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Got evidence of Saraswati, says expert panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

BEFORE SELECTION OF COLUMN TO A STREET SET OF THE COURSE OF CONTRACTORS

AN EXPERT committee has found "convincing evidence" of the "ancient mighty" Saraswati river that used to flow several hundred years ago through Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat before meeting the Arabian Sea in the Rann of Kutch.

The committee, constituted by the Water Resources Ministry

in March this year, has, however, said there was "so far" no evidence of "subsurface existence" of the other branch of this river that is believed to have flown towards Allahabad to meet the Ganga and Yamuna at the religiously significant triveni sangam (confluence of three rivers).

The seven-member committee is headed by geologist K S Valdiya, former vice-chancellor of Kumaon University, who is now associated with the "The Markanda and the said in its report.

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Research Bengaluru.

Based on its studies of paleochannels in the three states, the committee has come to the conclusion that the "Himalayanborn Satluj of the past that flowed through the channels of the present day Ghaggar-Patialiwali rivulets represents the western branch of the ancient river Saraswati".

Sarsuti nadis provided pathways to the eastern branch of the Saraswati river, now known as the Tons-Yamuna rivers. These two branches joined at Shatrana, 25 km south of Patiala, and flowed as a large river through the wide channel of the (current) Ghaggar-Hakra-Nara (basin) before emptying itself in a gulf of the western sea, now represented by the Rann of Kachchh," the committee has

Paleochannels are remains of old rivers that have gone dry or disappeared. Though no water is found in these paleochannels, they have higher moisture content as compared to neighbouring areas. They also have the ability to hold water, and thus, can potentially be recharged.

The committee has said that the Saraswati river had supported human settlements near the current Ghaggar-Hakra basin from the fourth millennium (4,000 years) BC though there was "perceptible dwindling. both quantitatively and qualitatively in the settlement pattern during the second millennium BC which is attributed to the changing water regime".

The committee has recommended further work on these paleochannels, including collection of more data, efforts to recharge, and framing of regulation on withdrawal of groundwater from these areas.

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भा पाना नहीं छोड़ेगाः सुखबार फगवाड़ा, (भाषा)ः सतलुज- विनकी पार्टी 'इस ग्रज्य का पानी खारिज किया कि इस मुद्दे पर

यमुना लिंक (एसवाईएल) नहर बचाने और यहां के लोगों के हितों मुद्दे पर पंजाब के मुख्यमंत्री की रक्षा करने के लिए' प्रतिबद्ध के साथ उसका गठबंधन प्रभावित प्रकाश सिंह बादल की हालिया टिप्पणी की निंदा 🔏 करते हुए हरियाणा विधानसभा द्वारा सर्वसम्मति से प्रस्ताव पारित किए जाने पर ग्रज्य के उप मुख्यमंत्री सुखबीर सिंह बादल ने आज जोर दिया कि चाहे हुए मुख्यमंत्री ने यहां संवाददाताओं जो भी प्रस्ताव पारित हो, यंजाब स्ति कहा, पंजाब की अर्थव्यवस्था किसी अन्य राज्य के लिए 'पानी की कृषि आधारित है और यह अपने एक बूद भी' नहीं छोड़ेगा। पंजाब पानी पर समझौता बर्दाश्त नहीं कर में सत्तारूढ़ शिरोमणि अकाली दल सकता। पानी, खेती की जीवनरेखा

दूसरे राज्यों में जाने नहीं देंगे।'' के अध्यक्ष सुखबीर ने कहा कि है।" उन्होंने इस संभावना को

अकाली दल के सख्त रुख से भाजपा है।इस मुद्दे पर अपने पिता हो सकता है क्योंकि हरियाणा में के रुख का समर्थन करते भाजपा की सरकार है। सुखबीर ने हुए उन्होंने कहा, "भले कहा, अभाजपा के साथ हमारा ही हरिवाणा किसी भी गाउबंधन यत्थर की तरह मजबूत है। ही हरिवाणा किसा भाग नाव मिलकर आगामी पंजाब तरह का प्रस्ताव लाए, हम हम साथ मिलकर आगामी पंजाब विधानसभा चुनाव लड़ेंगे और हमारे पानी की एक बूंद भी विधानसभा चुनाव लड़ेंगे और लगोबार तीसरी बार सरकार बनाएंगे 🚻 💮 💮 News item/letter/article/editorial published on ////

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At CoP 22, India will highlight climate impact on Himalayas

KAVITA UPADHYAY

ALMORA: India will host a special side event during the UN Climate Change Conference opening on Monday at Mar-Takech, Morocco, on the 12 Himalayan States that face the impact of a changing climate.

The Himalayas provide water to 1.3 billion people in Asia, but have been in-, adequately represented over the past three decades in climate change discussions, an expert said. "Currently, the Himalayas are not spoken about even at discussions in international forums on mountain countries," P.P. Dhyani, Director of the Almora-based G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development, said. based International Centre pact will be drawn up. able Development, said.



AT RISK: The Himalayas are warming at a rate faster than the global average. — PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

has asked the G.B. Pant Institute to represent the 12 Himalayan States at the Conference of the Parties (CoP 22) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change being held between November 7 and 18. The Hindu Kush region was represented at UNFCCC by the Nepal-

Dr. Dhyani said the Centre for Integrated Mountain Development. At the CoP on November 17, the impact of climate change on disasters, biodiversity, livelihood, and agriculture will be highlighted. "Though the Himalayas are warming faster than the global average, they are not yet in focus," he said. Plans to mitigate climate imNews item/letter/article/editorial published on YOVE

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi with agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan at the inaugural ceremony of the first International Agrobiodiversity Congress 2016 in New Delhi on Sunday. Prem Nath Pandey

Biodiversity laws should not hamper agriculture: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

LAWS ON conservation of agro-biodiversity should not hamper growth of agriculture in developing nations like India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday, while asserting that use of technologies for crop enhancement must not be at the cost of sustainable development.

Addressing the first International Agro-biodiversity Congress here, the Prime Minister cautioned against growing threat to plant and animal species and said there is a need to adopt a "shared vision" for conserving them through focused research and proper management of genetic resources.

"World over, crores of poor people are fighting hunger, malnutrition and poverty. To address these issues, science and technology is very important. While finding solution to these problems, we should not ignore sustainable development and conservation of biodiversity," he said at the conference attended by about 900 delegates from 60 countries.

There is a need to assess the negative impact of use of the technology in agriculture, he said, citing the example of pesticide usage affecting honeybee in pollination process.

In lighter vein, he also mentioned that

he said.

Terming pesticides as a major concern in agri ecosystem, Modi said, 'The use of pesticide not only kills pests but also those insects necessary for entire eco-system. Therefore, there is a need to audit development of science. In the absence of audit, the world is facing various challenges."

Expressing concern over extinction of genetic resources, the Prime Minister called for national, international, private bodies and experts to work together and prepare a shared vision for conservation of agro-biodiversity. "We will also have to see how various rules related to agro-biodiversity can be harmonised so that these laws do not come in the way of development of agriculture and farmers."

He said about 50-150 species are getting extinct every day despite adoption of the recommendations of the 1992 biological diversity convention. "In the coming years, there is threat of extinction of one out of eight birds and one fourth of animals. We will have to change our thinking."

"People have exploited natural resources blindly in the name of development. As a result, challenges are going to grow in the coming days. In the current scenario, discussion and research on agro-biodiversity are very important for achieving global food, nutrition,

health and environment security." was such that they do not remember change has been due to imbalance in na-

Covering L., YIS

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Face-off at Leh ends as India finishes work on irrigation project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The face-off between the Indo Tibetan Border Police Force and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) along the Line of Actual Control in Leh's Demchok area ended on Thursday night after an irrigation project, to which the Chinese had objected to, was completed.

The stand-off ended hours before National Security Adviser Ajit Doval met his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi in Hyderabad to discuss measures to improve bilateral ties.

As first reported by The Hindu, around 50 Chinese Army personnel had come close to the Indian side of the LAC on Wednesday afternoon and refused to go back as they objected to an irrigation project under the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Rural Scheme Guarantee (MGNREGS) where work for linking a village with 'Hot spring' was under way.

"The stand-off ended on Thursday night. We managed to complete the irrigation project we had undertaken. They left after being told that the canal had been Chinese troops had taken positions, demanding that work on the irrigation project be stopped

laid," said a senior government official.

An eyeball to eyeball situation persisted at Demchok for the past two days.

The Chinese troops had taken positions and demanded that work be stopped as either side needs to take permission before undertaking any work, a claim disputed by the Indian side, which says that as per the agreement between the two countries, information about construction needs to be shared only if it was meant for defence purposes.

Army fortifies area

There were nearly 70 ITBP personnel there and the Army had fortified the area and prevented their march deeper into the Indian territory, the official said.

This is the first time since the 2014 incident when the Chinese Army had come deep inside the Indian territory in Demchok to protest an ongoing irrigation project. News item/letter/article/editorial published on

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Haryana House condemns Badal's remarks on SYL

GEETANJALI GAYATRI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 4

During a daylong special sitting of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha, to mark the golden jubilee celebrations of the formation of the state, the MLAs today unanimously passed a resolution condemning Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal's statement that Haryana would not get a drop of water for the SYL canal, no matter what the Supreme Court decision would be.

The session began on a discordant note. With the treasury benches and the Opposition trading charges, the House was adjourned twice amidst sloganeering. Leader of the Opposition Abhay Chautala sought an adjournment motion on Badal's statement, farmers' plight and non-availability of irrigation water. This was turned down by Speaker Kanwar Pal Gujjar. He said he saw no urgency for it.

Abhay Chautala, supported by former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, insisted that the government and the House passed a resolution



INLD leader Abhay Chautala speaks at a special Vidhan Sabha session in Chandigarh on Friday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MANOJ MAHAJAN

condemning Badal's statement. In response, Chief Minister Khattar said he and his party condemned the statement and that the state's interests would not be compromised. Insisting on a resolution, the INLD legislators raised slogans.

The treasury benches countered the sloganeering. There were heated exchanges between the min-

isters and INLD members. The latter held a protest in the well of the House and the House was adjourned.

When it met again, the INLD MLAs were called back and objectionable remarks expunged. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ram Bilas Sharma moved a resolution condemning Badal's statement, which was unanimously passed by the House.