

Central Water Commission
Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

West Block II, Wing No-5
R K Puram, New Delhi - 66.

Subject: Submission of News Clippings.

Dated 4.1.18.

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.

Encl: As stated above.

S. Sharma
4.1.18
SPA (Publicity)

Deputy Director (Publication)

Yn
9/1/18

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
uploaded at www.cwc.nic.in

OV

SOLUTION Inspired by a college professor, villagers in the south-central part of Bihar donated money, built traditional channels and embankments to irrigate fields and ease farm woes

Rabindra Pathak

rabindrapathak@hindustantimes.com

MAGADH: Ancient Mauryan engineering has brought water back to the undulating and rocky terrain of Magadh, the grain bowl of Bihar that had turned almost entirely arid because of abortive modern irrigation policies.

The Magadh region, comprising 10 districts in south-central Bihar, was reeling from its worst water crisis over a decade ago, forcing farmers to board trains to distant cities such as New Delhi and Chandigarh and work there as migrant labourers.

Rainfall was scant, people had long abandoned traditional reservoirs that caught and stored rainwater run-off, the water table in aquifers had depleted from overuse, and modern irrigation canals covered only a small area.

Gaya itself was a modern nightmare as most of its ponds overflowed with garbage. The water table had dipped below 200 feet, and taps and tube wells had gone dry. The water crisis was so acute that people sold their houses in posh localities at throwaway prices. The government promised to build a 100km canal from the Ganga but the project failed.

The crisis looked irreversible but Rabindra Pathak, who taught Pali and Sanskrit at a college in Arwal, was certain that the answer lay in the long-forgotten and crumbling aqueducts and water reservoirs that irrigated the fields that fed ancient India's most glorious empire.

He pored through old books and scriptures, and found that reviving the dilapidated network of pynes and ahars was the lone solution.

Pyne are channels carrying water from rivers. Ahars are low-lying fields with embankments that act as water reservoirs. This combined irrigation and water conservation system dates back to the Mauryan era that flourished in Magadh 2,000 years ago.

Pathak founded the Magadh Jal Jamaat (MJJ) in 2006, a network of individuals working to revive the neglected pyne and ahars. "There was no other way to solve the recurring water crisis threatening to turn the region arid. Reck-

less use of tube wells for irrigation without adequate recharge complicated the scenario," he said.

Convincing people to participate was not easy in a fragmented society, where nobody was willing to part with an inch of land.

"Villagers shrugged off the idea of collective participation initially, as they couldn't fathom its impact," said Kanchan Mistri at Khaneta-Pali village. "When the government with all its resources failed, how could a group (like ours) do it? That was the common refrain."

Besides, the local mafia interested in contracts for government projects posed a big threat to the voluntary initiative. A year before MJJ's formation, in 2004, social activists Sarita and Mahesh, working on an irrigation system in Gaya, were murdered by the mafia.

But Pathak was determined to do the unthinkable — bring water to the area. He got ample help from his professor-wife, Pramila, and trader Prabhat Pandey.

They persuaded villagers to form committees and donate anywhere between ₹100 and ₹1,000, depending on the size of agricultural plots they owned, and revived the 125-km Jamune Dasain pyne and 159-km Barki pyne. These two complex channels, rebuilt with help from social worker Chandra Bhushan, brought water from Falgu, a tributary of the Ganga.

The impact was instantaneous and miraculous. About 150 villages along the Jamune-Dasain pyne and around 250 villages along the Barki canal have been able to irrigate their fields for the kharif and rabi (monsoon and winter) crops, and grow vegetables, pulses

and oilseeds as well.

The farm distress eased significantly. Life changed for marginal farmer Jairam Bhagat, who wanted to kill himself when his paddy crop failed in 2007, after he met volunteers of the Magadh Jal Jamaat. He joined the group, discarded plans to return to Chandigarh where he worked as a plumber, and contributed his mite for the irrigation system.

Bhagat, 45, from Shabaazpur village in Gaya was among thousands of people from about 700 villages who used to migrate for work — not by choice, but by compulsion. He now stays home and reaps a good harvest from his amply irrigated farm.

People began to say the water system's revival was the second-best thing to have happened to Gaya after the Buddha's enlightenment. In Gaya, residents, officials, military and police personnel joined the mission to build check dams and clear ponds of encroachment and debris.

"Recurring protests over water crises are now a thing of past in the district. Hand pumps and wells that were abandoned are now working," said Rajesh

Kshittij, a lawyer in Gaya.

The social organisation's initiative drew accolades from environmentalists Anupam Mishra and Magsaysay winner Rajendra Singh.

In 2011, chief minister Nitish Kumar asked the irrigation, public health and engineering, and the revenue and land reforms departments to replicate the Magadh Jal Jamaat model.

The Magadh region has four medium and major irrigation projects, including the Sone canal. But these irrigate only 30,000 hectares in parts of Gaya, Arwal, Jehanabad, Aurangabad, Nalanda and Nawada districts.

The North Koel reservoir scheme in Jharkhand's Palamau and Punpun barrage in Gaya were launched in 1972 and 2006 respectively. But they never took off.

The Gaya circle irrigation department's executive engineer, Ashok Kumar Choudhary, said the existing canal system works only for the kharif season, or monsoon crop.

But the restored pyne-ahar system helps farmers grow paddy in 150,000 hectares, wheat in 100,000 hectares and pulses and oilseeds in about 30,000 hec-

tares in Gaya alone.

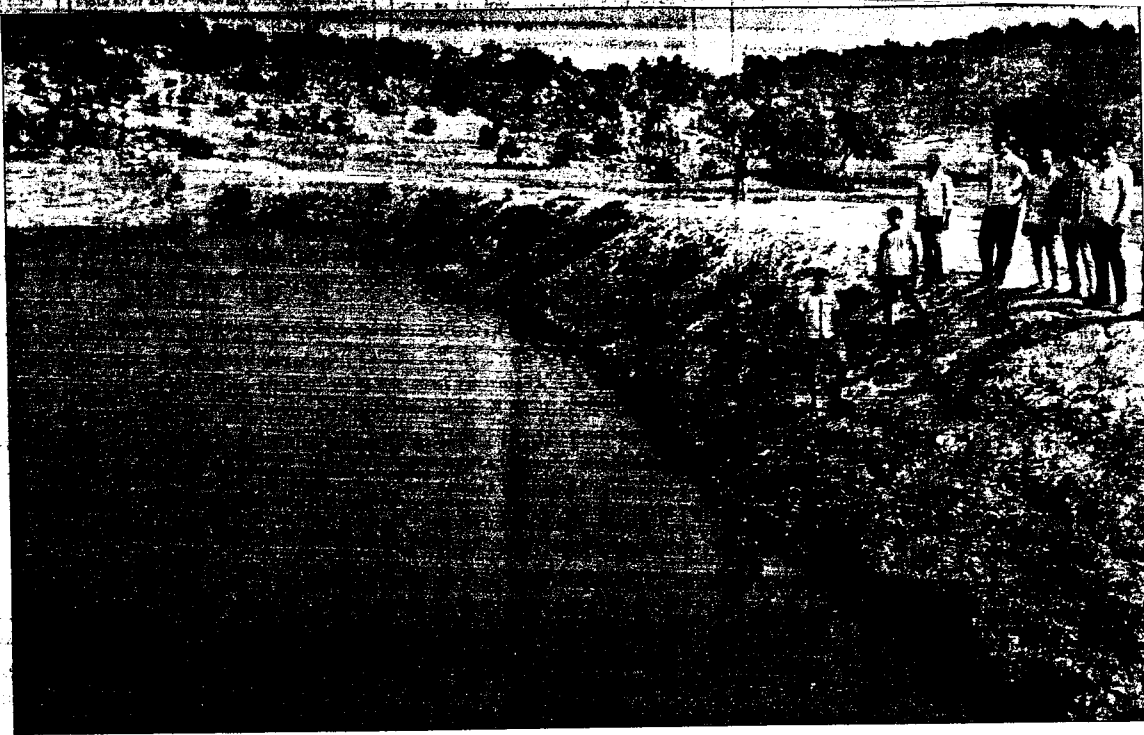
The Mauryan network brings water to the remote countryside, which seldom got any help from government agencies because of Maoist insurgents active in those areas.

The Magadh Jal Jamaat responded positively when at least seven villages in the Maoist heartland of Imamganj-Dumaria requested for a check dam to be built to conserve rainwater. The area is about 22km off GT Road, but barely accessible.

"Our volunteers worked two months, built a check dam and rejuvenated a pyne, which is now irrigating farms of over a dozen of villages and recharging ahars and ponds," said 60-year-old Kameshwar Yadav of Pachman, ploughing his field after a decade.

The move encouraged a farm turnaround and migrant youth working in Delhi returned home to sow oilseeds.

"We built the dam with ₹44,000 in 2014 when the state would have spent ₹50 lakh and taken a year. This year, we hope to grow fish and reap a bumper rabi crop," said Niranjan Yadav, a 30-year-old who worked at a retail shop in Delhi.



■ A check dam built by villagers along with Maghadh Jal Jamaat near Sijuaghati in Imamganj-Dumaria area.

HT PHOTO

IN 2011, CHIEF MINISTER NITISH KUMAR ASKED THE IRRIGATION, PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENGINEERING, AS WELL AS THE REVENUE AND LAND REFORMS DEPARTMENTS TO REPLICATE THE MAGADH JAL JAMAAT MODEL

nes

of India (N.D.)
press

istan (Hindi)

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

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

documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC

Chandrababu Naidu launches lift irrigation scheme in Kadapa

60,000 acres to be benefited by the ₹1,350 crore Gandikota-Chitravathi project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL

A.P. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday inaugurated the Gandikota-Chitravathi lift irrigation scheme in Bapatpalle in Chittoor district constituency of Gandikota.

Mr. Naidu performed Lala Sankaranarayanan at the delivery point of the Gandikota-Bapatpalle lift irrigation scheme. He also unveiled a plaque for construction of two canals across the Papagudi near the Anjaneya Swamy temple (₹2.36 crore) and Sugali Thanda (₹3.53 crore) at Gandikota in Chittoor district.

The Gandikota-Chitravathi lift irrigation scheme was built with an outlay of ₹1,350 crore, he said.

Under the scheme, 7,50



Boost to farming: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu after unveiling the plaque of the Gandikota-Chitravathi lift irrigation scheme at Bapatpalle on Wednesday.

tnet water would be lifted through five delivery points to the Chitravathi balancing reservoir, to irrigate 60,000 acres of ayacut through drip irrigation.

Three lift irrigation schemes of 0.3 tmcft capacity were built at Thimmapuram, Vellatur, and Gaddam

vanpalle, and another of 0.08 tmcft capacity at Goddumari for drawing water from the Gandikota reservoir to the PBR.

The scheme aims at lifting about 2,000 cusecs water through five lift irrigation schemes, having four pumps each, from Kondapuram to

PBR, and fill the tanks and ponds, and give irrigation water till the tailend ayacut of the right canal. Nearly 1200 cusecs Krishna water was being lifted every day from Gandikota reservoir since November 2017.

The Chitravathi balancing reservoir presently has 4,815 tmcft Krishna water and Gandikota reservoir has a storage of 7 tmcft. Nearly 33 tmcft water is being stored in reservoirs in Kadapa district.

Ministers D. Umamaheswara Rao, S. Chandramohan Reddy, and C. Adinarayana Reddy, MLC Mr. Ravindranath Reddy, government whip M.V. Mallikarjuna Reddy, former Minister P. Ramasubba Reddy, district Collector T. Babu Rao Naidu, party MLAs and leaders were present.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 04.1.2018 in the

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

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

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

and documented at Bhadrirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC

Goa CM says those who think Karnataka won't get water share are living in a fool's paradise

PRAKASH KAMAT

PANAJI

Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar said on Wednesday that no State can object to another drawing water from a river that traverses through three States, and that Goa is only objecting to "Karnataka's plans for transfer of water from the deficit basin of Mahadayi to Malaprabha".

Responding to questions on the controversy over his letter to Karnataka BJP chief B.S. Yeddyurappa on the water-sharing issue, at a Cabinet press briefing at the Secretariat, Mr. Parrikar said, "If someone thinks that Karnataka cannot take water, he is living in a fool's paradise. He doesn't understand law. When a river

flows from Karnataka, how can the State be denied water? But it cannot take the water to some other basin; it has to use the water in that area."

Water deficit

The state has submitted documentary evidence to the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal that the Mahadayi basin had around 115 TMC (thousand million cubic-feet) water. The actual requirement in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa is about 145 TMC, and hence there is a deficit, the Chief Minister said. "Therefore, water cannot be transferred to some other river. That is the point before the Tribunal."

In his letter to Mr. Yeddyurappa, Mr. Parrikar had



Manohar Parrikar

agreed to consider Karnataka's demand for drinking water for North Karnataka "on humanitarian grounds". On Wednesday, he said, "If you try to speculate about my letter, that is not my concern. I am sorry. I am very clear about this, that I have written a perfectly valid letter in the

interest of the State," he said. He also accused some sections of the media of slandering him and the government.

Mr. Parrikar had also faced criticism from Water Resources Minister Vinod Palienkar of the Goa Forward party and ally Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party.

Out-of-court talks

The Chief Minister weighed in on the assurance given by Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar that Mr. Parrikar had called for out-of-court talks with Mr. Yeddyurappa. Mr. Kumar had responded to a Zero Hour notice raised by Karnataka MP S.P. Muddahanumegowda. Mr. Parrikar said, "Have I made a

statement? If they bait each other what do I do? I am not responsible for demands someone else makes. I have explained my stand to you clearly time and again."

He also said that none of the 21 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which have publicly demanded that he withdraw the letter, had approached him, but that he would reply to the NGOs if they write to him based on his letter.

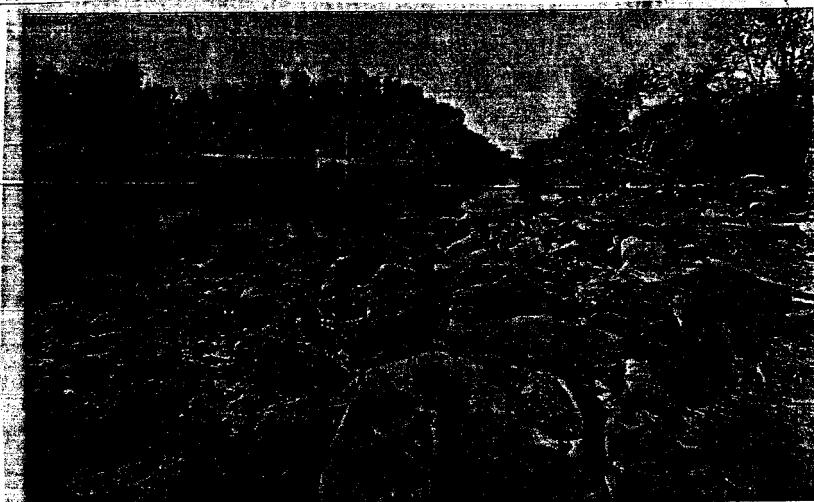
Mr. Parrikar admitted that he had received a letter from Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and it spoke about tri-partite talks between Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra, and transfer of water from one basin to other.

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

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

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

and documented at Bhadrath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC



A Research team said there is also possibility that the levels of heavy metals are rising in Sanjay Lake. HT FILE

Micro-organisms dwindle in Sanjay Lake, experts worry over water quality

SCIENTISTS SPEAK These organisms check bacterial growth in the lake and if the food chain collapses many aquatic animals may die

By Deep Thakur
Hindustan Times

NEW DELHI Microscopic organisms that are known to keep a check on the population of various kinds of bacteria and also form an important link in the food chain, have been found to be dwindling at Sanjay Lake in east Delhi.

Researchers from Delhi University, who have been studying these single-cell organisms for the past few years, apprehend their decline would mean that the water quality of Sanjay Lake is deteriorating as these organisms are sensitive to changes in their environment and serve as bio-indicators.

We found at least 20 species of single-cell freshwater ciliates in each of the water samples that were collected from the lake between 2012 and 2015 for the research. But when we collected samples in September 2017, we could find only two species. Something is wrong with the water. There is also possibility that the levels of heavy metals are rising. That needs to be analysed," said Seema Makhija, associate professor of Zoology at

Acharya Narendra Dev College.

A team of zoologists from Delhi University and National History Museum in London led by Makhija was conducting a research to assess how these single-cell organisms inhabiting Delhi's water bodies respond to the rise in the levels of concentration of heavy metals such as copper, cadmium, nickel, lead and zinc in the water.

The research has been already published in 'Current Science', a peer-review journal in its latest edition. Water samples were collected from three different water bodies in Delhi including the Sanjay Lake in east Delhi, Raj Ghat and Okhla Bird Sanctuary. Even though the quality of water at Raj Ghat and Okhla Bird Sanctuary did not deteriorate, scientists have found signs that the water at Sanjay Lake is turning fouler.

"If the food chain collapses, many aquatic animals and fishes could die and would ultimately be wiped out from the lake. There is in bacteria could have serious ecological and public health implications in the future," said Komal Kamra, associate professor of Zoology at Sri Guru Tegh

Bahadur Khalsa College.

Locals pointed out that solid waste, including plastic, are often dumped in the lake and its surrounding areas which might be deteriorating the water quality.

A senior official of the Delhi Development Authority said that a private organisation has started a pilot project to clean the water of Sanjay Lake and Hauz Khas.

The Waste Atlas 2014, a compilation of data on the 50 biggest dumpsites of the world, had warned that the Ghazipur dump could be a potential source of pollution, as it is located just 2.5 km from Sanjay Lake. Leaching of pollutants and chemicals from the dumping site is also possibly affecting Yamuna's water.

"A similar research to find out the population of these microorganisms in the River Yamuna is now underway. The project has just taken off and would continue over the next two years," said Kamra who is leading the Yamuna research.

Water samples from five points, including Cullak Pur, Wazirabad, Nizamuddin, T/O and Okhla, have been collected. They are now being analysed.

...er/article/editorial published on 04.01.2018 in the

Times

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

M.P.Chronicle

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

A a j (Hindi)

es of India (N.D.)

The Hindu

Indian Nation

, Express

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

une

Deccan Chronicle

The Times of India (A)

idustan (Hindi)

Deccan Herald

Blitz

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

कल की बात...

तापमान बढ़ता रहा
तो सूख जाएगी धरती



वैज्ञानिकों का कहना है कि अगर पृथ्वी के तापमान में दो डिग्री सेल्सियस की वृद्धि हुई तो धरती का एक चौथाई हिस्सा काफी हद तक सूख जाएगा। ऐसी स्थिति में सूखा और जंगलों में आग लगने की घटनाएं बढ़ सकती हैं। हालांकि, अगर वैश्विक ऊष्मन को 1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस तक रोक लिया गया तो वह धरती के कुछ हिस्सों में होने वाले ऐसे बदलावों को रोक सकेगा। अध्ययन के दौरान औद्योगिक क्रांति के समय के मुकाबले वैश्विक ऊष्मन में 1.5 से 2 डिग्री सेल्सियस की वृद्धि होने पर जो जगह सूखे हो जाएंगे, उनकी पहचान की है।

वैश्विक-1.1-18

Article/editorial published on 04.1.2018 in the

nes

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

M.P. Chronicle

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

Aaj (Hindi)

The Hindu

Indian Nation

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

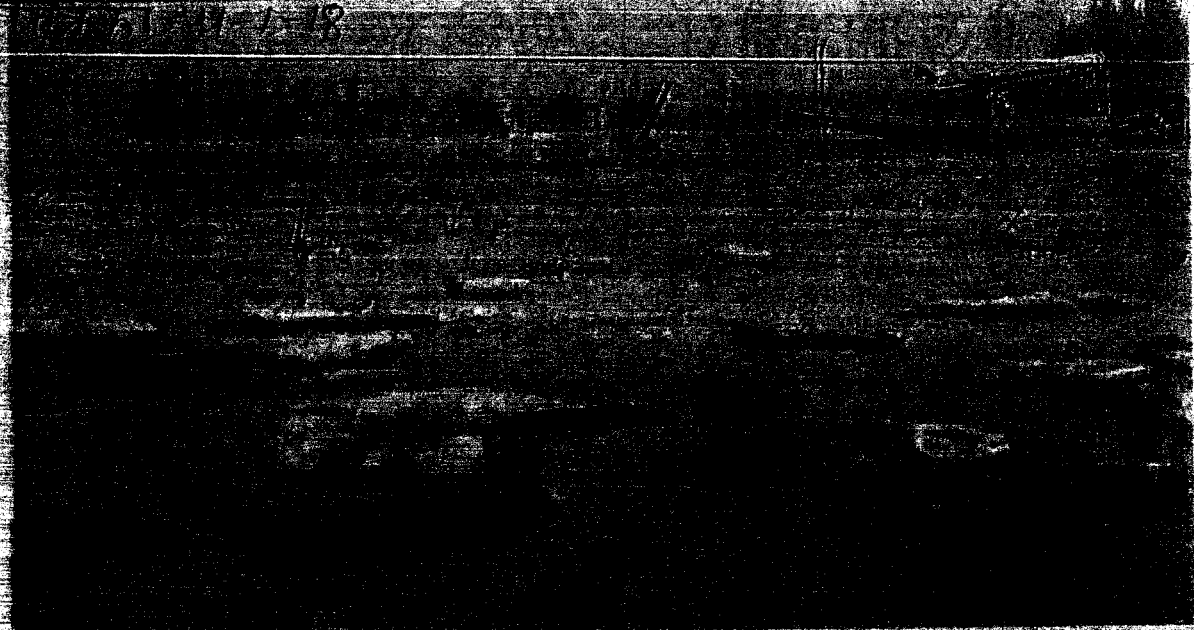
The Times of India (A)

Deccan Herald

Blitz

documented at Bhadrath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC

झर डल झील जमी



तापमान **3.9 डिग्री** श्रीनगर स्थित कश्मीर की झर डल झील ठंड के चलते जम गई है। बुधवार को श्रीनगर में तापमान साइनस 3.9 डिग्री दर्ज किया गया। वहीं कसगल में पारा साइनस 20.6 डिग्री पहुंच गया। शुक्रवार को यूपी, पंजाब, हरियाणा, मध्य राजस्थान में घना कोहरा, शीत लहर चलेगी।