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

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Dated

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.

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

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

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Why the deluge?

■ With unprecedented rainfall lashing the city over the past couple of months. Bengaluru is battered and bruised. Not only has the rainfall broken records. making it the city's wettest year, it may also be one of the deadliest. So far, over 16 persons have died since May, apart from at least five persons who were killed in road accidents caused by potholes that have sprouted after the rain abated. Houses collapsed, lakes overflowed, and major roads were inundated. Is Bengaluru afraid of the rains?

#### How intense were the rains?

■ The city has received more than 1.660 mm of rain since January, more than any year since the India Meteorological Department (IMD) started its monitoring station at the end of the 19th century. Last year, when many parts of Karnataka witnessed drought-like conditions, it received around 1,100 mm in the whole year. However, this year's rainfall has been erratic to say the least.

After strong pre-monsoon spells in May, the first two months of the monsoon were unusually dull with just 83 mm and the prospect of another drought year raised its head. These anxieties were washed away in mid-August, with the night of August 14 seeing nearly 129 mm of rain. For the next two months, near incessant rainfall has lashed the city, with the rain gauges recording in excess of 1,200 mm -25% above the average annual rainfall.

What has the impact been?

■ Much of the IT hub remained inundated, lakes overflowed into houses in many areas. Roads were flooded, and then developed potholes - over 35,000. according to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP): Around 90% of the potholes have been fixed, and most major roads are in a decent state now. In the first six months of the year, the BBMP undertook road works amounting to ₹374 crore. On the patchwork after monsoons, it spent around ₹20 crore. On average, the civic body spends



around ₹600 crore each year on road works - apart from special grants from the State government for road-widening or flyovers and footpaths.

#### What about the water crisis?

■ Rain in Bengaluru is not entirely linked to water crisis. Bengaluru gets its drinking water from the Cauvery basin, which requires rain in the Western Ghats. Water levels in the reservoirs are much higher than they were last year, so no water crisis is expected.

#### Why did the city get flooded?

■ Rainfall figures hide a deeper truth of

the nature of this season's monsoon. Meteorologists point out that heavy spells of rainfall – where over 12 mm is recorded in an hour - were unusually common this season. Meanwhile, the urban heat island effect also saw some parts of the city - the heavily concretised landscapes of south and east Bengaluru, for instance – receiving far more rain than the relatively green north Bengaluru. That the city has expanded beyond its means has contributed to the problem. Stormwater drains that crucially connect between lakes are badly designed or have been encroached upon or choked with sewage and garbage. Lakes have been lost and whatever exists has been lined with sludge, reducing the capacity to hold excess rainwater. Layouts and rampant construction have propped up in natural depressions of the city - all of which leave the water with no place to go but into houses.

### What can be done?

■ Civic experts point out that reviving

numerous lakes, including the nearly 1,100-acre Bellandur and Varthur lakes. is critical to ensuring that the city can sustain rain such as this year's. Besides allowing for storage of over five thousand million cubic feet of water, these lakes ensure that more than double their storage capacity percolates to the

Interlinking these lakes is a stormwater drain system that utilises the city's terrain to transfer water from the catchments to another. However, out of 853 km of stormwater drains, only 400 km has been strengthened. Moreover, the completed drains have all-concrete lining. This means the rainwater gushes to lakes rather than percolate into the surface. Whether the rain has intensified due to climate change - which means stronger downpours and more erratic monsoons - or 2017 was just an anomaly, what is for certain is that unless the infrastructure is overhauled, Bengaluru cannot cope with rain.

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

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# Torrential rains flood Chennai

NIGHTMARE Met department predicts heavy rain for next 24 hours, residents accuse government of tardy relief work

KV Lakshmana

klakshmana@htlive.com

CHENNAL: Bright sunshine greeted Chennai on Friday after heavy rains in the city and most parts of the state Thursday night, but it started raining again in the eyen-

Vastareas of the coastal belt of the state remained flooded and another death was reported after a farmer stepped on a submerged live wire. Two eight-year-old girls in a Chennai locality died of electrocution the day before.

Schools were shut for the fourth straight day and all scheduled semester examinations of Anna University and Madras University were postponed.

S Balachandran, a senior weather department official, said the next 24 hours could see heavy rain, even as Chennai residents hoped that they wouldn't see a repeat of 2015 when floods ravaged the city.

Voluntary groups worked with rescue teams to provide food, water and shelter to those stranded by the rain and floods. Anger mounted in flooded areas as people accused the government of tardy relief work.

The situation in Pallaikarani rain overthree days. in southern Chennai, one of the worst affected areas during the 2015 floods, was similar to the horror the residents faced two years ago. "We have seen no one, no government official or minister in our area," V Srinivasan, a resident told a private television channel. In the north of the city, retired government official KV Ramakrishna echoed those sentiments. "It doesn't matter which AIADMK. Forus, the people, the waterlogging. Attacked to the second seco problem remains the same, the said. A storm that swept through Tamil Nadu from the Bay of Bengal brought heavy rain for the past three days. Rainwater flowed into houses, streets and entire localities were waterlogged, and overhead electricity cables snapped.

CM Edapaddi Palanisami and his deputy, O Panneerselvam, led a team to Pallaikarani on Friday to review the situation as residents struggled in knee-deep water. They visited five localities and told reporters that officials were working round-the-clock to pump out rainwater that has accumulated in low-lying areas after Chennai received 36cm of

The chief minister dismissed allegations that the government had done little to desilt lakes and waterways. He said the "storage capacity of lakes has increased 30% "because of the desilting" operation taken up after the 2015 floods, which were the worst to hit Chennai for almost a century.

State fisheries minister D Jayakumar also said "98% of the work has been done" and "we are government is there, DMK or capable of taking care of the

> People living in flooded homes were not convinced. S Ciba, a software professional in Madipakkam, said his house is surrounded by waist-deep water.

"They may have done all the work they are claiming, but here you can see for yourself that it has been a total failure."

The fear of diseases lurked too as overflowing sewage from the sewer lines mixed with the rainwater. The government has not learnt any lessons from the 2015 floods, environmentalists said.

Environmentalist Nityanand Jayaraman warned of worse to come. "The first rains of the northeast monsoon drowned







 (Clockwise from top) People wade through a waterlogged area in Chennal on Friday; a woman makes her way through an inundated road; and locals try to catch fish after a compound wall collapsed in

Hindustan Times

Indian Express

Hindustan (Hindi)

The Times of India (N.D.)

Statesman

Tribune

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**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4 THE OMION Ministry of Water Resources River Development and Ganga Regiveriation has extended the term of the Cauvery Water Country of Development of the Cauvery Water Country of the Cauvery Water Country of the Cauvery Water Country of the Cauvery of the Cauver Cauvery is an interstate basin that woriginates in Karnataka and november by lamil Nadu oh to Philippe hamil Nadu oh to Philippe had been a source of commer had been and states so a samil shadp and karnataka". The genesis of this conflict rests in woodsteen ents Conflictress in synapseeme in 1807 and 1974, bycen en Stolphad Light Stolen and Kingdom new Johnson an official statement sees.
The statement added that the government had on june 2. 1990, constituted the CWDT to adjudicate the water dispute. The tribunal had been asked to submit its report by August 5, 2005, which was extended for 2005, Which was extended for one year to August 6, 2006 and then to February 5, 2007, The deadline for submission was extended several times, the last being November 2, 2017, This has now been extended to May 2, 2018, after the tribunal sought an extension.

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### Arayalls pivotal for water sectrity across Delhi-NCR

HT Correspondent

htreporters ethindustantimes.com

www. In American Session of the Starming fate of ground-water depletion came to the ton this on the starming fate of ground-water depletion came to the ton this on the starming of the starming of the starming of the session was organized as a part of the manufactory Aravalli.

The entire not hwest indials some of the largest of dunle water largest in dunle water largest indial that the groundwater is depleting his in this part of india is evident from the fact that several old wells have dried up. The solution to this impending crisis thes in how we look at the Aravallis, and Himanshu Kulkarni, executive director of Advanced Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (ACWAHAM).

The Aravallis exhibit a folded structure. It has undergone sequences of tectonic activity. The refore it has a lot of fractures.

That the groundwater is depleting fast in forthwest India is evident of the fact that several old wells have dried up. The solution to this impending crisis lies in how we look at Aravallis.

HIMANSHUKUTKARNI, executive Slirector, Advanced Centre for Syster Resources Development and Management

and openings that allow water to percolate through it," Kulkarni added.

Showing satellite pictures from the 1970s and comparing hen with present day pictures experts showed how several lakes such as the Kolla Dahar Lake, the Badkarlake, Peacock Lake and Mangar Lake have almost dried up.

"Satellite imageries still show some of the paleo water channels and old rivulets that once used to exist. The present generation of Mangar village doesn't even know that there used to be a lake once," said M.D. Sinha, chief conservator of forest in Hatyana.

Experts said that even the quality of water in the Aravallis is markedly different from the plains. "We can still find mineral water in the Aravallis But that is being gradually contaminated. One we contaminate the aquifer it would be next to impossible to decontaminate it. In the US, mildions of dollars were used to pump out the entire water from an aquifer, decontaminate it and then pump it back in the aquifer "said Sinha."

So what is the solution? Experts claimed that only a large scale systematic recharge and conservation programmes of the Aravallis could address a part of the challenge. Water management both at the local level and policy level could work. We also need a large-scale public participation," said Manoj Misra of Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan.

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## Andhra, Telangana agree to share water

It is Telangana's responsibility to meet the drinking water needs of Hyderabad city, says Board

Though the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) meeting saw sparks fly on issues such as diversion of Godavari water, the Board made Andhra Pradesh and Telangana agree on sharing the available water in the ratio of 66:34.

In its seventh meeting lasting over four hours here on Saturday, the Board decided to refer the issue of water diversion through Pattiseema to an expert committee, to try a novel initiative on quantifying the water being availed through minor irrigation sources and also to set up a sub-committee for an in-depth study into water

In the presence of top offi-



Taking stock: Officials after a meeting of the Krishna River Management Board in Hyderabad. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cials of the Irrigation departments of the two States, the KRMB officials assessed the water in common reservoirs Srisailam and Nagarjunasagar – as on November 4 at 330 tmc ft. Of this, A.P. would get 217.8 tmc ft and Telangana 112.2 tmc ft with

priority for drinking water and then irrigation.

Speaking after the meeting, KRMB chairman S .K. Srivatsava reiterated that the drinking water needs of Hy-derabad city – the common capital for A.P. and Telangana for a period of 10 years

as per the provisions of the A.P. Reorganisation Act should be met by Telangana since the city falls in the geographical area of Telangana. 'It is the obligation of Telangana and not of A.P. as the city is located in the former's territory and practically Hyderabad is the capital of Telangana," he said.

'No tampering'

The Board also looked into the issue of alleged tampering of telemetry equipment to show less drawals of water from Pothireddypadu head regulator by A.P. than the actual drawals by stating that the agency concerned was only engaged in calibrating the equipment as part of tri-als. "The equipment in-stalled at 18 locations is yet to

be commissioned although there were allegations of tampering at four locations. It's only a misunderstanding since the consent of the two States is taken before they are commissioned," Mr. Srivatsava said

Meanwhile, A.P. officials were understood to have strongly objected to Telangana's attempt to bring the issue of Pattiseema in the KRMB meeting every time, although it has no authority

to take up the matter.
Mr. Srivatsava said the issue of Godavari water diversion was linked to completion of Polavaram project. The board, however, did not discuss the issue of power generation at Srisailam as the Board Chairman put it as "accrual of incidental benefit".

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### **Eight key steps to cleaner rivers** and higher green cover

### Isha Foundation Submits Draft Recommendations For Green Project To PM Modi

the streamhed.

...trees can revive our rivers...

network of well-connected, minuscule channels

Trees help rainwater seep into soil several hundred times faster

because living and decaying roots make soil porous by creating a

sideways. This kind of underground water flow, called **base flow**, can feed streams and rivers wherever the water table intersects

Water absorbed by soil can percolate both downward and

Overland

Vishwa.Mohan@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The water available to each Indian in 2011 was 70% less than in 1951, and it will reduce further by 2050. Rising population is partly the reason, but dying rivers and depleted groundwater have made the situation worse. Underlining the crisis. Isha Foundation led by Sadhguru has released a de tailed draft outlining how the country can save its rivers through massive riverside af-

forestation.
The 760-page draft, which Sadhguru submitted to the Prime Minister in October. recommends several measures but its thrust is on augmenting water supply to the rivers through riverside plantation. It has been shared with the ministries of water resources and environment. as well as with the government's think-tank Niti Aayog. "We have been examining

them are, in fact, part of the Centre's National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for conserving 30 major rivers across the country," an official told **TOI**. "Their draft's focus is on revitalising rivers through afforestation under a holistic policy framework, and this is where we need to work with all stakeholders, including states."

all the suggestions. Most of

The draft explains how planting trees all along a river, to a distance of at least 1 km on both sides, can revitalise it. The policy recommendations go into the details of doing it without affecting the livelihood of people living along rivers and encouraging farmers to switch to tree-based agriculture with incentives and financial linkages.

Sadhguru himself explains in the preface that the draft policy recommendation is an effort to make the solution into an economic policy with significant ecological impact". The draft is

### **REVIVING WATER BODIES**

#### Availability of water in India has reduced to less than a

third in the past 65 years...

Water availability in India

(per person, per year in million liters)









### ... how to make it happen, key recommendations

- > On public land, plant native and local trees for at least 1km on both sides of rivers
- On private land. allow only agro-forestry within 1km of rivers
- > Incentivise farmers for planting trees instead of crops
- minimum flow of the river till the sea coast
- > Prohibit use of
- chemical fertilisers and pesticides in floodplains
- > Set strict rules for ➤ Maintain the natural municipal sewage. agricultural run-off and sand mining along rivers
- Declare land along rivers an ecologically sensitive zone
- ➤ Make microirrigation compulsory as 75% of freshwater is

also in sync with his appeal to move towards making a law that will treat rivers, water bodies and soil as national treasure.

Former Union water secretary Shashi Shekhar, who consulted on the Foundation's draft, told TOI the gigantic task of river revitalisation cannot be done by the government alone and is where private participa-tion and organisations like Isha Foundation can play an important role.

Shekhar, who was in-strumental in framing the government's ambitious



'Namami Gange gramme during his tenure in the ministry, initially disagreed with the Foundation's preliminary draft as it did not place enough emphasis on ecological flow of rivers and their catchment area. "Idea of tree plantation is good. Though it won't solve the entire problem, it would certainly save the floodplains from encroach-ments and it's important to save the river ecosystem." he said.

He suggested the Foundation create a public trust headed by an eminent person to generate funds through

public donations for river revitalisation programmes and work for saving the riv ers through policy assistance from the government. "Campaigns like 'Rally for Rivers' are good for creating aware ness and building a criti-cal mass for the task," said Shekhar.

Other river experts also said the draft is simplistic but appreciated the effort the Foundation has put into it. "It is based on a predetermined and too simplistic a solution to a pretty complex entity (river) and a vexed is

The 760-page draft, which Sadhguru submitted to the PM early this month. recommends several steps but its thrust is on augmenting water supply to the rivers through riverside plantation

sue (its degradation)," said Manoj Misra of Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan, who studied the document in its entirety. "I must say that a lot of effort has gone into its research and compilation and its in-tent and sincerity cannot be

doubted," he added.

The Isha Foundation is, meanwhile, gathering feedback and contributions from across the country. It will in-corporate the scientifically validated suggestions in the next draft which is expected to be released after three months.

"We have been getting inputs from individual scien tists from various technical institutions, including the IITs and National Institute of Hydrology. It would have been better if those institutions took ownership of such inputs so that our technical team could discuss them fur ther and make them part of the policy document." said a functionary.

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### Linking superbugs to the Ganges

Even pristine upper reaches of the river are not immune to 'antibiotics-resistant bacterial pollution'



VICTOR MALLET

The Ganges/Ganga is known as a wondrous river of legend and history whose epithets in Sanskrit texts include 'eternally pure', writes Victor Mallet in the introduction to his new book, River of Life, River of Death: The Ganges and India's Future. "Yet the river whose waters and fertile silt have supported the densest populations of humans on earth for millennia is now under threat." Drawing on four years of reporting and research, The financial Times Asia News Editor writes a fascinating account of a trip down this historic river, taking in waters "befouled by sewage and poisoned by pesticides... and bacterial genes that make lethal infections resistant to modern artibiotics." An extract:

It is no secret that visitors to India and other countries in south Asia are frequent victims of stomach bugs jokingly described as 'Delhi belly'. We also know that the immediate cause of the sometimes violent vomitingand diarrhoea that results is poor hygiene. Half of India's 1.3 billion people have no access to even primitive toilets, they defecate in the open, and infections often find their way intofood and water; in fact little of the sewage generated by those who do have toilets is treated in any case; that waste, too, ends up in the Ganges and other waterways. One of my favourite illustrations of the dangers of poor hygiene comes from Atul Gavande, the Indian-American surgeonand writer.

He describes in Being Mortal – his best-seling book on ageing and death - how he came to Varanasi to commit his father's ashes to the Gangesin keeping with Hindu tradition. Since he is a doctor, and since he knew both the ritual actions he would have to perform and the unhygienic state of the river, he carefully dosed himself with antibiotics, hopingto avoid illness from the three spoonfuls of bacteria-filled river water he vas made to drink by the pandit presiding over the ceremony. Instead, he caught Giardia, a parasitic infection not susceptible to his precautionary antibiotics.

What few visitors or residents know, however, is that by travelling



Chain reaction: "The devout are unwittingly spreading diseases, and antibiotic resistance to diseases, in the very river to which they have come to pay homage." • R.V. MOORTHY

to pick up a recently discovered bacterial gene that can make various diseases highly resistant to antibiotic drugs. I stumbled upon reports of this gene – of which the first version is known to scientists as bla NDM-1 and codes for a defence protein called New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase (NDM-I) – while I was researching the 'normal' pollutants such as sewage and industrial waste that sully the Ganges and its tributaries. 'It only takes a short visit and exposure to acquire such genes in your gut,' I was told by David Graham, a Canadian environmental engineering professor at the UK's Newcastle University, who has studied NDM-I in India. 'I'm pretty confident I now carry the gene'. Not surprisingly, he was confident that after four years of living and travelling across south Asia I would be a carrier too.

Vipin Vashishtha, a paediatrician in Bijnor, a town in Uttar Pradesh on the Ganges, described his horror when babies started dying in his hospital in 2009 because bacterial acquisition of bla NDM-I had made infections resistant to antibiotics.

Tales of child deaths in developing countries are distressing enough. But it would be quite wrong to assume that sick people in wealthy, industrialised countries are being spared the



■ River of Life, River of Death: The Ganges and India's Future Victor Mallet Oxford University Press ₹599

be only mildly affected in the future. Many will have heard of dreadful superbugs that spread among hospital patients, including MRSA (Methicil-lin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), which can cause death from septicaemia or blood poisoning.

### Spreading wide

What might a patient's death from a superbug infection in a hospital in New York or London have to do with India, let alone the Ganges? The answer is that the NDM genes that make bacteria highly drug-resistant are being spread across the country in humans and other animals, and through sewers, streams and rivers, and are ultimately transported onwards in people's guts to every part of the world

Of all the academic papers on anti-

most arresting on the subject of the Ganges was written by scientists based in India and the UK. It confirms that NDM-I genes are found in the Yamuna River, a Ganges tributary that runs through Delhi, and in the main stream of the Ganges River. It also shows that high levels of the gene are associated with high levels of faecal coliform bacteria and there fore with the flow of human waste into rivers.

More significantly, the samples demonstrate that the (relatively) pristine reaches of the upper Ganges near Haridwar suffer surges of bacterial pollution and, in turn, *bla* NDM-I pollution during visits by thousands of urban Indians during the May-June pilgrimage season. Devout Hindus, in other words, are unwittingly spreading diseases, and antibiotic resistance to diseases, in the very river to which they have come to pay homage. For Ma Ganga (Mother Ganges) is worshipped as a goddess and is sacred to Hindus worldwide, which is why towns and cities that lie on the river, from Rishikesh and Haridwar to Calcutta by way of Allahabad and Varanasi, have an elevated status in Indian history and culture.

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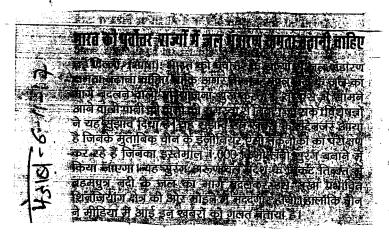
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rajasthanpatrika.com स्थान प्रत्रिका . नई दिल्ली . सोमवार . 06.11.2017

राजस्थान के चीफ इंजीनियरों के बीच वार्ता

प्रत्रिका न्यूज लेटवर्क

त्यागतम् अववारं को हर्ड बैठक में होतों राज्यों हिन के पर सोम्बार सुबह से गांधी सागर से "पानी कोड़ने - पर सहमति जताई।

साधन विभाग के ज्ञीफ रखा कि ग्राजस्थान ने संस्थंप्रदेश के लिए हो अन्हरी पानी दिया इससे अभी तक श्योप्र जिले के हेड क्षेत्र के खेतों में ही मलेवा है हुआ है। अनुमान के मुताबिक अभी ज्ञांक मध्यप्रदेश में एक लाख हैक्टेयर से जी कम खेतें।

पानी पहुंचा है। भिंड-मुरैना मध्यस्थता में एसपी- अध उच्च अधेन के किसानों को सरसों की फसल के लिए पानी नहीं मिलेगा तो वे बुबाद हो जाएँग। ऐसे में सरस्के के सिवाई के लिए पानी महुचार कुल्ला आयमिकता है। अगर हम्बद्धस्ती के लिए उन्हें - नहरी मानी नहीं दे सकते ती गह बद्ध गार्थ सम्म से यानी " के लिए कहा से द पाएँ।" इस पर राजस्थान के जोफ में कर्मिजाहक संभागीय इंजीनियर ड्वीथमल खीधरी ने महिल हो परिता सकी अभिनेत्रपुरिशकी मांग के खुताबिक मुख्यपुरेश व न्याना विपलब्ब कराने का ल साधन आश्वासन वृदया स्थाय क्य आध्यताची को ज्याहमीत बनी कि वर्तमान में दाई मुख्य नहर से मध्यप्रदेश के लिए क्ष्मानी अवयुर्सक यानी छोड़ा जासूहा है। प्रांगला = १० सवस्वर ज्ञाक मध्यप्रदेश को तुपलब्य करान ६का समाला = १०० सहराश्वर सुन अन्यप्रदेश आ प्रमुखता से प्रान्त इस बोरान : नइसी बामता से पानी देना है। वहीं मध्यप्रदेश के अभियताओं ग्रेमांग : गांधी सागर से सुबह पानी छोड़ के मताबिक स्पापी सीमा तक ल्विदया जाएगा। ऐसे में दस नवम्बर राभाना उपलब्धकराने की शर्त के बाद मध्यप्रदेश के लिए जॉल ंप्रवाह बढा दिया जाएगा। बैठक में जिल स्थाधन विभाग राजस्थान के चीफ इंजीनियर ्रह्मीथमल चौधरी, जल संसाधन विभाग के जीफ इंजीनियर केडी ्रसाध्य सध्यप्रदेश-राजस्थान के अंतर हाज्योग मोर्ड के सान्व हेमंत कुमार जीन, मध्यप्रदेश जल जनयत्रण माह भक्त एक्सईएन नवीन गौड, मुरैना के एसई आर पो. झा, दाई मुख्य

नहर के एसई जितेद्र लुहाड़िया

े उपस्थित थे।

Covering L., YIS