण गर्मी के मौसम में इस तरह की बारिश होती है। श्री यादव ने बताया कि राजस्थान, हरियाणा, पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश तथा राष्ट्रीय राजधानी दिल्ली में बुधवार से एक बार फिर आसमान साफ रहेगा और धूप निकलनी शुरू होगी। इससे तापमान बढ़ेगा।



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 1-6-16 in the

Hindustan Times

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Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi) ✓

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle

A a j (Hindi)

Indian Nation

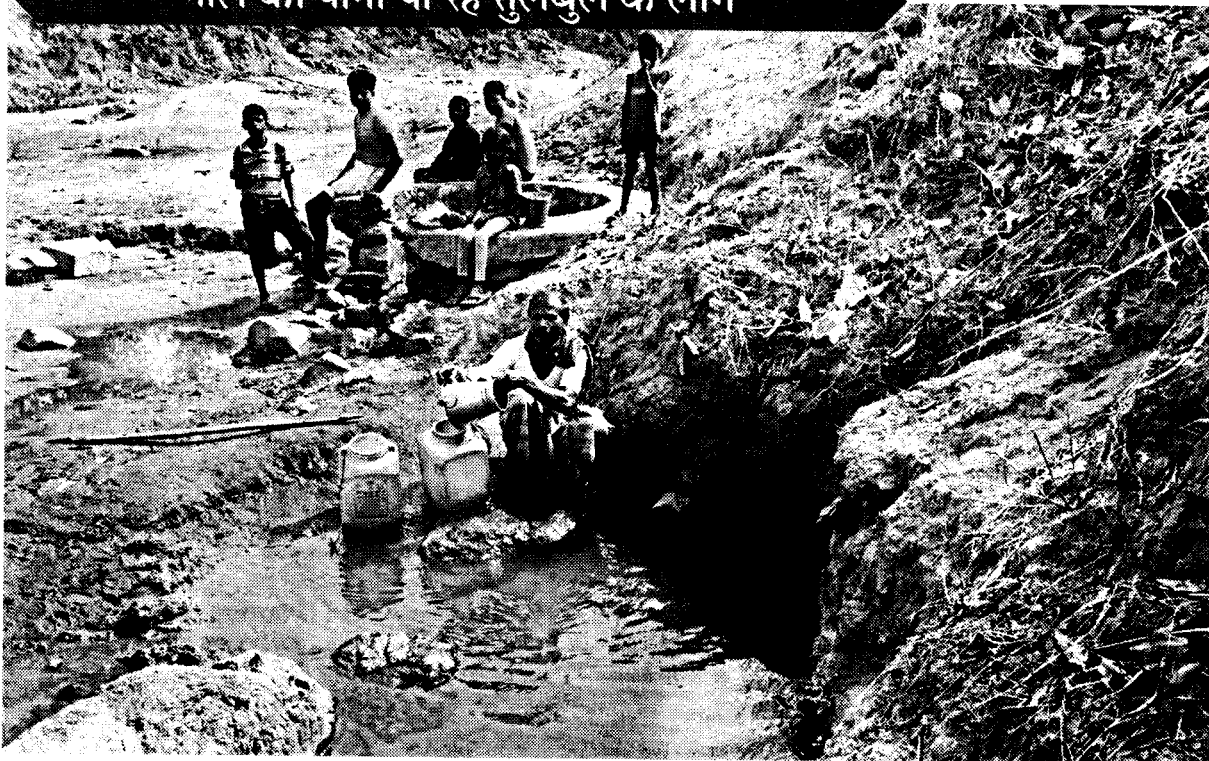
Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

## नाले का पानी पी रहे तुलबुल के लोग



पोड़ी उपरोड़ा @ पत्रिका. विकासखंड पोड़ीउपरोड़ा की ग्राम पंचायत करी के ग्राम तुलबुल के करीब साढ़े पांच सौ लोग नदी-नाले का पानी पीने को मजबूर हैं। यहां ग्राम पंचायत व प्रशासन ने एक भी हैंडपंप नहीं लगवाया है। ग्रामीण वर्षों से गोलवानाला का पानी पी रहे हैं। जिला पंचायत सदस्य किरण कुजूर ने बताया कि ग्राम तुलबुल में पेयजल की समस्या का मुद्दा जिला पंचायत की समान्य सभा में रख चुकी हूँ। प्रशासन द्वारा इस ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है।

पेज: 8 - पत्रिका - 1-6-16

**FAILING RAIN**

Deccan Chronicle - 31 May 2016

# Warming of Indian Ocean hits rainfall

■ Report sees link between the warming of ocean and decrease in monsoon rains over the country

V. NILESH | DC  
HYDERABAD, MAY 30

Warming of western Indian Ocean due to climate change is affecting southwest monsoon rainfall over central India. It is decreasing by 1.49 mm per day per year.

This connection has been established in a recently published paper by S. Vishnu Nair, a research scholar from Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad.

Mr Nair in his paper has established a link between the warming of the western Indian Ocean, decreasing trend in monsoon depressions (MD) forming over Bay of Bengal and decrease in monsoon rains occurring over central India, an area that includes Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and some portions of Uttar Pradesh Odisha and northwest Andhra Pradesh. Monsoon rainfall in these parts is connected to the formation of MD over Bay of Bengal.

Scientists had established earlier that the western Indian Ocean is warming up drastically. In the past century it

## FORMATION OF MONSOON FALLING OVER BOB

DECADE	MD FREQUENCY
1951-60	5.90
1961-70	5.50
1971-80	4.70
1981-90	3.00
1991-2000	2.00
2001-2010	2.50

warmed up by 1.2 degree Celsius as compared to 0.8 degree Celsius rise in global ocean surface warming in the same period.

Through his research Nair observed that the reduction in number of monsoon depressions over Bay of Bengal is mainly due to decrease in Relative Humidity(RH), one of the major contributing factors affecting formation of depressions apart from Vertical Shear, Absolute Vorticity and Sea Surface Temperature.

RH is formed over sea because of mainly two reasons: evaporation of sea water and moisture being carried from one

region to another through wind, known as advection. Advection is a major factor as it contributes nearly 85% towards formation of RH.

In the case of Bay of Bengal, advection occurs from western Indian Ocean. That is from where winds carrying moisture first travel towards Somalia's coast and then take a u-turn and travel over the Arabian Sea to reach Bay of Bengal.

Reduction of RH over Bay of Bengal is mainly due to reduction in moisture in this wind.

Nair says that due to the rise in ocean temperature of western Indian Ocean region there is a rise in precipitation or rainfall in the region surrounding the area. Because of this as the wind travels from western Indian Ocean to the Bay of Bengal, its moisture content keeps decreasing.

The drop in moisture content in turn results in decrease in formation of monsoon depressions that leads to formation of clouds and hence less rainfall is experienced over central India which is highly dependent on such depressions for rainfall.

## Receding water level uproots trees

COREENA SUARES | DC  
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

Experts blame the depleting groundwater table as one of the prime causes of trees being uprooted.

In the recent thunderstorms, Hyderabad apparently lost around 2,000 trees. Experts say that when the groundwater falls, the taproots decay and the lateral root system takes over the job of water absorption. The lateral roots, however, do not grow deep and are restricted to a depth of 1-2 meters. In urban areas, trees with deeper roots and narrow crowns are needed to withstand high-speed winds.

"Tree requires water for their survival and in an urban eco system the only water available for the trees is the groundwater table because the concretised top does not allow regular seepage of rain water from the top soil. Thus the trees need to send their taproots deeper down to reach the water table for their survival and growth. If that does not happen, taproots



## NECESSARY MEASURES RECHARGE THE GROUND WATER TABLE

Plantation should be done in open plots, there should be mixed species' plantation (polyculture, indigenous plants)

■ STOP ILLEGAL encroachment of water tanks

■ PLANT IN the lake-bed area to avoid the top soil washing off

■ CONTROL WATER pollution

decay and the trees do not have the support, the foundation is weakened and once that happens even low intensity winds can uproot them," said Dr M. Venkat Rama,

Professor of Botany.

The reason for most trees leaning in concretised areas is because when the taproot decays, there is a breakage between the root and

shoot system. Because of the weight of the crown (shoot system), the tree then starts leaning as the crown overgrows.

Dr C. Srinivasulu, assistant zoologist - OU and member of TS biodiversity board said, "The policies presently followed with respect to tree plantation or afforestation in urbanized areas, especially in Hyderabad, is unscientific, focus is on fast-growing exotic species rather than the indigenous robust species. In urban eco systems, as the trees are planted along the roads in a single line, species should be carefully and scientifically chosen to avoid disastrous consequences as large crowned species tend to easily fall during gales. Avenue plantation species should preferably have strong root systems with narrow and medium height crown system."

Experts with Telangana State Biodiversity Board say that plantation should be taken up with much care in mind for the environmental help.

Hindustan Times ( Delhi )  
महानगर टाइम्स ( दिल्ली )  
The Tribune ( Chandigarh )  
The Hindu ( Chennai )

The Assam Tribune ( Guwahati )  
The Times of India ( Mumbai )  
The Telegraph ( Kolkata )  
हिन्दुस्तान ( पटना )

The Deccan Herald ( Bengluru )  
The Deccan Chronicle ( Hyderabad )  
Central Chronicle ( Bhopal )

T.O.I - 31 May 2016

# Maha to divert 14,000cr litres of its dam water quota to Guj

## Activists Upset With MoU, Say Tackling Drought Should Be Priority

Chittaranjan.Tembhekar  
@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** The state government has agreed upon a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that allowed diversion of Maharashtra's rightful 5 TMC ft or 14,150 crore litres water quota from Narmada basin to Gujarat. This is in lieu of Gujarat allowing Maharashtra to draw 5 TMC ft water from Ukai dam near Surat.

However, it is pertinent to note that the state's share from Narmada and Ukai are not "gifts" from Gujarat, but the basic right of people in Maharashtra as approved by the central water department authorities.

One thousand million cubic feet (TMC ft) of water is equal to 2,830 crore litres

### AGRO ECONOMY AT RISK?

➤ On January 7, 2015, the Maharashtra government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) allowing diversion of its 5 TMC ft or 14,150 crore litres water quota from Narmada basin to Gujarat. This is in lieu of Gujarat allowing Maharashtra to draw 5 TMC ft water from Ukai dam near Surat



➤ According to experts, the MoU, which is in contrast with the Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal's judgment that finalizes water share for every state involved in displacements for Sardar Sarovar, may not stand in court of law

that can cater to the needs of 3,301 hectares of cultivated land or over 330 times the size of Oval Maidan.

"If you consider giving 5 TMC ft water back to Gujarat from the state's rightful quota, then it's a blunder going by its tremendous irrigation potential. This can adversely affect the state's agro economy which is top priority amid the rise in farmer suicides," said activist Jeetendra Ghadge, who has acquired a copy of the MoU.

The MoU, which is in stark contrast with the Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal's judgment that finalizes water share for every state involved in displacements for Sardar Sarovar, may not stand in the court of law, officials and experts close to the development told TOI. Interestingly, the earlier MoU draft did not mention about such a diversion.

According to the documents, the Prithviraj Chavan-led Congress govern-

ment had finalized the MoU draft, but it was signed when the BJP government, led by Devendra Fadnis, came in power. Hence, only a judicial inquiry can ascertain as to who has betrayed the people of Maharashtra and bowed to Gujarat. The MoU was signed on January 7, 2015.

Irrigation ministry officials from Mantralaya said if Maharashtra was to be immediately benefited, then lifting water from Ukai and connecting Narmada basin with Tapi basin through a tunnel to extract Sardar Sarovar water were the practical options that will not entail any loss to the state as claimed by some people from Tapi basin.

"There are geographical constraints in lifting Narmada water, which cannot be used to its capacity, hence, such an option has been worked out. Allowing Gujarat to use 5 TMC ft will not be a loss as though the tribunal has given 10.9 TMC ft of Narmada water to Maharashtra only up to 8 TMC ft can be used," the officials added.



दिनांक 31.05.2016 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times ( Delhi )

हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स ( दिल्ली )

The Tribune ( Chandigarh )

The Hindu ( Chennai )

The Assam Tribune ( Guwahati )

The Times of India ( Mumbai )

The Telegraph ( Kolkata )

हिन्दुस्तान ( पटना )

The Deccan Herald ( Bengaluru )

✓ The Deccan Chronicle ( Hyderabad )

Central Chronicle ( Bhopal )

D.Chronicle 31 May 2016



A girl dances as she enjoys the rain at Rajpath in New Delhi on Monday. A two-year-old girl was killed and 18 others were injured in rain and dust storm-related incidents in different parts of the city, Delhi Fire Service officials said on Monday.

— PTI

# Erosion hits villagers in South Salmara, Golakganj

## CORRESPONDENT

**GOLAKGANJ, May 29:** About 20,000 villagers of South Salmara have lost their homes, fields, roads etc., as acres of land have been steadily swallowed by the Brahmaputra river. At places, the villagers are left with no place to retreat with rivers cutting down both sides of the area. It is during the cyclonic depressions which have been occurring in these parts with increasing frequency that the embankment in breaches occur.

The villager's woes do not even end after the water recedes. The after effects of the floods continue for years. Unlike elsewhere in the State, where the soil is actually enriched by the silt left back by rivers, in the South Salmara the saline waters of the coastal rivers destroy it. Agriculture here being already im-

peded because of a monocrop yield, the villagers find it impossible to raise crops for at least five years after the flood. Mozammil Khan of Nisinpur area said that if the livestock manage to survive the floods, they die in the ensuing epidemics. The children fall prey to outbreak of gastroenteritis, diarrhoea and cholera that hit the area after the waters subside. He further added that the problem of breaches in embankments, causing untold misery to the villagers of South Salmara, is however, not a new one.

On the other hand, the Assam Bangladesh border in Dhubri district comprising a major *char* under Golakganj revenue circle, Binnachora, Berbhang, Bishkhowa, Vagdanga, Nalia, Sonahat, Kanuri, Kedarkadda, Gaikhowa and

Lakhimari are the worst affected areas of flood and erosion. In the last five decades, people of these areas have suffered extensively with heavy loss of lives and property.

Asok Kumar Roy Prodhani, social worker of Golakganj area said that the constituency is the worst affected area in Dhubri district. The constituency has lost 15,617 hectares of land and 60,000 people were rendered homeless from 1988 to 2010. The concerned department has failed to take proper steps to rehabilitate the border area people affected by erosion thereby leaving them in an insecure state.

**Erratic power supply:** Frequent power failure in Dhubri town has become a routine affair. The power supply to rural areas is absolutely cut off. Most of the people

in and around this town now believe that they have been living in the medieval age.

Due to negligence and inefficiency of the ASEB, the power consumers of this area have to suffer. In fact, the service of ASEB has never been satisfactory with frequent disruption in power supply and its unscheduled and unannounced power cuts has further aggravated the problem. For this, the ASEB management and its work force are squarely to blame.

**Gamblers' haven:** Dhubri town has become a haven for the gamblers. 'Last number' and various other types of gambling are flourishing in the town and the neighbouring villages. This has caused resentment among the people of this area as the administration has turned a deaf ear to the goings-on.