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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.

*On leave*

SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

*Confidential*  
*6/10/2017*

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,  
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*O/C*

Central control out,  
subjective aspects in:  
why new wetlands  
Rules are different

The Wetlands Rules 2017, notified last week, dilute the 2010 version, say environmentalists

**SOWMIYA ASHOK**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

ON WEDNESDAY, the Supreme Court expressed grave concern over the disappearance of the country's wetlands: "If there are no wetlands left, it will affect agriculture and several other things. It is a very, very important issue," the Bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur said.

The court had earlier observed that even after Rs 900 crore was spent on works related to wetlands, the activities shown were extremely general in nature. It asked the Centre to provide a status report on funds disbursed to states, and the manner of their utilisation.

The government informed the court that the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, had been notified to replace the earlier set of guidelines that came into effect in 2010. Counsel for the petitioner objected to some of the provisions in the 2017 Rules, and was asked by the Bench to file an application.

The court said that 2,01,503 wetlands in the country would continue to be protected by the government. These wetlands had been identified using ISRO's satellite imagery, after which the apex court had asked the Centre to inventorise, protect and notify them in consultation with state governments.



**The new Rules farm out management of wetlands to states and UTs.** *Archive*

from the date of publication of these Rules; taking into cognizance any existing list of wetlands prepared/notified under other relevant state Acts".

A comprehensive digital inventory of all wetlands is to be prepared within a year; however, it is up to the states to decide which wetlands are to be notified.

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The differences between the old and new Rules are also apparent in their applicability. The 2010 Rules listed six points describing protected wetlands; the new Rules have

by the government. These wetlands had been identified using ISRO's satellite imagery, after which the apex court had asked the Centre to inventorise, protect and notify them in consultation with state governments.



In February 2017, the Supreme Court had directed the amendments to the 2010 Rules to be notified by June 30, a deadline that it subsequently extended to September 30. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change notified the Rules on September 26.

Under the new Rules, wetlands are defined as "an area of marsh, fen, peatland or water; whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres, but does not include river channels, paddy fields, human-made water bodies/tanks specifically constructed for drinking water purposes and structures specifically constructed for aquaculture, salt production, recreation and irrigation purposes".

The 2010 Rules specifically included in the definition of wetlands "all inland waters such as lakes, reservoir, tanks, backwaters, lagoon, creeks, estuaries and man-made wetland and the zone of direct influence on wetlands". These have not been spelt out in the 2017 Rules.

Also, in the 2010 Rules, the list of exclusions from the definition stopped at "main river channels, paddy fields and the coastal wetland".

The new Rules farm out wetland management to states and union territories. Environmentalists say this is odd, as states and UTs have never acted on wetlands protection and notification in spite of the pressure exerted by the central government — using the Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority (CWRA) — under the 2010 Rules. The 2017 Rules have done away with the CWRA entirely.

CWRA's place has been taken by the National Wetland Committee, which has a merely advisory role — for instance, to advise the central government on proposals received from states/UTs for "omission of the prohibited activities", to evolve "norms and guidelines" for integrated management of wetlands based on wise-use principle; recommend trans-boundary wetlands for notification, and review progress of integrated management of Ramsar Convention sites (of which the country has 26).

Under the new Rules, the State or UT Wetlands Authority will "prepare a list of all wetlands... within three months, and a list of wetlands to be notified within six months,



The differences between the old and new Rules are also apparent in their applicability. The 2010 Rules listed six points describing protected wetlands; the new Rules have done away with them, and instead state that wetlands are limited to and do not include wetlands under forest and coastal regulation zones. They apply to (a) wetlands categorised as "wetlands of international importance" under the Ramsar Convention and (b) wetlands as notified by the central government, state government and UT administration.

Under 'Restrictions of activities in wetlands', the new Rules say conservation and management would be "in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' as determined by the Wetlands Authority". Environmentalists had criticised this principle when the draft Rules were circulated for comments and suggestions — 'wise use', the draft Rules said, was "maintenance of ecological character, achieved through implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development".

Environmentalist Pushp Jain, who had approached the National Green Tribunal against inadequate implementation of the 2010 Rules, said: "How do you define wise use? It's a very subjective thing. This is how they are going about diluting the whole thing, leaving many things to the imagination.

"If you think about it sensibly, wise use would mean not dumping waste into wetlands, or not filling them up with building materials. But for over six years, the Rules have just not been implemented, so the new Rules provide leeway to do anything with wetlands at a later stage," Jain said.

Restriction on activities in wetlands now no longer includes reclamation. The Rules provide no timelines for phasing out solid waste and untreated waste from being dumped into wetlands. The restrictions on "any other activity likely to have an adverse impact on the ecosystem of the wetland", are not specified in the Rules.

The Rules do, however, restrict any kind of encroachment, poaching, or permanent construction, except for boat jetties within 50 metres of the mean high flood level observed in the past 10 years.



The 2010 Rules said "Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Authority (CWRA) may prefer an appeal to the National Green Tribunal within a period of sixty days from the date of such decision." This provision does not exist in the 2017 Rules.

## SIMPLY PUT

दिनांक 6.10.2017 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times ( Delhi )  
भारत 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 )

## INDIA'S FATAL WEATHER

# In 60 yrs, 268 extreme rainfall events, more than 69k deaths

Press Trust of India  
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI** Extreme rainfall events have tripled since 1950 in central India and killed over 69,000 people across the country while leaving 17 million homeless, says a study by weather scientists.

The paper, by scientists in India, US and France, has been published by Nature Communications journal in its October issue. The states that witnessed the worst incidents of extreme rainfall events include Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana as well as parts of the Western Ghats — Goa, north Karnataka and south Kerala.

"There have been 268 reported flooding events in India over 1950-2015 affecting about 825 million people, leaving 17 million homeless, and killing 69,000 people (according to the International Disaster Data Base)," it said.

According to lead author Roxy Mathew Koll, a scientist with the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, a premium research body under the ministry of earth science (MoES), extreme rainfall is defined as more than 15cm of rain in a day and "spread over a large region, enough to cause floods". "These widespread



■ People wade through a flooded street during heavy rain showers in Mumbai, Maharashtra, in August this year. AFP FILE

extremes were two per year in central India during 1950s. Now, it's six per year," Koll said.

M Rajeevan, MoES secretary, Subimal Ghosh and his team at IIT Bombay, Raghu Murtugudde of the University of Maryland, and Pascal Terray, Sorbonne University, Paris, are co-authors of the paper. Rajeevan attributed global warming and its impact as a major reason for the erratic and extreme weather pattern.

The combined population in central India is more than the

total population of the US put together. The fact that this intensification is against the background of a declining monsoon rainfall, which has been observed in previous studies, makes it catastrophic, as it puts several millions of lives, property and agriculture at risk, experts say.

The paper said floods alone lead to losses of around ₹20,000 crore in India, 10% of global economic losses. "The plains of central India are largely flood-prone," said Koll.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 06.10.2017 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  
A 2 (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Blitz

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

## NGT stays Kaleshwaram project, Telangana to move SC

### Tribunal cited lack of environmental forest clearances

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD — The Telangana government has decided to file an appeal in the Supreme Court seeking variation of the stay imposed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on the ongoing work on Kaleshwaram project.

The NGT, according to officials, imposed a stay on the project work based on a complaint that the project did not have environmental and forest clearances.

**Drinking water needs**  
The government had strongly argued during the hearings conducted over the

past few months that drinking water supply formed one of the major components of the project and it was accordingly linked with Mission Bhagiratha.

The State government had made it clear that the ongoing work pertained to meeting the drinking water needs in areas where there was shortfall and that it would commence irrigation related work only after obtaining the necessary clearances.

Projects aimed at providing drinking water have exemptions from obtaining environmental clearances, a senior official said.

Since the Tribunal was apparently not satisfied with the State's point of view, it imposed a stay on the work.

#### Public hearings

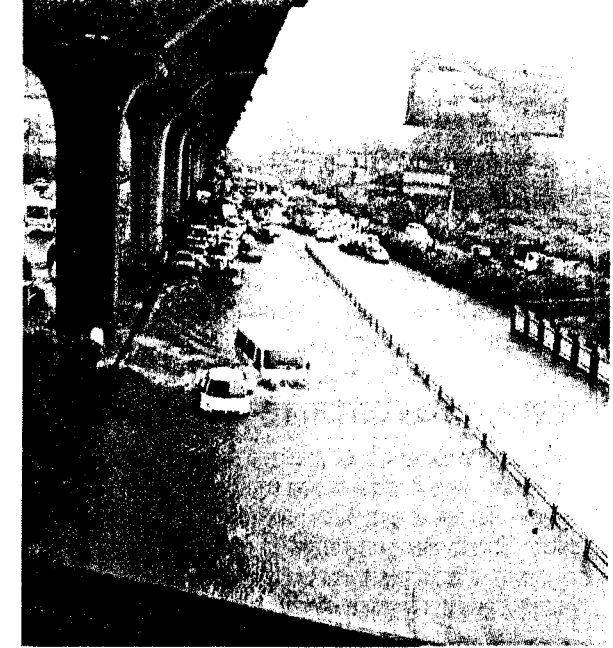
The government would go for an appeal after obtaining the full text of the order for Kaleshwaram project, which was already granted first stage environmental and forest clearances.

Public hearings in 15 districts in Telangana affected by the project as also in Maharashtra had been completed and work was under way to prepare the environmental impact assessment report, the official said.

# दोपहर की बारिश से शहर उथल-पुथल

6.10.2017 (CRP)

पत्रिका-6-10-17



## दो घंटे में 42 मिमी बारिश से थमी शहर की रफ्तार

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

rajasthanpatrika.com

बेंगलूरु. मानसून की अवधि निकलने के बाद भी ऐसा लगता है कि अब इंद्र देव बेंगलूरु में ही डेरा डाल कर बैठ गए हैं। गुरुवार दोपहर हुई तेज बारिश के बाद पूरा शहर एक बार फिर बुरी हालत में पहुंच गया। दोपहर करीब 12 से

3 बजे के बीच शहर के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में जोरदार बारिश होती रही और जनजीवन अस्त-व्यस्त हो गया। सड़कों पर कहीं-कहीं 3 से 4 फीट पानी भरा नजर आया तो कहीं रास्ते नहरों में तब्दील होते दिखे। जगह-जगह बंद वाहन, उफनते मेनहोल और नालियों के कारण सड़कों पर आवाजाही बंद हो गई। मौसम विभाग का कहना है कि दोपहर के समय शहर में करीब 42 मिमी बारिश हुई।

तेज बारिश के कारण शहर के कई

हिस्सों में हालात बेहद खराब हो गए हैं। खासतौर से बोम्मनहल्ली, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सिटी, होसूर रोड, यलहंका, विद्यारण्यापुरा, मैसूर रोड जैसे कई इलाकों में हालात एकदम बेकाबू दिखे।

सड़कों पर भरा पानी, बंद पड़ा यातायात और बीबीएमपी की काहिली के कारण गड़बड़ वाली सड़कों ने मिलकर वाहन चालकों और आम लोगों की हालत ऐसी कर दी कि उनसे न रुकते बन रहा था, न वे वहां से निकल पा रहे थे। एयरपोर्ट रोड पर भी कई जगह

पानी भरने के कारण वाहनों की आवाजाही काफी प्रभावित हुई हालांकि किसी फ्लाइट के लेट होने की सूचना नहीं है।

जारेदार बारिश के चलते एयरपोर्ट पर भी पानी भरने की जानकारी है। नार्यंडहल्ली जंक्शन के पास एक कंपाउंड की दीवार ढह गई और वहां बरसाती नाला किनारे तोड़ कर सड़कों के ऊपर से बह निकला। नाले की गंदगी चारों ओर फैलने से उठती बदबू ने लोगों का सांस लेना तक दूभर कर दिया। मंजुनाथ नगर में एक पेड़ गिरने से

सामान ढोने वाला ऑटो बुरी तरह क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया जबकि एचएसआर लेआउट और बोम्मनहल्ली में कई घरों को नुकसान हुआ।

नेहरू सर्कल में पानी भरने के कारण वाहनों की आवाजाही बंद हो गई। नहर बन चुकी सड़कों पर तेज गति से बहते पानी के कारण वाहनों का चलना संभव नहीं था इसलिए यातायात थम गया। मेखरी सर्कल पर बड़ तादाद में वाहन अंडरपास के नीचे जमा होने से यातायात थम गया। विधानसभा में

वाल्मीकि जयंती कार्यक्रम से लौट रहे बड़ी संख्या में लोग पैलेस मैदान और जेसी रोड पर जाम के कारण काफी देर तक वहीं फंसे रहे। मडिवाला, कोरमंगला, शेषाद्रीपुरम, शिवानंदा सर्कल आदि कई इलाकों में पानी भर गया। बारिश रुकने के बाद भी यहां रिहायशी इलाकों में तीन-तीन फीट पानी भरा दिख रहा था। कई जगहों पर पेड़ गिरने से रास्ते जाम हैं और इलाके के लोग खुद ही गिरे पेड़ों को उठाकर रास्ता बनाते नजर आ रहे थे।