

भारत सरकार  
Government of India  
केन्द्रीय जल आयोग  
Central Water Commission  
बाढ़ पूर्वानुमान प्रबोधन निदेशालय  
Flood Forecast Monitoring Directorate

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R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066.

विषय : दिनांक 7/8/18 की समाचार की कतरन ( News Clippings ) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचारों की कतरन ( News Clippings ) अवलोकन हेतु प्रस्तुत हैं :

संलग्न : उपरोक्तानुसार

हार्मल 7/8/18  
( सहायक निदेशक )

उपनिदेशक हार्मल 7/8/18

निदेशक (वा.पू.प्र.) 2102-18  
07/08/2018

कृपया केन्द्रीय जल आयोग की वेब साईट पर अपलोड करने की व्यवस्था करें।

उप निदेशक (त.प्र.) फिक्क  
7/8/18  
रमेश  
7/8

निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रमुख)



06/08/2018 The Telegraph (Kolkata)

# Epicentre of monsoon on overdrive

RITH BASU

**Alipore:** The spells of rainfall that poured water over your weekend plans aren't stopping anytime soon because Calcutta is currently in the eye of the monsoon trough, a position made more daunting by a low-pressure area in the making.

Streets were flooded and traffic was reduced to a crawl on Sunday as the skies opened up intermittently since the previous night. The weather office has forecast more of the same in the next two days.

The most intense spells of rain were restricted to central Calcutta and New Market, which recorded 80mm of rain from midnight till 5.30pm on Sunday. More than 50mm came down in just one hour from 12.15pm.

Ballygunge wasn't too far behind with 59.4mm of rain from midnight till 5.30pm. But most other places received less rainfall. Ultadanga in the north had 30.5mm during the same period while Patuli deep in the south recorded only 9.4mm.

Howrah also reported a downpour, with Shibpur receiving 77.5mm.

"We had a cyclonic circulation spread over Bangladesh and neighbouring Gangetic Bengal to go with the monsoon trough passing right over the city. This led to the formation of tall thunderclouds. We expect more rain in Calcutta and the rest of Bengal over the next two days because the cyclonic circulation is intensifying into a low-pressure area," said Sanjib Bandyopadhyay, the deputy director-general of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Calcutta.

The downpour from around 12.30pm left central and parts of south Calcutta swimming in misery. Strand Road and MG Road were in knee-deep water. Waterlogging was also reported in the area around North Port police station, on CIT Road near Rabindra Sarani, CR Avenue and Eden Hospital Road, Amherst Street, College Street, Hatibagan, Thanthania Kalibari, RN Mukherjee Road, JN Road, Amir Ali Avenue, Rashbehari Avenue near Bijan Setu,

Darga Road, the Bypass near Science City and parts of the Park Circus connector.

A motorist who had stepped out of his Tallah Park home at 1.55pm reached Chandni Chowk after an hour and five minutes, a distance he usually covers in 20 minutes on a Sunday. "There was knee-deep water on Central Avenue near MG Road. The curvature of the road spared the middle portion a little and so all vehicles were moving single file through this corridor," he

said.

The rain forced many people to cancel planned outings. "We had planned to have lunch outside but the heavy rain made us cancel our plan," said Ballygunge resident Sanjib Mukherjee, whose elder brother and sister-in-law are visiting him.

According to the weather office, the city's proximity to the monsoon trough makes heavy rain a possibility in bursts throughout the next 48 hours.

The monsoon trough is an imaginary line that joins low-pressure points across the breadth of the country. On Sunday, it was passing through Jammu, Chandigarh, Hardoi, Patna, Dumka, Calcutta and northeast Bay of Bengal.

Troughs and cyclonic circulations have atmospheric pressure lower than their surroundings, which is why they draw air towards themselves. Their current position is making the two active systems in-

ject moisture-laden air from the Bay of Bengal into land, leading to cloud formation and rainfall.

Bandyopadhyay said the cyclonic circulation would shift its position while intensifying. It is tipped to move to the northwest Bay of Bengal, which is near the Odisha coast, from over Bangladesh and adjoining Bengal.

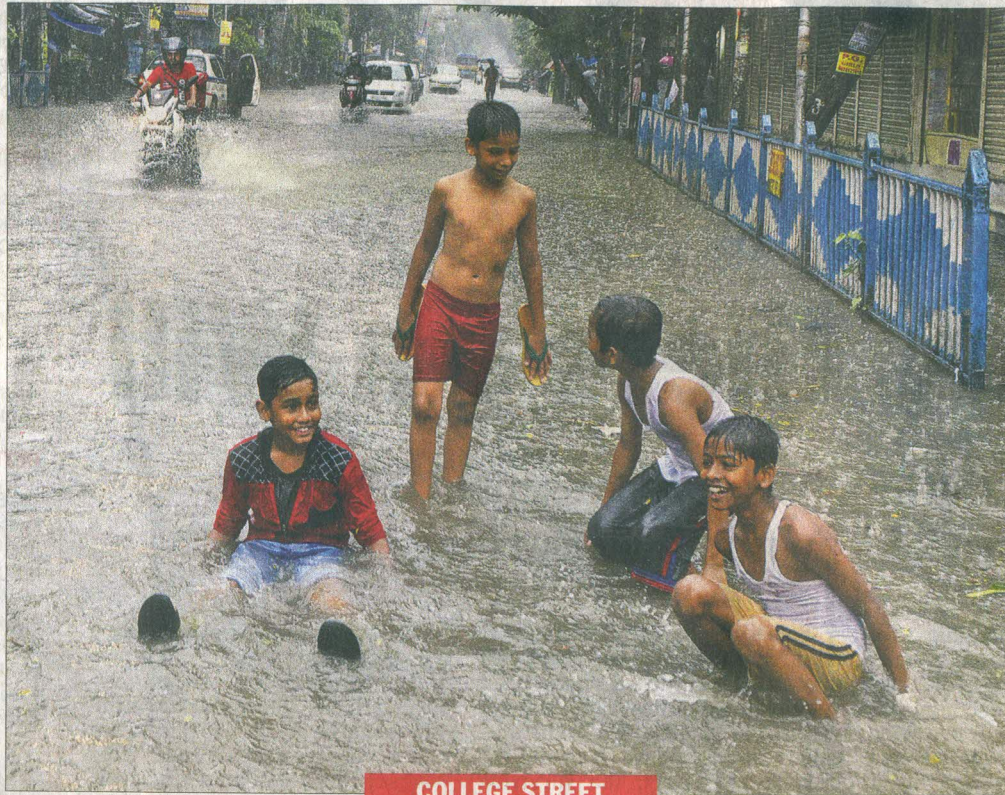
"We will be able to predict rainfall more precisely after the low-pressure area forms and we get to know its posi-

tion," the IMD deputy director-general said.

The weather office has forecast moderate rainfall — 20 to 59mm in 24 hours — on Monday and Tuesday. Heavier spells in one or two pockets of the city are not ruled out.

The skies have been cloudy since July 21, the longest sunshine phase being the five-hour one on Saturday. The skies are likely to remain "mainly cloudy" over the next two days, a weather scientist said.

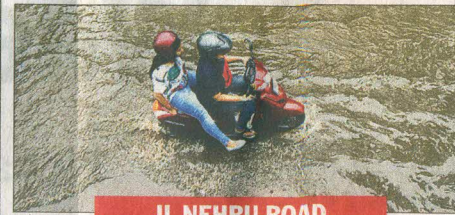
## WATERLOGGING WOES ACROSS CITY



COLLEGE STREET



PARK STREET FLYOVER



JL NEHRU ROAD



NEAR MOHAMMED ALI PARK



PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

Pictures by Gautam Bose, Bishwarup Dutta and Sanjoy Chattopadhyaya



दिनांक 6.2.18.... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times ( Delhi )  
नवभारत 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 ( Bengluru )  
The Deccan Chronical ( Hyderabad )  
Central Chronical ( Bhopal )

# + Impact study to be done on Noyyal rejuvenation scheme

Will cover four forest ranges through which the river flows

WILSON THOMAS  
COIMBATORE

The Forest Department will conduct an impact study on the efforts being taken to rejuvenate river Noyyal under the ongoing Noyyal Rejuvenation Programme, a Nabard funded initiative.

The study will assess the volume of water percolating into the ground through the trenches dug up alongside 32 streams that are connected to the Noyyal and the amount of silt the streams carry into the river.

The study will be done simultaneously in four forest ranges – Madukkarai, Pooluvampatti, Periyanaickenpalayam and Coimbatore – through which the river flows.

“The impact study will assess the volume of water recharged by the 5,000 trenches and the percolation ponds. Similarly, the amount



**Saving a lifeline:** The study will assess the volume of water percolating into the ground via trenches dug up alongside 32 streams and the quantum of silt that the streams carry.

of silt prevented with the help of the gabion structures that are put in place along the streams will be assessed. The District Forest Officers have been directed to submit reports,” said Deepak Srivastava, Chief Conservator of

Forests, Coimbatore Circle.

He said that 5,000 trenches had been made in 250 hectares for the rejuvenation programme.

The gabion structures are made of loose boulders stacked using wire mesh.

These structures, also known as gully plugs, arrest the silt that is carried by the streams to the river. Apart from these, 10 check dams are also constructed to recharge the groundwater.

## Major threat

“Silt accumulation is a major threat to the river. The gabion structures work as natural filters,” said Mr. Srivastava.

For improving the local biodiversity, seeds of stylo grass were sown near the trenches. The grass also becomes fodder for animals like deer and elephant.

While ₹2.42 crore was allotted for the rejuvenation programme for the year 2017-18, the allocation for 2018-19 is ₹2.74 crore.

A similar rejuvenation programme for the Vaigai river is being carried out in Madurai and Theni districts.



04/08/2018 The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)



Villagers shift to safer places from a flood affected area in Golaghat district on Friday. – UB Photos

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 2018

## Jorabat submerged, communication hit



Part of the submerged area at Jorabat. – Photo: Jorabat ANN Service

### CORRESPONDENT

JORABAT, Aug 3: A flash flood hit Jorabat this afternoon, totally submerging the National Highway-37 and disrupting communication.

Following a heavy downpour, the streets became slushy and storm water entered homes. Motorists struggled to cross the inundated areas on the national highway.

A family travelling in a Mahindra Bolero was stranded in the midst of waist-deep water when the vehicle got stuck in the floodwaters. There were two women among the passengers. A number of two-wheelers were also caught in the sudden deluge. A few ambulances struggled to navigate

rabat tri-junction and the area in front of the North East Cancer Hospital and Research Institute. The inundation of the busy NH-led to massive traffic snarls.

Flash floods have been a recurring problem in the Jorabat area, affecting business establishments and commuters. "Even the Deputy Commissioner had visited the area to take stock of the flash flood scenario, but no work has been done to put an end to our misery," a local resident complained.

Jatindra Nath Deka, president of the Dimoria unit of the AASU, called for adequate attention to the problem of flash floods and demanded action against business establishments encroaching on government land.

A few months back, the Sonapur Circle Officer had conducted an eviction drive in and around Jorabat. A joint survey was also done, but there was no follow-up action. Deka reiterated that no master plan is needed to resolve the issue. Just a strong initiative to clear encroachment on the drainage system and scientific construction of drains will relieve the residents of the flood menace, he maintained.

Local residents have



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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Dated 7.8.2018


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.


 7.8.18  
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director TD Dte, & Publication Division

  
7/8/18

Director TD Dte

  
7/8

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



Hindustan Times  
Statesman  
The Times of India (N.D.)  
Indian Express  
Tribune  
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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)  
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
The Hindu  
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Deccan Chronicle  
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M.P.Chronicle  
Aaj (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Business standard

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

## CRISIL SME TRACKER

# Food-processing SMEs key to job creation in large agrarian states

CRISIL'S ANALYSIS OF MORE THAN 750 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the food processing sector shows that large agrarian states are yet to tap their full potential in terms of employment creation.

CRISIL-rated food processing SMEs in most agrarian states have fewer than 21 employees per unit, versus more than 27 for others.

Food-processing SMEs typically include grain mills, manufacturers of fruit juice, sauces and pulp, cashew processing units, and oil mills.

Agrarian states have a higher percentage of working age population, a chunk of it based in rural areas. SMEs here face challenges such as small operations and limited access to storage, transportation and warehousing.

Additionally, low specialisation and undifferentiated products constrain their ability to increase market share. They also lack access to skilled labour relevant to the food processing industry.

As a result, SMEs struggle to scale up and expand their employee base.

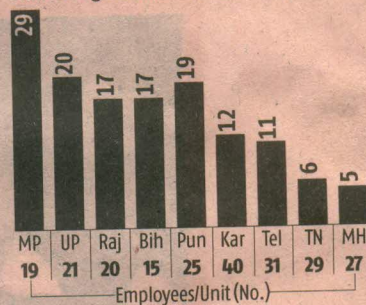
In the past decade, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have been able to attract investments from large food processing companies, but investments in food-processing SMEs have been limited.

Targeted investments through sector-specific infrastructure development assistance, awareness workshops and skilling programmes for manpower in food processing units can have long-term benefits.

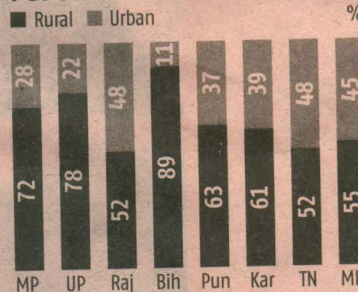
Such initiatives will improve their ability to attract skilled manpower and

## EMPLOYMENT IN FOOD PROCESSING UNITS vs SHARE OF AGRI & ALLIED IN GSDP

Share of agri & allied in GSDP\* (%)



## SHARE OF RURAL & URBAN POPULATION IN KEY STATES



Sources: Directorate of economics and statistics, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, and CRISIL estimates; Census data prior to the creation of Telangana  
\*GSDP: Gross State Domestic Product

also address the rural-urban employment gap to some extent.

A policy to attract investments into food-processing SMEs is thus imperative.



Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

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# UP sugar mills press for incentive of ₹40/quintal

**VIRENDRA SINGH RAWAT**

Lucknow, 6 August

The Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mills Association (UPSMA) wrote a letter to the chief minister on Monday, reiterating an earlier plea for a financial rescue package.

This comes four days after the promoters of top mills in the state met the CM with a plea for a bailout package to settle the ₹110 billion in payments backlog to sugarcane farmers. Their letter pleads for urgency, with the next cane crushing season approaching.

In the letter Association president C B Patodia says "token assistance" from the state would not solve the problem. Instead, doing so "would rather complicate the already complex issue for the next season as well".

The Association has reiterated its request for a ₹40 a quintal incentive on cane crushed by private sector mills during the recently concluded 2017-18 crushing season. The millers say their paying capacity was impaired due to less return from sale of sugar and byproducts, against a comparatively higher cost of production. As a result, banks are not giving them loans, given the huge payment liabilities and unsold stock. So, they are unable to do the necessary repair works in preparation for the next season.

Last week, the state government had directed millers to start crushing operations

## LOWDOWN ON UP SUGAR SECTOR

■ Record production of 12 million tonnes registered in 2017-18 season

■ Mills procured sugarcane worth ₹354 billion from farmers last season

■ State cane price among highest at ₹315/quintal

(common variety) last season

■ Mills, primarily private ones, carrying farmers' arrears of ₹110 billion

■ Sugarcane acreage estimated to rise 10% to 2.3 million hectares in 2018-19

(the next season officially begins October 1) in a phase-wise manner, with Western UP units taking the lead from October 15, so that cane farmers could empty their fields for the rabi (winter) crop, especially sowing of wheat.

A meeting between the government's chief secretary and sugar industry representatives was earlier reported as likely on Monday but did not happen.

The Association also blames the sugar sale quota system introduced by the Centre for large unsold inventories with UP mills. This stock, they say would not be exhausted till end-February 2019 but the new crushing season would have added new stock by then, their letter says.

According to sources, the government could announce some package for the industry in a day or two. UP's estimated sugar production in a season is ₹400 billion (including sugar and byproducts), apart from the byproducts. In

an election, year, the government would not like to antagonise the four million farmer households engaged in cane farming. UP is the country's largest sugarcane and sugar producer.

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India had told banks to put the sugar industry on a 'Caution List'. This signifies a negative outlook, with a build-up of non-performing assets, apart from other issues.

On Thursday, the promoters and senior officials of Balrampur Chini, Dalmia Bharat, Birla and DCM Shriram, among others, had met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and pleaded for a financial rescue package.

The country's total of sugarcane payment arrears to growers is about ₹170 billion, of which UP's mills account for ₹110 billion. And, another bumper cane crop, and in sugar production, is preicted for the coming season, stoking an existing glut. The export market is also presently non-existent.



Hindustan Times  
Statesman  
The Times of India (N.D.)  
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and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

## COMMODITIES

### PRICE CARD

As on Aug 6

	International Price	%Chg <sup>a</sup>	Domestic Price	%Chg <sup>a</sup>
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#### METALS (\$/tonne)

Aluminium	2,016.0	-13.0	2,322.5	-11.3
Copper	6,167.0	-9.1	7,054.7	-6.0
Nickel	13,130.0	-5.1	14,080.4	-3.4
Lead	2,136.0	-6.1	2,395.1	-1.7
Tin	19,875.0	-7.0	20,540.0	-8.4
Zinc	2,651.0	-10.7	3,135.4	-10.4
Gold (\$/ounce)	1,207.6*	-8.2	1,331.7	-7.7
Silver (\$/ounce)	15.3*	-7.5	17.0	-6.5

#### ENERGY

Crude Oil (\$/bbl)	73.1*	-2.3	72.1	0.7
Natural Gas (\$/mmBtu)	2.8*	4.4	2.8	3.5

#### AGRI COMMODITIES (\$/tonne)

Wheat	247.4	25.7	285.8	10.0
Maize	213.5*	6.9	186.1	6.5
Sugar	325.7*	1.4	494.8	17.0
Palm oil	560.0	-11.1	958.0	-9.8
Rubber	1,468.0*	-11.4	1,901.6	6.0
Coffee Robusta	1,666.0*	-7.9	2,293.5	16.6
Cotton	1,944.0	2.1	2,039.1	11.7

\* As on Aug 6, 181800 hrs IST, # Change Over 3 Months  
Conversion rate 1 USD = 68.9 & 1 Ounce = 31.1032316 grams.

#### Notes:

- 1) International metals, Indian basket crude, Malaysia Palm oil, Wheat LUFFE and Coffee Karnataka robusta pertains to previous days price.
- 2) International metal are LME Spot prices and domestic metal are Mumbai local spot prices except for Steel.
- 3) International Crude oil is Brent crude and Domestic Crude oil is Indian basket.
- 4) International Natural gas is Nymex near month future & domestic natural gas is MOX near month futures.
- 5) International Wheat, White sugar & Coffee Robusta are LUFF E future prices of near month contract.
- 6) International Maize is MATIF near month future, Rubber is Tokyo-TOCOM near month future and Palm oil is Malaysia FOB spot price.
- 7) Domestic Wheat & Maize are NCDEX future prices of near month contract, Palm oil & Rubber are NCDEX spot prices.
- 8) Domestic Coffee is Karnataka robusta and Sugar is M30 Mumbai local spot price.
- 9) International cotton is Cotton no. 2-NYBOT near month future & domestic cotton is MCX Future prices near month futures.

Source: Bloomberg Compiled by BS Research Bureau

# Cotton farmers rattled by bollworm attack

RAJESH BHAYANI  
Mumbai, 6 August

Findings of a survey done by the Cotton Association of India's (CAI's) director Manish Daga suggest that even this kharif season, pink bollworm attack has been witnessed in the last 15 days. This is giving sleepless nights to the state's farmers.

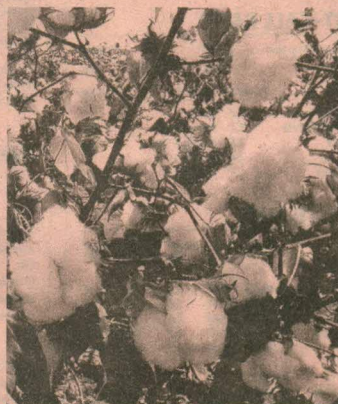
It will potentially cause further damage and follow up measures by the state government are likely to result in a sharp drop in this year's crop. Last year's damage to the crop due to pink bollworm attack is yet to be considered legitimate by the Centre for paying damages to the farmers.

The pink bollworm has been damaging Maharashtra's cotton crop since the last two years.

This time, the Union government has not yet cleared the claims of the Maharashtra cotton farmers hit by bollworm attack.

Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana leader Raju Shetti has asked the Centre to undertake a joint survey with the Maharashtra government before rejecting the farmers' claims due to losses. He said that Maharashtra farmers have suffered a huge loss in the last two years owing to the pink bollworm attack.

There are reports that the Union agriculture department has sought clarification from the Maharashtra government regarding mismatch in the area affected by pest attack and total cotton area under cultivation. An agriculture ministry official said that after the state clar-



## CLAIM CONFLICT

- Centre has not cleared claims of state farmers under the disaster response fund
- It has asked states to provide proper data on arrivals, damages
- Centre doubts genuineness of claims
- Farmers' body says state and Centre should do joint survey as farmers suffered big damages
- Maharashtra has asked farmers to reduce pickings to only two instead of five

ifies, farmers will be given assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). There were reports that the central government feels that the farmers' claims may not be genuine..

Shetty said, "The government's approach for assistance to farmers, who have suffered genuine losses, is not conducive to farmers. Losses due to bollworm have been huge in

the last two years. Even the PM's crop insurance scheme has not helped farmers. In fact, some private insurers give bogus reasons to decline claims. I exposed such a scam in Parabhani where state government will have to suspend 11 officials."

The Union ministry of agriculture has also found mismatches in arrivals and damage figures. However, apart from farmers, even the traders don't buy the Centre's arguments. According to CAI, in the cotton year (October to September) 2016-17, cotton sowing in Maharashtra was done in 3.7 million hectares while production was 8.9 million bales. In 2017-18, the area increased to 4.2 million while the crop fell to 8.2 million bales.

In 2018-19, the initial indication shows that the area would drop to 3.8 million hectares while crop may be even lower at 7.5 to 8 million bales.

Atul Ganatra, president of CAI, said that even the yield in Maharashtra has fallen to lowest in the country.

He said the all-India average yield is 3 bales per hectare while Maharashtra's yield in 2017-18 has been estimated at 2 hectares, which is the lowest. Owing to the pink bollworm attack, farmers faced huge damages and to avoid this, the state has advised them to take only two pickings instead of 4-5 in a year, thus affecting their production and productivity.

Daga found that there was no rain in the last 25 days in most of cotton areas and many farmers diverted from cotton to soybeans or have done re-sowing of cotton.



Hindustan Times  
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■ Pedestrians enjoy rain at Connaught Place.

SONU MEHTA/HT PHOTO

## Light rain settles dust, cleans air

HT Correspondent

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Intermittent drizzle helped improve the air quality in Delhi on Monday. The city's air quality index (AQI), that had been in 'poor' category, once again went up to 'moderate' category after a gap of four days due to the sporadic rain since Sunday afternoon.

The air quality dipped on Thursday after a dust storm hit Oman. The dust travelled over the Arabian Sea to reach north-west India and the NCR due to prevailing wind patterns.

While AQI was recorded at 241 (poor) on Sunday, it improved to 133 (moderate) on Monday. The AQI on Wednesday was 153.

While an AQI between 201 and 301 on a scale of 0 to 500 is considered 'poor', a value between 101 and 200 is considered moderate. In winter, when pollution levels are at their peak, AQI reaches close to 500. An AQI value between 400 and 500 is considered severe.

"The air quality improved after rain washed away most of the pollutants. The level of PM10 (dust particles) that had shot up to 289ug/m3 around 1pm on Sun-

day, came down to 138ug/m3 on Monday around 7pm," said a senior official of the Central Pollution Control Board.

Delhi received around 2.7mm of rain between Sunday and Monday morning. The rain also helped bring down the temperature to 30.1 degrees Celsius, four degrees below normal.

While a western disturbance is approaching, a cyclonic circulation has formed over the region.

Apart from this, the monsoon trough is located close to Delhi and easterly winds are bringing in a lot of moisture.

"These systems would together trigger more rain in Delhi over the next two days. Light to moderate rain is expected to continue intermittently in Delhi and NCR. The sky would remain cloudy," said BP Yadav, deputy director general of the India Meteorological Department.

This is, however, not the first time that pollution levels in Delhi were pushed up by dust storms in west Asian countries. In November 2017, a dust storm in Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had contributed to nearly 40% of the dust in Delhi.



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 07.08.2018. in the

Hindustan Times  
Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.) ✓

Indian Express

Tribune

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Business standard

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# Missing plutonium polluting Ganga? <sup>for 1</sup>

Kautilya Singh

**Dehradun:** In a recent meeting with PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi, Uttarakhand tourism minister Satpal Maharaj referred to the failed 1965 Nanda Devi expedition and expressed his apprehensions that an atomic device that had gone missing over 50 years ago may be polluting waters of the Ganga.

In October 1965, America's Central Intelligence Agency and India's Intelligence Bureau had undertaken a clandestine mission to install a nuclear-powered spying device on the summit of Nanda Devi peak to keep a tab on the Chinese. However,



The source of the plutonium, if it indeed exists, might be a nuclear-powered spying device left behind in 1965 by an IB-CIA team which was on a mission to install it on the summit of the Nanda Devi peak

the team met with a blizzard and had to retreat leaving behind a nuclear-fuelled generator and plutonium capsules with the intention of renewing its attempt at a later date. However, when they return-

ed a few months later, all the equipment, including the stock of plutonium, was gone. It is believed that plutonium capsules have a longevity of over a hundred years and could still be buried

somewhere in the snow.

Termining the issue "one of a grave and pressing nature", Maharaj told the PM that there may be a possibility of radiation from the still-active plutonium capsules polluting the snow trickling down from the Nanda Devi range into the Ganga. "I requested the PM to have the matter studied on a priority basis and take action," he said.

At a presser in Dehradun on Monday, Maharaj claimed he had raised the issue in the past, too, but failed to get the desired results. "There is a strong possibility of a radiation leak and a thorough probe will ascertain whether the river is safe," he said.



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# New tubewells on hold as water table dips sharply

**RUCHIKA M KHANNA**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 6**

The Congress government has put on hold the release of tubewell connections to agricultural consumers, citing a sharp fall in the groundwater level across the state. The decision will affect about 1.5 lakh farmers/landowners, who had been given assurance letters by the previous government for new connections in 2016.

Power Minister Gurpreet Singh Kangar told *The Tribune*, "Issuing new connections would be detrimental to saving groundwater. We have decided that no new AP (agricultural pumpset) connection is to be released, including those to be given to the ruling party's workers in the discretionary quota."

Studies show that of the 138 development blocks assessed for the estimation of groundwater, 110 were found overexploited. The net annual groundwater avail-

ability in Punjab had fallen to (-)12.02 million acre ft (MAF) in 2011, as compared to 0.84 MAF in 1992. A major reason for the fast-depleting water table is believed to be free electricity given to agricultural consumers.

Studies by Ranjit Singh Ghuman, a noted agriculture economist, have shown that the state can save Rs 40,000 million in 2017-18 if free power was restricted up to landholdings of 7.5 acres.

Free power was introduced in February 1997. It continued till October 2002 before being withdrawn. It was restored in September 2005. Officials said only 50,000 consumers, who were issued demand notices and had deposited money with the PSPCL, would be given connections for now. "These consumers will get connections in the next two to three months. For the rest, who got letters from the previous government as a pre-poll sop, we will frame a new policy," said Kangar.



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# Report confirms 2017 was third warmest year

PTI

WASHINGTON, 6 AUGUST

It's official! 2017 was the third-warmest year on record for the planet, just after 2016 and 2015, scientists have confirmed.

According to the 28th annual State of the Climate report, the planet also experienced record-high greenhouse gas concentrations as well as rises in sea level.

The report, published by the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, is based on contributions from more than 500 scientists in 65 countries and offers insight on global climate indicators, extreme weather events and other valuable environmental data.

Led by scientists from US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the report found that levels of greenhouse gases in 2017 were the highest on record.

Major greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere - including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane and nitrous oxide reached new record highs.

The 2017 average global CO<sub>2</sub> concentration was

405 parts per million, the highest measured in the modern 38-year global climate record and records created from ice-core samples dating back as far as 800,000 years.

Sea level rise hit a new high - about 3 inches higher than the 1993 average. Global sea level is rising at an average rate of 1.2 inches per decade.

Heat in the upper ocean hit a record high, reflecting the continued accumulation of thermal energy in the uppermost 2,300 feet of the world's oceans.

Global land and ocean combined surface temperature reached a near-record high. Depending on the dataset, average global surface temperatures were 0.38-0.48 of a degree C above the 1981-2010 average. This marks 2017 as having the second or third warmest annual global temperature since records began in the mid- to late 1800s.

Sea surface temperatures hit a near-record high. Though the global average sea surface temperature in 2017 was slightly below the 2016 value, the long-term trend remained upward.

The global area of

drought fell sharply in early 2017 before rising to above-average values later in the year.

Arctic maximum sea ice coverage fell to a record low. The 2017 maximum coverage of Arctic sea ice was the lowest in the 38-year record.

The September 2017 sea ice minimum was the eighth lowest on record, 25 percent smaller than the long-term average.

The Antarctic also saw record-low sea ice coverage, which remained well below the 1981-2010 average. On March 1, 2017, the sea ice extent fell to 2.1 million square kilometers, the lowest observed daily value in the continuous satellite record that began in 1978.

A global coral bleaching event spanned from June 2014 through May 2017, resulting in unprecedented impacts on reefs. More than 95 per cent of coral in some affected reef areas died.

The total number of tropical cyclones were slightly above average overall. There were 85 named tropical cyclones in 2017, slightly above the 1981-2010 average of 82 storms.



Hindustan Times ✓  
Statesman  
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# Indonesia quake toll rises to 98

**TOURISTS FLEE** Fears of tsunami after powerful temblor strikes archipelago, thousands evacuated

Reuters

letters@hindustantimes.com

**PEMENANG:** Scenes of destruction greeted rescue workers across Indonesia's resort island of Lombok on Monday, after an earthquake of magnitude 6.9 killed at least 98 people and prompted an exodus of tourists rattled by the second powerful quake in a week.

The National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) said it expected the death toll to rise once the rubble of more than 13,000 flattened and damaged houses was cleared away.

Power and communications were severed in some areas, with landslides and a collapsed bridge blocking access to areas around the quake epicentre in the north. The military said it would send a ship with medical aid, supplies and logistics support.

In a message on social network Twitter, the Indonesian Red Cross said it helped a woman give birth after the quake at a health post. One of the names she gave the baby boy was Gempa, which means earthquake.

Lombok was hit on July 29 by a 6.4 magnitude quake that killed 17 people and briefly stranded several hundred trekkers on the slopes of a volcano.

The Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG) said more than 120 aftershocks were recorded after Sunday evening's quake, whose magnitude the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) revised down to 6.9 from an initial 7.0. At that magnitude it released more than five times the energy of the quake a week earlier, the USGS website showed. The dead included no foreign

ers and there were 236 people injured, BNPB spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho told a news conference.

The tremor was powerful enough to be felt on the neighbouring island of Bali where, BNPB said, two people died.

The first quake was also felt on Bali.

Nugroho said more than 20,000 people had been displaced.

Among them were residents of a northern village called Mentigi, who fled to nearby hills. Blue tarpaulins dotted the landscape as people prepared to spend the nights outdoors because of aftershocks or because their homes were destroyed.

"We are getting some aid from volunteers, but we don't have proper tents yet," said a 50-year-old villager sheltering with his wife and children, who gave his name only as Marhun.

Senggigi, a seaside tourist strip on Lombok, wore an abandoned look. Amid collapsed homes, some hotels seemed to have shut, restaurants were empty and beaches deserted.

Long lines formed at the airport of Lombok's main town, Mataram, as foreign visitors cut their holidays short. BNPB said 18 extra flights had been added for leaving tourists.

Officials said more than 2,000 people had been evacuated from the three Gili islands off the northwest coast of Lombok, where fears of a tsunami spread among tourists.

Michelle Thompson, an American holidaying on one of the Gilis, described a "scramble" to get on boats leaving for the main island during which her husband was injured.

## Major Indonesia quakes since 2004

Earthquakes are a common occurrence in the archipelago nation, which is situated on the "Ring of Fire" — a seismically active hotspot encircling the Pacific Ocean



■ People recover a motorcycle from a damaged home in Gunungsari, West Lombok.

REUTERS



### PAST CASES

**DECEMBER 26, 2004**

**9.1-magnitude**

Earthquake strikes off the coast of Sumatra and triggers a tsunami

Death toll: **220,000** throughout the region,

**168,000**

in Indonesia alone

**MARCH 28, 2005**

**8.6-magnitude**

Earthquake strikes off the coast of Sumatra

Death toll **900**

**MAY 26, 2006**

**6.3-magnitude**

Quake rocks a densely populated region of Java

**6000** +

**JULY 17, 2006**

**7.7-magnitude**

Earthquake triggers a tsunami that hits the southwestern coast of Java

**600** +

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2009**

**7.6-magnitude**

Quake hits Padang, a major port on the west coast of Sumatra

**1,100** +

**OCTOBER 25, 2010**

**7.8-magnitude**

Tsunami triggered by earthquake hits Mentawai, off the coast of Sumatra

**430**

**DECEMBER 6, 2016**

**6.5-magnitude**

Shallow quake strikes Aceh province

**100** +



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# Ten more killed, 11 hurt in rain-related incidents in U.P.

## Heavy rain warning in eastern districts of the State

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

**LUCKNOW**

Ten more people were killed and eleven others injured in rain-related incidents in different parts of Uttar Pradesh since Sunday, officials said on Monday.

According to Relief Commissioner's office here, three people were killed in Sultanpur, two each in Bahraich and Mainpuri and one each in Gorakhpur, Unnao and Rampur.

Eleven others were injured in incidents including house collapse, they said.

Meanwhile, light to moderate rain and thundershow-



U.P. has received heavy rain this monsoon. ■PTI

ers occurred at a few places over the eastern region and at few places over western districts of the State, the Met office said.

Farridpur recorded 6 cm

rainfall, followed by Bhinga, Nanpara, Ayodhya (5 cm each), Kakardariyaghat, Bijnor (4 cm each), Birdghat, Katarniaghat, Chanderdeepghat, Puranpur, Nakur, Baheri, Nagina, Saharanpur, Thakurdwara (3 cm each).

The Met office has warned of heavy rain at isolated places in some areas of the eastern districts.

### Rivers in Spate

Major rivers including Sai, Sharda and Ghaghra were flowing at danger levels at Rae Bareilly, Lakhimpur Kheri, Barabanki, Ayodhya and Ballia.



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## India facing worst water crisis: Gadkari

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

The NITI Aayog has mentioned in its report that India is undergoing the worst water crisis in history and nearly 600 million people are facing high-to-extreme water stress.

Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari confirmed this in the Rajya Sabha in a reply to a question during Question Hour. The report titled "Composite Water Management Index", published by the Aayog in June, further mentions that India is placed at 120th among 122 countries in the water quality index, with nearly 70 per cent of water being contaminated.

The data of Composite Water Management Index was validated by an independent data validation agency, IPE Global.

Gadkari said as per the 5th Minor Irrigation Census (with reference year 2013-14) conducted by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, there are 20.52 million wells in the country, which include dugwells, shallow tubewells, medium tubewells and deep tubewells. — TNS



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नजरिया

# गंदे पानी के उपयोग में ही है जल संकट का समाधान H-7

सीवेज के जल का उपयोग करके हम अपनी नदियों को भी  
बचा सकते हैं और प्रदूषण भी कम कर सकते हैं।

वीरेन्द्र कुमार पैन्थूली  
सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता



नदियां जैसे-जैसे आगे बढ़ती हैं, उनमें सीवेज की मात्रा भी बढ़ती जाती है। नतीजतन राह में बाद के राज्यों को प्रदूषित जल मिलता है। आरोप-प्रत्यारोप भी लगते हैं। कावेरी विवाद पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय के तुरंत बाद ही तमिलनाडु ने आरोप लगाया था कि कर्नाटक उसे कावेरी जल को प्रदूषित करके भेजता है। ऐसे ही, नीति आयोग की एक बैठक में हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री ने दिल्ली पर पानी को गंदा करके भेजने का आरोप लगाया था। सीवेज नदियों में जा रहा है, तभी तो हरिद्वार में गंगा का पानी आचमन लायक भी नहीं है। यमुना की स्थिति तो और ही चिंतनीय है। पवित्र नदियों का भी गंदा होना उनके उद्गम से ही शुरू हो जाता है। इस साल तो गंगोत्री में भी सीवेज उपचार संयंत्र लगाया गया है।

इस समय पूरे विश्व में ही, खासकर विकासशील देशों में 80 से 90 प्रतिशत सीवेज बिना उपचार के जल-स्रोतों में डाल दिया जाता है। भारत में केंद्र सरकार भी मानती है कि शहरी क्षेत्रों में ही लगभग 62 प्रतिशत सीवेज सीधे स्थानीय जल प्रणालियों या जल-स्रोतों में डाल दिया जाता है। कहीं-कहीं यह 70 प्रतिशत तक हो सकता है। इससे जल-स्रोत प्रदूषित हो जाते हैं। देश में 75 से 80 प्रतिशत सतही जल का प्रदूषण घरेलू सीवेज के कारण होता है। सीवेज में 99 प्रतिशत से भी ज्यादा जल और बाकी करीब एक प्रतिशत भाग कार्बनिक या अकार्बनिक ठोस का होता है। इसलिए कई देश सीवेज के जल को ज्यादा से ज्यादा प्रदूषण रहित करने की तकनीक विकसित करने में लगे हैं। व्यावसायिक स्तर पर वे इन तकनीक का निर्यात भी कर रहे हैं। कृषि और उद्योगों में उपचारित सीवेज जल को उपयोग में लाया जा रहा है। इजरायल में आधी सिंचाई उपचारित जल से हो रही है। कुछ जगह तो इसे पेयजल बनाने तक शुद्ध किया जा रहा है। लेकिन हमारे यहां ऐसी कोई योजना नहीं दिखती।

भारत के केवल शहरी क्षेत्रों से प्रतिदिन करीब 62,000 एमएलडी सीवेज पैदा होता है। इस हिसाब से हमारे शहरी क्षेत्रों से प्रतिदिन लगभग 560 हजार लाख लीटर पानी बरबाद होता है। जब हर बूंद पानी के उपयोग संरक्षण का मिशन हो, तो केवल शहरी घरों-कारखानों आदि से इतने पानी का बेकार हो जाना पीड़ादायक है। कुछ जिम्मेदारी हम आत्मानुशासन से संभाल सकते हैं। आंकड़े यह भी हैं कि देश में जितना पानी घरों में पहुंचाया

जाता है, उसका 70 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा सीवेज में चला जाता है। भारत में औसतन प्रति व्यक्ति जल की आपूर्ति जब 1,885 लीटर प्रति दिवस थी, तो प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति दिवस सीवेज 1,378 लीटर था। इसमें वह साफ पानी भी होता है, जो हमारे नल खुला छोड़ देने या दाढ़ी बनाते या ब्रश करते समय नल चालू रखने से बह जाता है। इसमें अधिकांश में वह जल होता है, जो हमारे घरों में पीने लायक बनकर पहुंचता है।

जल सुरक्षा और सीवेज जल उपचार का सीधा संबंध है। एक तो उपचारित जल का उपयोग परोक्ष रूप से जल की उपलब्धता बढ़ाता है। दूसरा, तीन चरण तक उपचारित सीवेज जल को जल-स्रोतों में छोड़कर स्रोतों के प्रदूषित होने के जोखिम को कम किया जा सकता है। उपचारित सीवेज जल स्वतः ही जल-स्रोतों में पहुंचने के बाद पुनः उपयोग चक्र में आ जाता है।

**हमारी धरती पर पाया जाने वाला जल इतना  
अमूल्य है कि उसे एक बार ही इस्तेमाल  
करके नहीं गंवाया जा सकता है।**

यह भी देखा गया है कि शहरों के आस-पास के किसान, खासकर सब्जी उगाने वाले, गंदी नालियों का पानी सिंचाई के लिए इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं। कुछ जगहों पर इन्हें खरीदा भी जा रहा है। कुछ इसे सब्जियों को धोने के काम में भी ला रहे हैं। ऐसी सब्जियों के खाने से बीमारियों के खतरे खड़े हो सकते हैं। लेकिन अगर सीवेज जल का उपचार दो चरण तक हो, तो कृषि-कार्यों के लिए इसे उपयोग में लाया जा सकता है। हालांकि यहां भी यह ध्यान रखने की जरूरत है कि उपचार तय मानकों के आधार पर ही होना चाहिए, किसी तरह की कोताही नहीं होनी चाहिए। इसमें बचे हुए प्रदूषण का स्तर इतना भर होना चाहिए कि प्रकृति खुद अपनी प्रक्रियाओं से उनसे उबरने की क्षमता रखे। हमारे पास ज्यादा विकल्प नहीं हैं। जल के इस तरह से उपयोग का काम हमें युद्ध-स्तर पर करना होगा। जल इतना अमूल्य है कि उसे एक बार ही उपयोग करके नहीं गंवाया जा सकता है।

(ये लेखक के अपने विचार हैं)



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# गंगा सफाई की निगरानी को समिति

नई दिल्ली | एजेंसियां

उत्तराखंड के हरिद्वार से लेकर उत्तर प्रदेश के उन्नाव तक गंगा की सफाई पर कड़ी निगरानी और व्यवस्थित रुख रखने की जरूरत है। यह टिप्पणी करते हुए नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल ने सोमवार को गंगा नदी की सफाई की निगरानी के लिए उच्च अधिकार प्राप्त समिति का गठन किया है।

हाईकोर्ट के पूर्व न्यायाधीश की अगुवाई में गठित यह समिति गंगा की सफाई की निगरानी के साथ-साथ

**व्यवस्था**

**4-7**

- समिति त्रैमासिक रिपोर्ट देगी, एक माह में प्रभार संभाल लेगी
- कुछ प्रगति हुई है लेकिन यह आकांक्षाओं को पूरा नहीं करती है

पुनर्जीवित करने के काम का भी देखरेख करेगी। इससे पहले, 27 जुलाई को ट्रिब्यूनल ने अरबों रुपये खर्च होने के बावजूद गंगा की सफाई नहीं होने पर कड़ी नाराजगी जताई थी। साथ ही गंगा की स्थिति को चिंताजनक बताते हुए

कहा था कि हरिद्वार से उन्नाव बीच गंगा का पानी न तो पीने लायक है और न ही नहाने योग्य है। ट्रिब्यूनल ने इसे गंभीरता से लेते हुए राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन को प्रत्येक 100 किलोमीटर के अंतराल पर इस बात का बोर्ड लगाने का निर्देश दिया कि गंगा का पानी न तो पीने लायक है और नहाने लायक।

ट्रिब्यूनल ने अध्यक्ष जस्टिस आदर्श कुमार गौयल, सदस्य जस्टिस जावेद रहीम और एसपी वांगडी की पीठ ने समिति को हर तीन माह पर अपनी रिपोर्ट पेश करने को भी कहा है।



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रक्षा मंत्रालय में अटकी हैलीबॉर्न सर्वे रिपोर्ट को मंजूरी =

# भविष्य की प्यास बुझाने की राह खुली

तापी नदी में पांच  
नए बोर के लिए  
कवायद शुरू

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क  
patrika.com

सुरत. नदी के नीचे बहती नदी के बहाव को समझने के लिए मनपा प्रशासन ने जो हैलीबॉर्न सर्वे कराया था, उसकी रिपोर्ट को रक्षा मंत्रालय ने हरी झंडी दिखा दी है। मंत्रालय से मंजूरी की सूचना मिलते ही मनपा ने तापी नदी में पांच नए बोर के लिए कवायद शुरू कर दी है।

मनपा प्रशासन ने विजन 2040 के तहत भविष्य में पानी की जरूरतों पर रिपोर्ट तैयार की थी। भविष्य में लोगों की प्यास बुझाने के उपाय अभी से करने की जरूरत को देखते हुए हाइड्रोलिक टीम ने पेयजल के



लिए अन्य स्रोतों की खोज शुरू की। तापी के तल के नीचे बह रही भूगर्भ नदी में अकूत भूजल भंडार की संभावनाएं देखते हुए मनपा प्रशासन ने हैदराबाद की एनजीआरआई से एक्वीफर मैपिंग कराई थी। रक्षा मंत्रालय से मंजूरी मिलने के बाद एनजीआरआई ने अप्रैल 2017 में नदी के नीचे बहती नदी के बहाव को मापने का काम शुरू किया और अक्टूबर में हैलीबॉर्न सर्वे पूरा कर लिया। इस रिपोर्ट को प्रकाशित करने से पहले एनजीआरआई ने एक्वीफर मैपिंग से मिला डाटा और उसका

## इस तरह तैयार हुई रिपोर्ट

सर्वे के दौरान टीम ने हैलीकॉप्टर से नदी क्षेत्र पर उड़ान भरकर सेंसरिंग से डाटा एकत्र किया था। 268 वर्गमीटर क्षेत्र में नदी के तल से 500 मीटर नीचे तक 13 हजार लाइन किमी पर सेंसरिंग कर एक्वीफर स्पॉट चिह्नित किए गए। इससे पहले टीम ने सितंबर 2017 में इलेक्ट्रिकल रेसिस्टिविटी मैथड से सर्वे कर डाटा एकत्र किए थे। दोनों रिपोर्ट्स का मिलान कर एनजीआरआई ने एनेलिटिकल स्टडी रिपोर्ट तैयार की, जिसे मंजूरी के लिए रक्षा मंत्रालय को भेजा गया।

क्रिटिकल एनालासिस अध्ययन के लिए रक्षा मंत्रालय को भेजा था। उसके बाद से मामला रक्षा मंत्रालय में अटका हुआ था।

रक्षा मंत्रालय ने लंबे इंतजार के बाद एक्वीफर मैपिंग की रिपोर्ट को मंजूरी दे दी। 4 अगस्त को इसकी सूचना मनपा प्रशासन को मिली तो हाइड्रोलिक टीम ने नदी में चिह्नित स्थलों पर पांच नए बोर करने की कवायद शुरू कर दी। इनमें एक बोर हैड वॉटर वर्क्स पर और चार वालक के पास किए जाएंगे।

## इसलिए जरूरी थी मंजूरी

हैलीबॉर्न सर्वे के आंकड़े कई बार सामरिक नजरिए से महत्वपूर्ण हो जाते हैं। समुद्र किनारे और नदियों में एक्वीफर मैपिंग की रिपोर्ट की संवेदनशीलता बढ़ जाती है। उनकी गोपनीयता को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए हैलीबॉर्न सर्वे की रिपोर्ट जारी करने से रक्षा मंत्रालय उसकी समीक्षा करता है। जानकारों के मुताबिक सूरत समुद्र किनारे का शहर है, ऐसे में रक्षा मंत्रालय ने

सतर्कता बरतते हुए रिपोर्ट की समीक्षा में अतिरिक्त समय लिया होगा।

## रिपोर्ट सकारात्मक

रक्षा मंत्रालय से मंजूरी के बाद मिली रिपोर्ट सकारात्मक है। हमने जैसी उम्मीद जताई थी, ऐसे ही परिणाम मिले हैं। रिपोर्ट मिलने के बाद पांच नए बोर के लिए हाइड्रोलिक टीम ने अपनी ओर से कवायद शुरू कर दी है।

के.एच. खटवाणी, एडीशनल सिटी इंजीनियर, मनपा



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 7.08.2018 in the

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## 16 राज्यों के भू जल में यूरेनियम की मात्रा मानक से अधिक

नई दिल्ली, (वार्ता): विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के मानदंडों के अनुसार 16 राज्यों में भू जल में यूरेनियम की मात्रा निर्धारित मानकों से अधिक है। विशेष रूप से राजस्थान में 75 कुंओं में यूरेनियम की मात्रा तय मानकों से ज्यादा पायी गयी है। केन्द्रीय जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण राज्य मंत्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल ने सोमवार को राज्यसभा में पूरक प्रश्नों के जवाब में बताया कि पर्यावरणीय विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी दस्तावेज 2018 में प्रकाशित रिपोर्ट के अनुसार राजस्थान सहित देश के 16 राज्यों के भूजल में विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के मानकों से अधिक मात्रा में यूरेनियम पाया गया है। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि राजस्थान के 226 कुंओं में से 75 में

- 75 कुंओं में यूरेनियम की मात्रा तय मानकों से ज्यादा पायी गयी है
- उत्सर्जकों के रूप में रेडियो एक्टिव अवशेषों की मात्रा निर्धारित की गयी है यूरेनियम को लेकर कोई मानक तय नहीं है

यूरेनियम की मात्रा निर्धारित मानक से अधिक मिली है। राज्य मंत्री ने बताया कि जिन राज्यों में यूरेनियम की मात्रा

अधिक पायी गयी है उनमें राजस्थान, जम्मू कश्मीर, हिमाचल प्रदेश, पंजाब, हरियाणा, उत्तर प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, छत्तीसगढ़, झारखंड, तेलंगाना और गुजरात शामिल हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि भारतीय मानक 10500:2012 में अल्फा और बीटा उत्सर्जकों के रूप में रेडियो एक्टिव अवशेषों की मात्रा निर्धारित की गयी है और इसमें अकेले यूरेनियम को लेकर कोई मानक तय नहीं है। श्री मेघवाल ने बताया कि भाभा परमाणु अनुसंधान केन्द्र के तहत चलायी जा रही राष्ट्रीय यूरेनियम परियोजना 2014 के अनुसार 10 हजार नमूनों का अध्ययन किया गया है जिनमें से दो प्रतिशत में विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के मानकों से अधिक यूरेनियम पाया गया है।



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## Dam safety indispensable in hydropower development

The collapse of Xe Pian Xe Namnoy hydropower reservoir's Saddle Dam last week has triggered strong debate about dam safety in Laos and beyond. The fatal tragedy that ravaged Sanamxay district in Attapeu province has claimed lives with over 100 still missing and many thousands of people homeless. Their lives have encountered hardship as all their belongings were swept away by the flash flood, considered one of the worst deluges in Lao history. It's unclear what the exact cause of the Saddle Dam collapse was - whether a rainstorm or sub-standard dam construction techniques. Many blamed the heavy rainstorm for devastating the earth-fill saddle dam of the Xe Pian Xe Namnoy project while others assumed that the dam fracture might have been caused by poor quality construction. It appears that some have pointed the finger at the extreme weather conditions as a convenient culprit. Minister of Energy and Mines, Dr Khammany Inthirath told the media at a press conference in Vientiane last week, following his recent visit to the site that the dam failure could have been triggered by the heavy rain and inadequate technical standards. "The main cause for the saddening incident is too much rainfall plus the newly-completed saddle dam was not yet functioning well. There might have been a crack in it which allowed the water to pass through which widened to a bigger hole causing the breakage." Xe-Pian Xe-Namnoy hydropower plant began

### Vientiane Times

construction in February 2013 with commercial operations expected to start in 2019. The US\$1.02-billion project is being constructed on the Bolaven plateau including several saddle dams with the powerhouse located at the plateau base. The project on a 27-year concession and installed capacity of 410 MW is 90 percent complete. It is located in Attapeu and Champassak provinces about 800 km from Vientiane. The dam reservoir has a total area of 522 square kilometres with water storage capacity of around 1 billion cubic metres. The collapse of a 16m-deep saddle dam unleashed about 300-400 million cubic metres, meaning that a huge volume of water still remains stored in the main dam. Nevertheless, one of the most important things to note is that the failure took place while the water level in the reservoir had not crested over the earth-fill dyke. An expert from the Ministry of Energy and Mines commented that there was no set standard for earth-fill dykes because each site is different and dependent on variables such as hydrology, geology and topography. These and other factors were taken into consideration during the feasibility stage of dam projects, he said. The volume of water stored by a dam was not a factor in deciding to construct it using concrete or an earth-fill dyke. "Designs and construction methodologies are the same as used worldwide. The geological data is variable at each location; therefore the designs are modified to suit those locations," an international professional with considerable experience in the Lao hydropower industry told Vientiane Times.