

Central Water Commission
Water Systems Engineering Directorate

West Block II, wing No- 5
R K Puram, New Delhi-66
Dated 06.11.2018

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 above.

P. Shah
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SPA (Publicity)

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

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Director, WSE Dte.

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For information to:

Chairman, CWC, New Delhi

Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned, uploaded at www.cwc.gov.in

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 5/11/2018 in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

Mumbai Mirror ✓

Andhra Pradesh gets Rs 1,250 Cr World Bank loan for agriculture project in climate vulnerable districts

By P Pavan, Mumbai Mirror | Nov 5, 2018, 10.46 PM IST



Representational Image

Hyderabad: Andhra Pradesh got around Rs 1,255 crore World Bank loan assistance for a project aiming at enhancing agricultural productivity.

The central government, state government and World Bank on Monday signed the loan agreement for a \$172.20 million project to enhance agricultural productivity, profitability and climate resilience of about two lakh poor and marginalised farmers in the state, while ensuring that farming continues to remain a financially viable activity.

The AP Integrated Irrigation and Agriculture Transformation Project (APIIATP) will be implemented in rural areas largely dependent upon rain-fed agriculture. It will strengthen the resilience of poor and marginalised farmers against adverse climate events by improving access to irrigation, drought seed varieties and post-harvest technology that are aimed at improving soil health, water-use efficiency and crop productivity, according to a media release.

The project aims to work with 1,000 small-scale community-based irrigation (SSCBI) systems spread over an area of 90,000 hectares in 1,000 villages across 12 most climate vulnerable districts of Andhra Pradesh. In the recent years, climate variability has seriously affected agriculture in Andhra, where farming is largely dominated by farmers with landholdings of less than two hectares. Farmers have low crop productivity and over 55 percent of farms are dependent on rainfall. Deterioration in the quality of natural resources has affected the state's agricultural performance.

Speaking after signing the agreement, World Bank country director Junaid Ahmed said, "Strategic shifts are needed for India to transform its agriculture into a modern and resilient system, where the rural poor farmer, largely dependent on rain-fed agriculture, is able to use more climate-resilient farming technologies and conserve water, a scarce resource." He said the project would support the state's strategic shift that puts climate resilience at the core of agricultural growth and rural development.

The agreement was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare, additional secretary in the department of economic affairs (finance ministry), APIIATP state project director PS Raghavaiah and Junaid Ahmed.

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The Hans India ✓

POLAVARAM PROJECT SET TO CROSS A NEW MILESTONE

OUR BUREAU

Amaravati: Polavaram project, billed as Andhra's lifeline, will cross an important milestone on December 17 when 48 radial gates would be fixed to it.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu during his 80th review meeting on Polavaram project at Secretariat on Monday, directed the officials to speed up the works to launch erection of gates on the appointed day.

The officials apprised Naidu that main works related to coffer dam, spill channel and approach channel will be completed by the end of April next year. The main contractors of Polavaram project - Navayuga - informed the Chief Minister that they were going to set a world record in executing major portion of concrete works per day. They explained that they have been using the machinery to produce more than 10-lakh cubic metres of concrete per month.

The officials explained to the Chief Minister that the concrete works have been going on at a rapid pace. Stating that the construction of Polavaram should make history in construction of



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu holding a review meeting on Polavaram at Grievance Hall at Undavalli on Monday

irrigation projects across the world, Chandrababu Naidu said that officials should maintain records to establish that Polavaram was a project which had been executed in the shortest possible time.

The officials informed him that 60.33 per cent of total project works had been completed. When it comes to the soil excavation,

more than 80 per cent of works were over and as regards concrete works, the completion percentage was 45.

Nearly 90 per cent of right main canal works have been completed whereas the progress in respect of the left main canal was about 65 per cent and fabrication of radial gates works was 62 per cent.

Officials further informed that the works related to resettlement and rehabilitation for project-affected people were under progress. More than 46 per cent of rehabilitation works in 17 colonies in East Godavari and 42 per cent works at 29 colonies in West Godavari districts had been completed.

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Polavaram project set to cross a new milestone

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Earlier, the Chief Minister enquired with the officials as to how the approach roads had broken up into long ribbons. The officials informed that there was no connection between the damage to the approach road and the project. They said the approach road caved in due to recent rainfall and it was not related to blasting

works near the project. The Chief Minister directed the officials to invite soil testing experts to examine the reasons for the damage of approach road. He asked them to submit a detailed report on the damage of the road. The Chief Minister directed the Tourism officials to prepare proposals to make Polavaram as an international tourist destination.

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

Early snowfall affects Kashmir's fruit industry

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 5

SNOW IN Kashmir has hit the fruit and horticulture industry, with the Valley's top trade body pegging the damage at Rs 500 crore. The snowfall, which began on Saturday, has damaged fruit crop in several parts of the Valley, with fruit associations saying that around 20 percent of the crops was unharvested.

"After receiving the preliminary inputs from the districts, we believe that loss to the industry is over Rs 500 crores the exact details will be known after a proper assessment," Sheikh Aashiq Ahmad, president of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), told *The Indian Express*.

Authorities have said they are in the process of assessing the damage to apples orchards. Horticulture Kashmir director Manzoor Ahmad Quadri told *The Indian Express* that the process is on. "This is true that snowfall has caused damage to the orchards. But how much...we are collecting reports from the ground. It may take one week (to get the complete details)," he said.

On Monday, Sheri-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology issued an advisory for the orchards affected by the snowfall, detailing steps for farmers "to protect the produce from damage".

Meanwhile, the KCCI issued a statement on Monday, questioning why the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) - the Central government crop insurance scheme - hasn't been implemented in the Valley so far.

"The KCCI is happy to learn that the Crop Insurance Scheme is operational in Jammu province since Kharif 2017, but at the same time anguished that being more prone to the vagaries of nature, Kashmir stands ignored in this regard," the statement said.

The Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers cum Dealers Union (KVFG), an apex body of fruit

Jammu-Srinagar highway reopens after landslide

Banihal: The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was reopened for traffic on Monday evening, hours after a massive landslide blocked the all-weather road in Ramban district, a senior police officer said.

The landslide struck the 270-km highway around 730 am near Battery Chashma along the Banihal-Ramban stretch, blocking the road which connects Kashmir to the rest of the country.

"After an over 11-hour long clearance operation, the road was opened for traffic and the stranded vehicles from both sides were allowed to move towards their destinations," Ramban Senior Superintendent of Police Anita Sharma told PTI.

She said a truck transporting apples is feared to have got caught in the landslide and rolled down into a 600-foot gorge near the site.

The fate of its occupants is not known yet, she said. **PTI**

associations, said the recent snowfall has destroyed "entire fruits crop and uprooted fruit plant in all fruit orchards in the Valley". This body too has demanded administration should consider grant of compensation of the losses of thousands of crores of rupees due to heavy snowfall.

"The snowfall has damaged the apple trees badly. For a fruit grower, it is not the loss this year only, but for coming years as well because trees are badly damaged," Basheer Ahmad Basheer, chairman of KVFG told *The Indian Express*.

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Ozone layer is 4-6 recovering, says UN

Healing at a rate of 1-3% per decade

REUTERS
GENEVA

The ozone layer that shields life from cancer-causing solar rays is recovering at a rate of one to three percent per decade, reversing years of dangerous depletion caused by the release of harmful chemicals, a UN study said on Monday.

The four-yearly review of the Montreal Protocol, a 1987 ban on man-made gases that damage the fragile high-altitude ozone layer, found long-term decreases in the atmospheric abundance of controlled ozone-depleting substances and the ongoing recovery of stratospheric ozone.

"The Antarctic ozone hole is recovering, while continuing to occur every year. As a result of the Montreal Protocol much more severe ozone depletion in the polar regions has been avoided," the report said.

Antarctic ozone hole

The Antarctic ozone hole was expected to gradually close, returning to 1980 levels in the 2060s, the report said.

"Evidence presented by

the authors shows that the ozone layer in parts of the stratosphere has recovered at a rate of 1-3% per decade since 2000," UN Environment and the World Meteorological Organization said in a statement.

"At projected rates, Northern Hemisphere and mid-latitude ozone is scheduled to heal completely by the 2030s followed by the Southern Hemisphere in the 2050s and polar regions by 2060."

The UN had already hailed the success of the Protocol, which banned or phased out ozone depleting chemicals, including chlorofluorocarbons once used in refrigerators and spray cans, but the report said it was the first time that there were emerging indications that the Antarctic ozone hole had diminished in size and depth since 2000.

However, while most of the banned gases have been phased out, the report found at least one violation of the protocol: an unexpected increase in production and emissions of CFC-11 from eastern Asia since 2012.

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Met Dept forecasts cool end to week H-6

Mercury may fall by 3-5 degrees Celsius

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Due to the thick haze that hung over the city throughout Monday, the maximum temperature fell to 25.8 degrees Celsius, five notches below normal.

The minimum temperature was recorded at 14.8 degrees Celsius — although normal for the season, it is the coldest temperature recorded this season so far.

The Meteorological Department has forecast that minimum temperatures are likely to fall by 3-5 degrees Celsius in Delhi and surrounding areas over the next few days.

Low visibility

Visibility was 1,000 metres at 5.30 a.m. on Monday, which dropped to 500 metres at 8.30 a.m.

It again improved to 800 metres at 11.30 a.m.

The humidity oscillated between 96% and 49%.

Shallow to moderate fog along with northwesterly winds with speed of 8-10 kmph are likely to prevail in the region, stated the Met Department.

Capital weather

It added that a feeble western disturbance is likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir from November 9, which may also impact the weather in the Capital.

Delhi can expect a clear sky with mist/shallow fog in the morning on Tuesday, the weatherman said.

The minimum and maximum temperatures are likely to be around 27 and 12 degrees Celsius, respectively.

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Nov snow hits apple orchards in Valley

Mir Ehsan

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

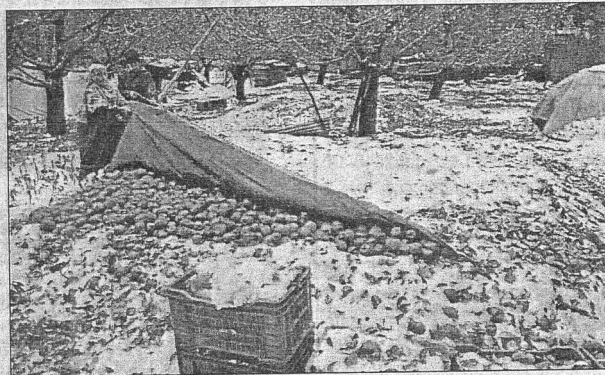
SRINAGAR: The first November snowfall in Kashmir since 2009 on Saturday has caused widespread damage to the mainstay of the Valley economy – horticulture.

All Valley Fruit Growers Association chairman Bashir Ahmad Bhat said almost 20% of the apple crop may have been damaged in South Kashmir alone and put the estimated loss at ₹1,000 crore.

State horticulture director Manzoor Qadri said the department was still assessing the damages. Fruit growers had suffered “heavy damages”, he added.

The snowfall plunged Kashmir into darkness, forced closure of the lifeline Srinagar-Jammu national highway and disrupted air traffic besides damaging orchards while the apple harvest was yet to be completed.

An estimated 2.5 million out of Kashmir's seven million people are believed to be directly or indirectly dependent on horticulture,



■ A woman shows apples that fell from tress due to heavy snowfall at Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama on Monday.

WASEEM ANDRABI/ HT

which has an annual turnover of ₹5,000 to 6,000 crore.

Orchardist Ghulam Nabi Dar, 65, called the snowfall “a catastrophe” and said he had lost over 60 trees at Below in South Kashmir's Pulwama. “...my earning will come down to mere 20 to 30%. I do not know how my family will survive as the apple orchard is my only livelihood. A tree takes

two decades to mature and the snowfall has ruined our hard work of years.”

Dar's neighbour, Khurshid Ahmad, said he lost at least 25 apple trees, which would have fetched him around ₹1 lakh.

“I have a loan of ₹2 lakh and I was planning to repay it within the next two-three years. I do not know what I will do now.”

In North Kashmir's Kupwara, fruit grower Farooq Ahmad Malik said he lost 250 boxes of apples.

“I had delayed harvest due to Diwali as it fetches good rates during the festival season. Unfortunately, I lost all the harvest, which is now under snow.”

Bhat said almost 20% of the apple crop was yet to be plucked when it began snowing in South Kashmir.

“We have lost hundreds of apple-bearing trees,” he said. Bhat sought compensation for the orchardists, who have suffered heavy losses. He added their calls for crop cover over the last two decades had gone unheard.

Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries president Ashiq Hussain said the fruit growers would have not been hit so hard had apple orchards been covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna.

Qadri said some orchards in Anantnag and Shopian had lost 60 to 70% fruit-bearing capacity.