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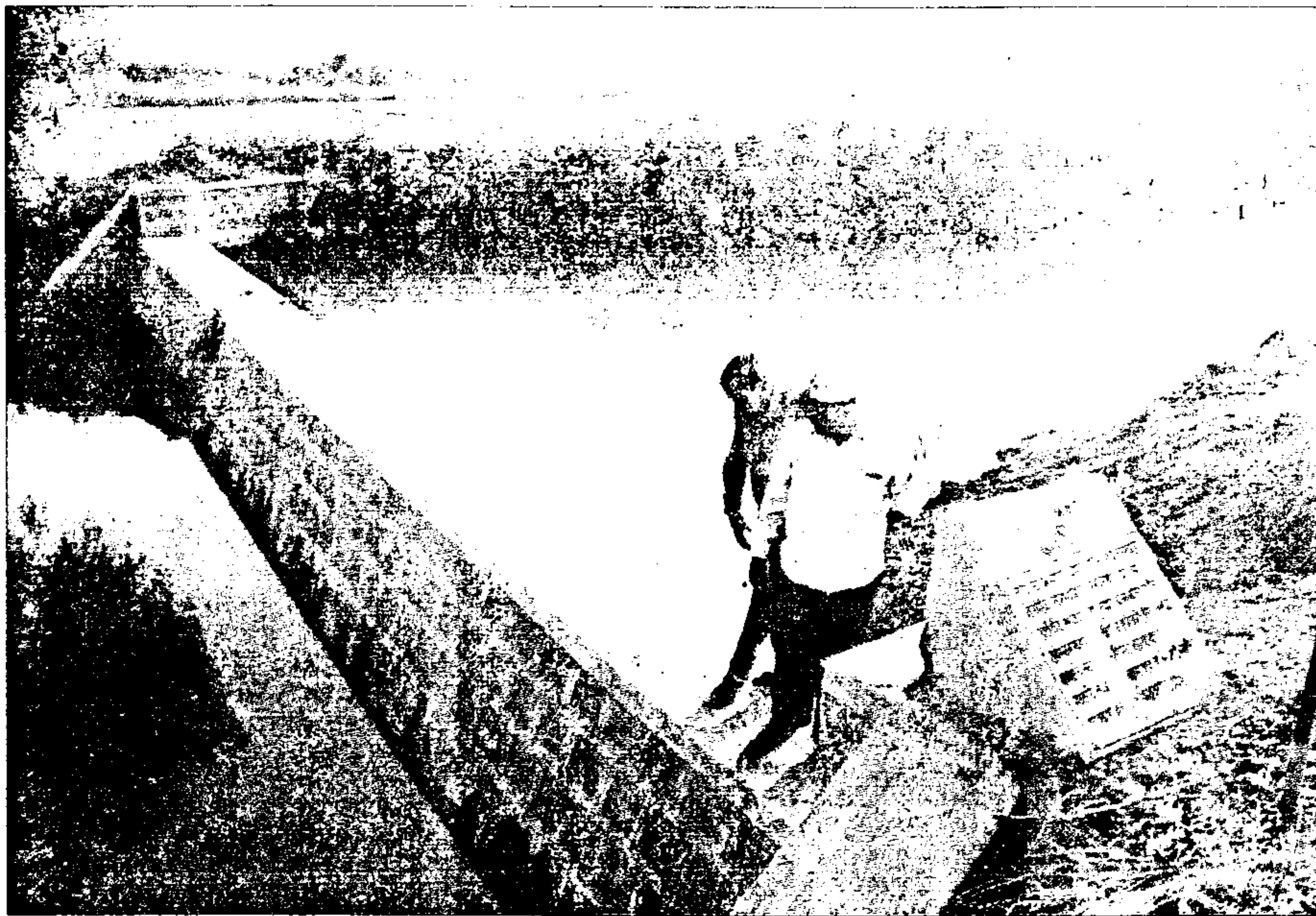
# WATER FOR ALL

**An Integrated Watershed Management Project has benefited three villages in a water-deficit area of Nasik district, reports Asha Ramachandran**

Walking through the fields of Jamgaon village in Sinnar taluka (block) of Nasik district in Maharashtra, one could never imagine that this was a water-deficit area. Even though the fields were mostly bare, as the crops had been harvested and the next sowing yet to start, the rich soil with a fair amount of moisture indicated there was enough water. Speaking to the residents of the village it was revealed that this was due to a series of water management measures for better irrigation and improved agricultural practices.

The force behind this change is an Integrated Watershed Management Project set up by the Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt Ltd (HCCB), the largest bottling partner of the Coca-Cola Company in India. The project was started in March 2015 across three villages (Khaprale, Chandrapur and Jamgaon) in Sinnar block, covering a geographical area of 1624 ha. For this the company has tied up with Water Trust Organisation (WOTR), Sanjeevani Institute of Empowerment and Development and the local community. The initiative is in line with the Maharashtra government's Jalyukta Shivar, whose main objective is drought management across the state and improving agriculture.

The key objective of the project, informed Kalyan Ranjan, Associate vice-president, Public Affairs and Communication, HCCB, is to enhance agricultural productivity through watershed management. "Water is the most important resource for all activities in a village, whether agriculture or for drinking purposes," Ranjan stressed. "Our mandate is to give back to the community, especially since water is the main component of our products." The interventions are mainly in the form of irrigation development and weather-specific advisories, which helped address the issues of water need for agriculture, high soil erosion, land degradation, lack of knowledge on agricultural production technology and also migration.



With the company's bottling plant located around 30 km from Jamgaon village, a basic need assessment was done. As part of the company's CSR activities HCCB started the project in 2015, at a cost of Rs 2 crore, spread over five years. The first two years are devoted to implementation and last three years for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and impact assessment. At the end of five years the project will be handed over to the villagers for its further execution, HCCB officials informed.

The villages have traditionally grown millets (jowar and bajra), wheat and Bengal gram. They have now added vegetables to their farms, including onion, tomato and potato. They have increased the area under wheat cultivation and have also entered floriculture.

## Empowering women

Our first stop during the visit to Jamgaon village was a meeting with the

women. Since the launch of the project, a total of 18 women self help groups (SHG) covering 236 women were revived. This enabled the promoters to impart an understanding and awareness of the project in view of the village needs and possible solutions. Regular interactions were possible through the SHGs and Gram Sabhas. "We are illiterate but are now learning financial literacy," said Anita Khobhle, a Gram Panchayat member. She elaborated how the women had learnt accounting and book keeping. The women visited some successful SHGs outside their village and were following some of the best practices.

Apart from the common pool of money held by the SHGs, as part of the HCCB watershed project, banks (SBI, ICICI, Bank of Maharashtra and Cooperative Bank) lend money at a nominal interest rate of two per cent.

But the main purpose of reviving

the SHGs was to educate them on water management and agriculture practices. "Before 2015 we had a lot of water problems," said Laxman Tambar Tolape, from Chandrapur village. "But now, that is solved."

Impressed by the change, Dana J Bolden, Group Director, Public Affairs and Communications, of Coca-Cola company, said, "We will continue to support the community in their efforts."

## Conserving water

A major intervention to conserve water and increase irrigation potential was the construction and repair of farm bunds. The bunds, built along gentle slopes, checks rainwater run-off and replenish the ground water. Till date, a total of 46,041 metre farm bunds have been constructed across three villages.

A check dam in Jamgaon, stretching back 500 metres, stores water collected during the monsoon months till February next year. Apart from recharging ground water, it serves domestic use as well. As part of social discipline, an official of WOTR explained, no one is allowed to draw water directly from the dam. Two new check dams have been constructed, one each in Khaprale and Chandrapur village.

A percolation tank has been repaired, resulting in an increase in water storage capacity and also availability of water for a prolonged period.

An automated weather station has been installed at Chandrapur, which is equidistant from Khaprale and Jamgaon villages. The data available on wind speed, direction, humidity, rainfall and temperature is sent to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), which is processed by WOTR and sent to the farmers through SMS on their mobile phones. A total of 352 farmers have registered for these advisories, the official informed.

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# CYCLONE NADA TO HIT TN COAST

FISHERMEN HAVE BEEN ALERTED NOT TO VENTURE OUT INTO THE SEA FROM 30 NOV EVENING

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
Chennai, 30 November

Just one year after, rekindling the horrific December deluge of 2015, the northern coastal tip of Tamil Nadu is bracing for yet another flood.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials, a cyclonic storm, named NADA, developed out of a deep depression over the south east Bay of Bengal is expected to cross the north Tamil Nadu coast between Vedaranyam and Puduchery, close to Cuddalore in the wee hours of December to bring heavy to very heavy rains in the north coastal districts of Tamil Nadu, including Chennai on Thursday and Friday.

The IMD statement issued on Wednesday afternoon said that "as predicted, the



Indian fishermen anchor at a harbour in Chennai. Afp

deep depression over south-east Bay of Bengal moved north westwards and intensified into a cyclonic storm 'Nada' over southwest and adjoining areas of the coast."

"At present it is travelling 770 km southeast of Chennai and 730 km east-southeast of Puducherry. The system is likely to move west-northwestward and intensity further and cross

north Tamil Nadu coast on 2 December."

In a letter to Tamil Nadu chief secretary, director of ACWC, regional meteorological centre, S Balachandran, has informed the officials to alert the fishermen not to venture into the sea from this evening.

"Heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur at a few places over coastal Tamil

Nadu, Puducherry and at isolated places over Kerala in the subsequent days. Winds are blowing from north to northeast at 15 to 20 knots. Sea waves are moderate to rough at times."

"Distant cautionary signal No. 1 with section signal No. 5 has been hoisted at Chennai, Cuddalore and Nagapattinam ports and distant cautionary signal No. 1 has been hoisted at Ennore, Kattupalli, Puducherry, Karaikal, Pamban and Thoothukudi ports," the bulletin said.

People in Chennai are bracing for another bout of nature's fury which reminds them of the 2015 floods in which more than 500 people were killed and about 1.8 lakhs people got displaced.

The torrential rains of November-December 2015 which lashed the five north-

ern districts of Tamil Nadu and which saw the capital city Chennai flooded completely.

Though the unprecedented heavy rain in 100 years history in Chennai attributed to exceptionally strong El Nino and other coincident, everybody is convinced that the capital city failed in maintaining an effective drainage system.

The damages due to the severe flood was estimated at nearly about \$200 billion, from which the city and neighbouring district have not yet recovered.

According to reports, it is seen that the city has not learned an lesson from it, as recently the High Court of Madras pulled up various governmental departments for not co coordinating effectively to reduce the damage if flood hit the city.

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## SC status quo on SYL canal land, notice to Punjab on Haryana plea

**R SEDHURAMAN**  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30

The Supreme Court today ordered "status quo on the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal land and issued notice to Punjab and the Centre on Haryana's plea for Ravi-Beas waters. It also appointed the Union Home Secretary and Punjab Chief Secretary and Director General of Police as court receivers of the canal land and asked them to file a report within a week on the "ground situation".

"Status quo as of today shall be maintained by the parties, subject to further orders of this court," a Bench

### Apex court order

- Status quo shall be maintained by the parties, subject to further orders of this court
- For the present, nobody in possession of the land, etc, in question as on today would be dispossessed before the next date of hearing
- The Union Home Secretary and Punjab Chief Secretary and DGP will file a report within a week on the "ground situation" in respect of the land

comprising Justices PC Ghose and Amitava Roy said.

Posting the case for December 15, it clarified that "for the present, nobody in posses-

sion of the lands, etc, in question as on today would be dispossessed before the next date of hearing".

As the apex court has not altered the present status, Punjab farmers would retain possession of the land, at least for now. The Punjab Government returned the acquired land to the farmers through a notification issued on November 16 on the strength of a resolution passed in the Assembly and a Cabinet decision. Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar supported the status quo order. Arguing for Haryana, senior counsel Shyam Divan questioned the

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## SC status quo on SYL

validity of the November 16 notification. He said a five-member Constitution Bench of the SC had ruled on November 10 that the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004, was in violation of the Constitution, the Inter-State Water Disputes Act 1956 and the Punjab Reorganisation Act 1966, besides being against two apex court judgments delivered on January 15, 2002, and June 4, 2004. Answering the presidential reference on the validity of the 2004 Act, the Constitution Bench had also held that the Assembly had no power to enact any law to nullify the apex court's decree in favour of Haryana.

It was clear from the SC ruling on the 2004 Act that the November 16 notification, which was only an executive action, had no legal sanctity, Divan pleaded and contended that the Union Home Secretary and Punjab Chief Secretary and DGP, who were appointed court receivers of the canal land on March 17, 2016, while hearing the pres-

idential reference, continued to be receivers.

"Are you not insisting on status quo ante?" the Bench asked Haryana. Divan said he did not want to dispossess the farmers of their land as they had not been made parties to the fresh round of litigation.

Arguing for Punjab, senior counsel Harish Salve said the sensitive issue should be allowed to be handled by those coming to power in the forthcoming Assembly elections in Punjab. The Bench said the case could be posted for April or May after the December 15 hearing.

Senior advocate Ram Jethmalani, who also appeared for Punjab, said the Centre should take the initiative to resolve the issue in national interest by appointing a group of experts to assess the water availability, requirements and entitlement of the two states, besides the compulsions of his client. It should also explore alternative sources which "exist", he pleaded.

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## SC stalls Punjab bid to return SYL land to farmers

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**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court directed the Punjab government on Wednesday to maintain status quo on the land acquired for the construction of the SYL canal, which is aimed at giving Haryana its share of Ravi-Beas water, and sought a report about the state's move to return the land to farmers.

A bench of Justice P C Ghose and Justice Amitava Roy passed the order after hearing the Haryana government, which accused Punjab of committing contempt of court by deliberately deciding to return the land to farmers to frustrate the apex court's decree of 2003 mandating that Punjab construct the SYL canal, as well as the November 10 constitution bench judgment opining that the canal should be constructed.

The bench ordered a high-level panel comprising the Union home secretary and the Punjab chief secretary and DGP to assess the situation on the ground following the Punjab government's November 16 decision to return the land acquired for the SYL canal back to farmers or their kin. It asked the panel to submit a report to the court by December 15, and ordered all parties to maintain status quo. Appearing for Haryana, senior advocate Anil Divan said Punjab had been taking various legislative and executive steps to frustrate the apex court's decree directing it to construct the SYL canal. "If a state refuses to obey the SC judgments and attempts to nullify it by legislative and executive decisions, it would spell disaster for the federal structure of the country," he said.

Finding itself in a difficult legal and constitutional position given the series of orders passed against it by the apex court, Punjab decided to field a strong team before Justices Ghose and Roy.

Senior advocates Ram Jethmalani, Harish Salve and R S Suri gave different points of view while stressing the dire situation faced by Punjab farmers because of scarcity of water for irrigation.

## SC stops Punjab move on SYL land

The Supreme Court ordered Punjab on Wednesday to maintain status quo on land acquired for the Satluj Yamuna Link canal and sought a report about its move to return the land to farmers, reports **Dhananjay Mahapatra**. The matter has been posted for December 15. **P8**

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# Tamil Nadu braces for Cyclone Nada, govt readies rescue teams

KV Lakshmana

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**CHENNAI:** Tamil Nadu is bracing for Cyclone Nada, expected to hit Cuddalore in the early hours of December 2.

What the cyclone brings for Chennai is plenty of rain, but not in the quantity that caused floods last year around the same time.

The state government readied two National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams while one State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team was stationed at Cuddalore. One team each of the NDRF and SDRF was positioned at Nagapattinam and Chennai.

The cyclone is expected to make a landfall between Vedaranyam and Puducherry near Cuddalore on Friday.

“Wind speeds of 45-55 kmph could lash through Cuddalore, Karaikal and Puducherry when



■ Fishermen anchor in a harbour in Chennai on Wednesday. Cyclone Nada is expected to make a landfall between Vedaranyam and Puducherry near Cuddalore on Friday.

AFP PHOTO

the cyclone hits the land,” S Balachandran, director of the Met office in Chennai, said.

“We have advised the fishermen against going into deep sea for fishing,” he said, adding that there could be some damage to

thatched houses, power lines, transmission and cellphone towers.

Schools in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Nagapattinam, Tiruvallur and Cuddalore have been shut for two days.

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# Apex court seeks report on disputed SYL canal land

**WATER SHARING WOES** Bench wants report by December 15, clarifies receivers will not take over possession of land meant for project

HT Correspondent

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- **NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court re-appointed on Wednesday the panel of receivers in the ongoing Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal dispute and asked for a report on the status of the land meant for the canal by December 15.

- A bench of justice PC Ghose and justice Amitava Roy, however, clarified that the receivers — the Union home secretary, chief secretary of Punjab and the director general of Punjab police — will not take over the possession of the land.

- The bench had appointed the three receivers, who were permitted to take possession of the project land and were also asked to maintain status quo on the site, on March 17. The order followed the Haryana government's plea, accusing its neighbour of violating an earlier SC verdict that upheld the SYL project.

On November 10, a bench of five judges declared the Punjab

## COURT BATTLE

- On November 10, a bench of five judges declared the Punjab Termination of Agreement Act, 2004, illegal

- Haryana approached the top court again after Punjab decided to return the land to its original owners, despite the Supreme Court verdict

- The bench issued a notice to Punjab on Haryana's plea to enforce the November 10 SC verdict.

Termination of Agreement Act, 2004, illegal. The law "unilaterally" terminated the 1981 water-sharing pact with Haryana.

Haryana approached the top court again after Punjab decided to return the land to its original owners, despite the SC verdict. Senior advocate Shyam Divan complained against the Badal government's

decision to denotify the land with immediate effect and return it free of charge. He argued the receivers should take possession of the land, a request the Supreme Court refused to entertain.

"The decision to denotify 5,376 acres of acquired land for the project and give it back to 4,980 farmers or their descendants would further complicate the issue," Divan said.

However, the bench issued a notice to Punjab on Haryana's plea to enforce the November 10 SC verdict.

On behalf of Punjab, senior advocates Ram Jethmalani and Harish Salve said the dispute before the court was very sensitive and could be resolved through "government-to-government" initiatives. They sought a hearing in May, after the assembly elections in the state.

But the bench did not accept the proposal and said it would hear the matter once the report was tabled.

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# कश्मीर में बर्फबारी के बाद उत्तर भारत में सर्दी की दस्तक

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

rajasthanpatrika.com

नई दिल्ली. बुधवार की सुबह उत्तर भारत के लोगों ने जब आंखें खोली तो उनकी खिड़कियों पर धुंध का घना साया पसरा हुआ था। सड़कों पर बच्चे और ऑफिस जाने के लिए लोग निकले तब दृश्यता अपने न्यूनतम स्तर पर थी। दरअसल, कश्मीर और हिमाचल में मंगलवार को हुई बर्फबारी के बाद राष्ट्रीय राजधानी दिल्ली समेत उत्तर भारत के कई शहरों में मौसम का घना कोहरा बुधवार की सुबह छाया रहा। इसके चलते 18 विमानों

## तमिलनाडु में भारी बारिश की चेतावनी

बंगाल की खाड़ी में बने चक्रवाती तूफान के शुरुआत को तमिलनाडु के समुद्री तट से टकराने की आशंका है। मौसम विभाग ने चेतावनी में कहा है कि तूफान चेन्नई और वेदरन्यम के बीच कुडलूर के पास तट से टकराएगा। नाडा नाम के इस चक्रवात के चलते तमिलनाडु के तटीय इलाकों में भारी बारिश हो सकती है। मौसम विभाग ने मछुआरों को अगले कुछ दिनों समुद्र में नहीं जाने का परामर्श दिया है।

के परिचालन में देरी हुई। ऐसा ही हाल उत्तर की दिशा में जाने वाली 50 ट्रेनों के परिचालन के मामले में दर्ज किया गया। नई दिल्ली स्थित इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर खराब दृश्यता की वजह से पांच

विमानों का मार्ग बदला गया।

मौसम विभाग के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि सुबह 5.30 बजे दृश्यता 800 मीटर दर्ज की गई जबकि 8.30 बजे के बाद दृश्यता घटकर 200 मीटर रह गई।

पत्रिका-1-12-16