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Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

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Subject: Submission of News Clippings.

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

P. Mohan
2.5.18
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

Xn
02/05/18

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
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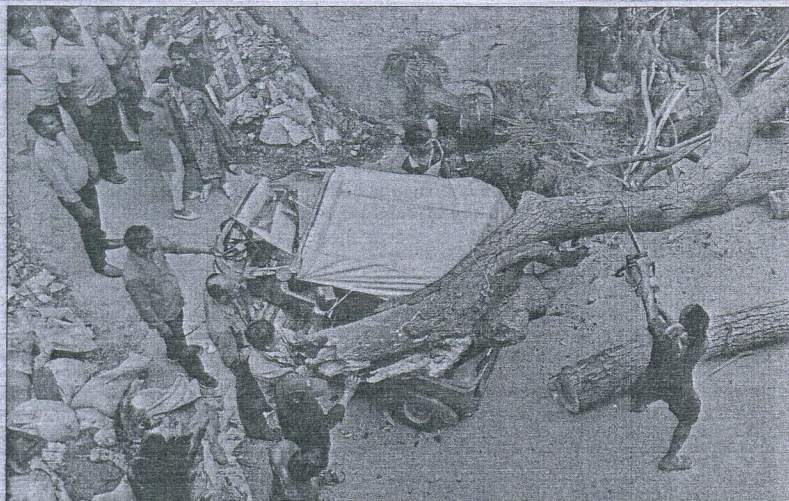
News item/letter/article/editorial published on **01.05.2008** in the

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

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
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BBMP workers clear the branches that fell on an autorickshaw (left) and five other vehicles (right) in Chick Bazaar in Shivajinagar on Monday. DH PHOTOS

Thundershowers, gusty wind likely over next two days

DH-1

Tree falls, power cuts reported across several parts of city

BENGALURU, DHNS: The sudden downpour on Monday afternoon cooled down the city, which was reeling under the scorching summer sun.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), while the City recorded a trace rainfall (up to 0.1 mm) till 5.30 pm, the HAL airport received 36.3 mm of rain.

Gusty wind at a maximum speed of 36 kmph was reported at 4 pm. The heavy downpour brought east Bengaluru to a grinding halt.

The traffic had come to a standstill near Domlur by evening as the roads were waterlogged after the rain.

Tree falls

The Bruhat Bengaluru Ma-

hanagara Palike (BBMP) control room official reported a total of 16 tree falls.

The official said that in Banaswadi, a tree fell on a car and completely damaged its interiors. "Nobody was injured in the incident," said the official.

In Adugodi as well, a tree fell on a house compound with no reported injuries.

Tree falls were also reported in other areas including Indiranagar, Viveknagar, Shivajinagar, Adugodi, HAL, BTM Layout, Bommanahalli, Begur Road, HSR Layout, ISRO Junction, BTM 15th Main, Bommasandra Post office and Sampige Road in Malleswaram.

Power cuts

Five electric poles in HAL were also damaged because of the

strong wind, resulting in power cuts across several parts of the city.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (Bescom) received 1200 complaints between 5 and 7 pm.

Power-cut complaints were reported from Arekere, Basavanapura, Hulimavu, Munnekolala, AECS Layout, Koramangala 4th Block, Lake View Layout, Dinne Anjaneya layout, Haralur, Mahadevapura, Whitefield, New Thippasandra, Ramamurthy Nagar, Kasturi Nagar, Shivajinagar, Mariyannapalya Dasarahalli and surrounding areas.

Condition to continue

IMD-Bengaluru, Director-in-charge, Geeta Agnihotri, said that the city and parts

Match likely to be hampered

The IPL match between the Royal Challengers Bangalore and Mumbai Indians could be hampered as the IMD has forecasted about thundershowers and gusty winds on Tuesday and Wednesday in the city.

of north interior Karnataka will experience thundershowers and gusty winds for the next two days.

This is because of formation of systems and the local factors. Here is a north-south wind discontinuity from Telangana to south Tamil Nadu across Rayalaseema and south interi-

or Karnataka extending up to 0.9 km above the mean sea level. Here is also a low pressure area over the Andaman Sea and the neighbourhood with associated cyclonic circulation extending upto 3.1 kms above the mean sea level.

The maximum temperature in the City on Monday, till 5.30 pm was 35.2 degree Celsius and the minimum temperature was 23.2 degree Celsius. The maximum and minimum were 1 degree Celsius above the normal, each.

In the HAL airport area, the maximum and minimum temperatures were 35.1 and 23.3 degree Celsius, respectively.

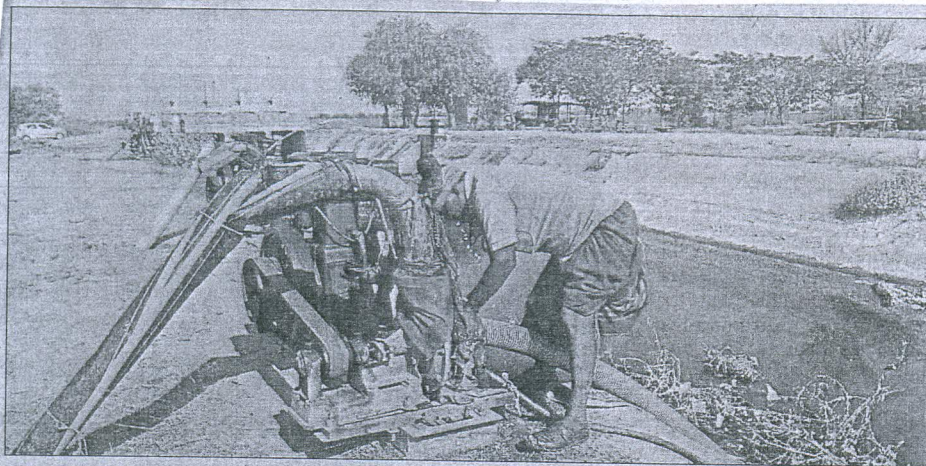
At the Kempegowda International Airport, the maximum and minimum temperatures were 36 and 22.5 degree Celsius, respectively.

Hindustan Times ✓
Statesman
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■ The PMKSY is aimed at boosting investment in irrigation and improving efficiency of water use. AFP FILE

'5 states account for 78% of progress in micro-irrigation'

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NEW DELHI: Micro-irrigation projects under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), critical to making India drought-proof and producing "more crop per drop", have steadily met targets since the launch of the scheme by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in 2015, according to a recent review.

An analysis of the mission by HT, however, shows only a handful of states account for the overall leap. PMKSY is aimed at boosting investment in irrigation and improving efficiency of water use.

India's current irrigation coverage of 48.7% of total sown area means two-quarters of the population engaged in farming are dependent on monsoon rainfall, which often exacerbates agrarian distress even during a partial drought.

At the national level, coverage of micro-irrigation networks beat its target for 2015-16: 572,000 hectares against a target of 500,000 hectares. In 2016-17, the coverage was 839,000 hectares against a target of 800,000 hectares.

Partial data for 2017-18 shows the government "is on course to achieving or outdoing its target",

INDIA'S IRRIGATION COVERAGE OF 48.7% OF TOTAL SOWN AREA MEANS TWO-QUARTERS OF THE POPULATION ENGAGED IN FARMING ARE DEPENDENT ON MONSOON RAINFALL

agriculture secretary SK Pattanayak said. The target in 2017-18 was 1.2 million hectares and partial data from states showed that 926,432 hectares had been covered.

"The achievement (for 2017-18) is likely to enhance as compilation and reporting of works undertaken in the financial year are still being uploaded," the review report seen by HT states.

States haven't been able to make equal progress. All north-eastern states have made zero progress. Unequal progress means meeting long-term goals can be challenging.

Just five states — Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu — account for 78% of the coverage expansion during 2017-18.

Among the laggards, Bihar was able to add just 86 hectares while Himachal Pradesh added

1,107 hectares. Punjab added 274 hectares. Top performer Andhra expanded micro-irrigation coverage in 186,444 hectares while Karnataka added 164,967 hectares. Gujarat stood third, bringing 143,134 hectares under the irrigation network.

One reason for some states lagging behind is that they were not able to release their share of funds, an official said, requesting anonymity. For centrally sponsored schemes like PMKSY, the Centre contributes 60% of funds while states have to provide 40%.

"One major reason for unequal uptake of central schemes is that some states aren't able to allocate their 40% share in state budgets. In irrigation, this delays the drawing up of state and district-level plans, creating backlogs," said Ashok Lahiri, a former adviser to the erstwhile Planning Commission.

Out of a total 140.13 million hectares of sown area, India's net irrigated area is 68.38 million hectares while 71.74 million hectares are un-irrigated. To bridge this gap, the government launched the PMKSY in 2015-16 by combining ongoing schemes. Under the more crop per drop component of the PMKSY, small farmers get paid to the tune of 55% of cost of micro-irrigation systems; other farmers get 45% of the unit cost.

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HAVE TO REVIEW DECISION ON WATER SUPPLY: HARYANA TO SC

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The Haryana government has told the Supreme Court that it would continue to supply 150 cusecs of extra water to Delhi till May 15 but will have to reconsider its decision after that since it was receiving only half the supply from the Hathni Kund barrage in Yamuna Nagar district.

The state made its submissions before a bench of justices MB Lokur and Deepak Gupta, who were hearing the Delhi Jal Board's application.

The DJB claims Haryana was supplying it less water than what was promised.

Haryana's lawyer said Haryana was facing a "huge distress" as water supply to it had reduced drastically. "We are receiving only 50 per cent water from the Hathni barrage," the counsel said.

The court was informed about the meeting that took place between the chief secretaries of Delhi and Haryana and the secretary of the Union ministry of water resources.

The discussions over water sharing took place on April 23 and the minutes were placed on record.

The court agreed to hear the matter again on May 11 after the Haryana government requested that it needed time to take a decision on continuing "extra supply" to Delhi.

On April 23, the court had asked the top officials to immediately sort out the issues.

According to Delhi, Haryana was supplying Delhi only 330 cusecs of water daily as against 450 cusecs per day, which was agreed upon between the state and the Union Territory.

Due to the curtailment in water supply to the Wazirabad reservoir, the plant was running at a reduced capacity, leading to a "grave water crisis" in the city, the Delhi government said.

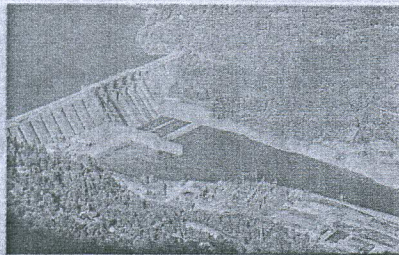
**HARYANA'S LAWYER
SAID WATER SUPPLY
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HIGH COST The expansion of small dams comes at a time when larger ones are falling out of favour. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

Dangers of small dams

In January, Brazil made a surprise announcement, ending its mega-dam building policy after years of pushing ahead with controversial projects such as the Belo Monte Dam and the Tapajós Complex. But although that comes as welcome news to environmentalists, it is overshadowed by some bad news: a five-fold increase in so-called small hydropower dams in Brazil over the last 20 years, as identified by a new study. The escalating impacts of these numerous small dams should not be overlooked, warn scientists. The research, led by Thiago Couto of the University of Washington, USA, examined the scale and expansion of small hydropower dams worldwide. In total, 82,891 smaller dams were recorded in operation or under construction in 150 countries — that's 11 small dams for each large dam.

This number could triple, according to the new study, if all potential capacity is developed. Not only was the quantity and widespread distribution of small dams unexpected, but it was also "a big surprise that the environmental policies and the existing body of scientific knowledge are insufficient to guide and inform the fast expansion of the small hydropower sector," Thiago said.

The escalation in small hydropower development comes at a time when large dams are falling out of favour as a source of renewable energy: mounting evidence points to their direct and indirect social and environmental impacts like threatening food security and disrupting animal migration. However, small hydropower dams should not necessarily be seen as a safer, greener option, the researchers argue: the term itself is arbitrary and has no bearing on the scale of negative impacts a dam might cause.

Varied definitions

Small hydropower dams are defined by their generating capacity, but these definitions "vary substantially, ranging from up to one megawatt (MW) for facilities in Germany and Burundi to up to 50 MW for facilities in Canada, China and Pakistan," the researchers write. "There is no scientific support for the classification of 'small' [dams] currently in use, and [yet,] this criterion is being applied in the environmental regulations of most countries," Thiago explained.

So-called small hydropower plants vary not only in their size, but also in their method of operation. They can be broadly classified according to whether or not water is stored in a reservoir, and whether water is diverted to reach the powerhouse, both of which classifications can significantly affect the amount of influence a dam has on water levels and flow regimes. These factors, among others, become more relevant when assessing likely environmental impacts of planned dams, Thiago said. "Metrics like dam height, reservoir area, and the proportion of flow alteration are generally ignored by environmental policies but have been identified in the scientific literature as predictors of the ecological effects of dams."

Major issue

A further issue flagged up by the study was the lack of coordinated planning and impact assessment within entire watersheds. "Many watersheds are absorbing multiple small dams, but regulations and policies give very limited attention to the cumulative impacts caused by dams in aggregate," said Thiago. David Kaplan, who leads a watershed ecology research group at the University of Florida, USA, agrees that this is a major overlooked environmental issue. There is "the potential for substantial cumulative impacts from thousands of small, unregulated systems on riverine hydrology and ecology, particularly for headwater streams and smaller rivers," he said.

The runaway growth in small hydropower development has been helped by a lack of rigorous licensing and legislation around their construction. In many countries, the licensing process is simplified or absent for dams under a certain generating capacity; as many as two-thirds of countries could lack specific environmental requirements for small hydropower dams, the researchers report. This is a serious oversight, they say, given the global appetite for sector expansion.

In the case of Brazil, a shift away from building mega-dams will lead to an "even stronger push for small hydro development," warns David. The rapid pace and scale of small dam development demands increased scientific attention to environmental impacts, and more robust policy and regulation.

Claire Salisbury

Third World Network Features

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India, Nepal revive bid to bring 22-yr-old mega dam project

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@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India and Nepal have decided to get a project conceived 22 years ago moving by preparing a detailed project report (DPR) on the ambitious Pancheshwar multi-purpose dam that can mark a significant milestone in bilateral cooperation that has often been hostage to politics and tricky negotiations.

The two sides have agreed to resume fresh negotiations to resolve critical issues of water sharing and power purchase agreement under the project to try and achieve a breakthrough that has often proved elusive despite potential benefits by way of drought control and flood mitigation besides water ways and hydel power.

Besides generating hydro power to the tune of 4,800 MW, augmenting irrigation potential and controlling floods, the project — a centerpiece of the February, 1996 Ma-

hakali Treaty between the two countries — has potential to address Delhi's growing water demand through a proposed Sarada-Yamuna interlinking of rivers.

"Both countries agreed to speed up their efforts during the general body meeting (GBM) of the Pancheshwar

delegation to Nepal for the GBM was led by Union water resources secretary UP Singh.

Though both India and Nepal had earlier discussed a draft DPR, the two sides have so far not agreed on the quantum of electricity to be sold by Nepal to India, nor on its price. Some experts remain

appraisal committee (EAC) of the environment ministry, giving scientific evidence of the dangers associated with it. Disaster potential of this project is very high due to possibility of reservoir induced seismicity in the earthquake prone zone." There are differing opinions too with the Tehri dam seen as a success despite seismic risks and reports on its utility in reducing the impact of the 2013 Uttarakhand cloud burst.

The proposal was considered by the EAC for river valley and hydroelectric projects of the environment ministry. On the basis of its recommendations, the terms of reference for environmental impact assessment (EIA) studies were issued in October 2016.

Referring to various concerns, including dangers associated with the project, another expert Ashok Swain even noted that the "construction of this mega-dam is not going to be easy as Indian authorities are pretending".

The two sides have agreed to resume negotiations to resolve critical issues of water sharing and power purchase agreement to try and achieve a breakthrough that has often proved elusive

project at Kathmandu, Nepal on April 27," an official said. The effort to quicken cooperation during the recent visit of Nepal PM K P Sharma Oli could inject some momentum into the efforts, it is hoped.

Both the countries can jointly undertake execution of the project only after finalisation of the DPR comprising all components of technical works, sharing modalities and financial details. The Indian

quite sceptical over its very concept due to what they say are the plan's inherent weaknesses. "This project is not viable. It'll not only be damaging to the environment but also from the seismic point of view," said Himanshu Thakkar of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP).

Thakkar, an engineer from IIT Mumbai, said, "We have written to the expert

PROJECT TO HAVE 4,800MW CAPACITY

PANCHESHWAR MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT:

THREE KEY BENEFITS FOR INDIA AND NEPAL:

Hydropower, Irrigation, Flood control

PROPOSED HEIGHT OF THE DAM:

311 metre
from the deepest foundation level

Main dam will form a reservoir of around

11,600 hectare

Dam to have two underground power houses (one on each bank of Mahakali in India and Nepal) with installed capacity of

4,800 MW

SUBMERGENCE AREA ON INDIAN SIDE:

7,600 hectare

covering Pithoragarh, Almora and Champawat districts in Uttarakhand

