

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

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Subject: Submission of News Clippings.

The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

[Signature]
8.1.18
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

[Signature]
8/1/18

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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News item/letter/article/editorial published on 7.1.18 in the

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

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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

नव-7-1-18 केदारनाथ में जबर्दस्त बर्फबारी



प्रसः केदारनाथ धाम में एक बार फिर से मौसम ने अचानक करवट बदल ली है। सुबह तक मौसम बिलकुल साफ था। चारों ओर चटक धूप खिली थी, लेकिन 11 बजे बाद अचानक चारों ओर बादल घिरे और बर्फबारी शुरू हो गई। देखते ही देखते केदारनाथ और आसपास की चोटियों के अलावा शैरवनाथ मंदिर और आसपास के स्थानों ने बर्फ की सफ़ेद चादर ओढ़ ली। बर्फबारी के चलते केदार पुनर्निर्माण में लगे मजदूर और डीडीएमए के मजदूर दोपहर बाद काम नहीं कर सके। शुक्रवार को तो शाम तक केदारनाथ धाम में 6 इंच ताजा बर्फ जमा हो गई थी। केदारनाथ में शुक्रवार शाम को तापमान माइनस 1.3 डिग्री सेल्सियस रिकॉर्ड किया गया था।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 2/1/18 in the

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

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
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महानदी विवाद : न्यायाधिकरण ही एकमात्र रास्ता

4/1/18-7-1-18



भुवनेश्वर, (भाषा): ओडिशा के मुख्यमंत्री नवीन पटनायक ने आज कहा कि छत्तीसगढ़ के साथ महानदी जल विवाद के समाधान के लिए न्यायाधिकरण का गठन ही एकमात्र रास्ता है। महानदी के जल के बंटवारे पर पिछले तीन साल से दोनों राज्यों के बीच में गतिरोध चल रहा है। पटनायक ने कहा, हमारी पहले भी बैठक हुयी जिसका कोई नतीजा नहीं निकला। हमने उनसे (केंद्र, और छत्तीसगढ़) बैराज का काम रोकने को कहा था। तत्कालीन केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री उमा भारती ने कहा था कि केंद्र, सरकार को ऐसा करने का अधिकार नहीं है।

Hindustan Times
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Documented at Bhagirath (English) & Publicity Section, CWC

पहाड़ों पर बर्फबारी से उत्तर भारत में और गिरेगा पारा जानलेवा मौसम: यूपी में एक दिन में सर्दी से 70 की मौत

शीतलहर से जन
जीवन प्रभावित

पत्रिका व्यूरो

rajasthanpatrika.com

लखनऊ, पूरे उत्तर भारत में ठंड का कहर जारी है। दिल्ली में शुक्रवार मौसम का सबसे ठंडा दिन रहा वहीं यूपी में सर्दी की वजह से 24 घंटे में करीब 70 लोगों की मौत हो गई। यूपी में शीतलहर के चलते जनजीवन अस्त-व्यस्त है। ठंड से हुई मौत के लिए सरकारी हिलाहवाली को भी जिम्मेदार ठहराया जा रहा है तो अलाव, कंबल या रैन बसेरा की उचित सुविधा पहुंचाने में नाकामयाब रहे हैं। पिछले 24 घंटों में ठंड के कारण पूर्वांचल में 22 लोगों की मौत हो गई जबकि बरेली डिविजन में तीन, इलाहाबाद डिविजन में 11 और बुंदेलखंड क्षेत्र में 28 लोगों की मौत हो चुकी है। लेकिन अभी इसकी आधिकारिक पुष्टि नहीं हुई है।

सुल्तानपुर सबसे ठंडा

पिछले 24 घंटों में सुल्तानपुर जिला सबसे ठंडा रहा है जहां का तापमान 2.8 डिग्री सेल्सियस रिकार्ड किया गया। यूपी मौसम विभाग का कहना है कि आगामी कुछ दिनों तक ठंड से राहत नहीं मिलने वाली है। 10 जनवरी के बाद से ही हालात कुछ सुधरेगे।



ओस की बूंदें जब जमी तो घाटी में दरख्तों का शृंगार हो गया।

लेह में सबसे ठंडा

लेह	-15.6°
श्रीनगर	-1.2°
कटरा	5.6°
शिमला	1.4°
दिल्ली	4.2°
लखनऊ	3°
पटना	6.6°

यहां भी बर्फबारी

केदारनाथ में भी बर्फबारी हो रही है। न्यूनतम तापमान -11 डिग्री हो गया है।

कश्मीर के ऊपरी पहाड़ों पर हुई ताजा बर्फबारी

कश्मीर के ऊपरी पहाड़ों पर ताजा बर्फबारी कश्मीर में लंबे समय से चल रहा शुष्क मौसम का दौर समाप्त हो गया और गुलमर्ग सहित वादी के सभी उच्च पर्वतीय इलाकों में बर्फबारी और निचले क्षेत्रों में बारिश का सिलसिला शुरू हो गया। मौसम विभाग के अनुसार, अगले 24 घंटों के दौरान वादी में हिमपात जारी रहने की संभावना है।

18 ट्रेन रद्द, कई प्लाइट टैं

दिल्ली में 18 रेलगाड़ियां रद्द की गईं और 49 अपने निर्धारित समय से देरी से चल रही हैं जबकि 13 के समय में फेरबदल किया गया है। इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय (आईजीआई) हवाई अड्डे पर कम दृश्यता के कारण 64 उड़ानों का संचालन प्रभावित हुआ। सुबह 8.30 बजे दृश्यता 400 मीटर रही।

कश्मीर हिमस्खलन में 11 की मौत

श्रीनगर @ पत्रिका. जम्मू-कश्मीर के तंगधार के साधना टॉप में हुए हिमस्खलन में फंसे 11 लोगों की मौत हो गई जबकि एक आठ साल के बच्चे समेत दो लोगों को बचा लिया गया। सभी लोग अपने वाहन से इस इलाके में यात्रा कर रहे थे। यह हिमस्खलन शुक्रवार शाम हुआ। पुलिस के एक अधिकारी ने कहा, बचाव दलों ने 11 शवों को बरामद किया है। मरने वालों में बीआरओ का एक इंजीनियर (सीमा सड़क संगठन) समेत स्थानीय नागरिक शामिल हैं। बीआरओ की पहचान मंगला प्रसाद सिंह के रूप में हुई है।

3 दिन और गिरेगा पारा

मौसम विभाग के अनुसार पूरे उत्तर भारत में अगले 3 दिनों में मौसम में विशेष बदलाव की उम्मीद नहीं है। अनुमान है कि अगले तीन दिनों तक पारा 1-2 डिग्री और गिरेगा।

11 को फिर बर्फबारी

आइएमडी के अनुसार 11 जनवरी से हिमालय के क्षेत्र में ताजा पश्चिमी विक्षोभ का असर दिख सकता है। इसकी वजह से ऊपरी पश्चिमी हिमालय में बर्फबारी होने की उम्मीद है। इसकी वजह से उत्तर-पश्चिम, मध्य और पूर्वी भारत में न्यूनतम तापमान सामान्य से नीचे ही रहेगा।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 7/11/8 in the

Hindustan Times
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Indian Express
Tribune
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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
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M.P. Chronicle
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Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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Centre awaiting Siang report: Rijiju

Says it is too early to blame any activity by China for the darkening of the river in Arunachal Pradesh

VIJAYA SINGH

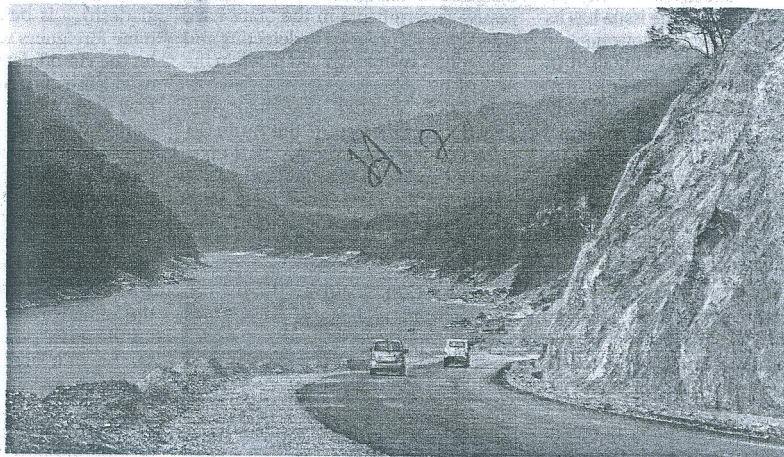
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju has said that the Union government will wait for the final report of the Central Water Commission on the unusual darkening of the Siang river in Arunachal Pradesh before blaming any man-made activity by China.

The Siang enters India from Tibet, where it flows for about 1,500 km as the Tsangpo and becomes the Brahmaputra after it flows into Assam. Reports have blamed tunnel construction by China in Tibet for the unusual darkening of the river and a surge in silt downstream.

China stand

Mr. Rijiju told *The Hindu* that China had clarified that a 6.4 magnitude earthquake in Tibet was responsible for the darkening of the river. "The study is being carried out by the CWC and other experts are looking into it. As per the



A road near the river in Pasighat in East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh. ■RITU RAJ KONWAR

current information, China has reported that darkening was caused by some natural phenomenon like an earthquake. The final report hasn't come, let us wait for the final study," he said.

Mr. Rijiju represents Arunachal Pradesh in the Lok Sabha.

On December 19, Ripun Bora of the Congress told the Rajya Sabha that the Assam Chief Minister had twice written to the Prime Minister to take up the matter with China at the bilateral level, but no action had been taken. "There is an abnormal change in the Brahmaputra

during the past one month and poisonous, muddy, turbid water is flowing in the river. As a result, a lot of wild animals and aquatic life have died. This has also resulted in loss of livelihood for many people. This catastrophe has jeopardised the Brahmaputra valley civilisation. The

main reason for this is China is constructing 1,000-km tunnel, connecting South Tibet and Desert Taklimakan in Jhngjiyang Province. This is the longest tunnel in the world. And, China has constructed a 200-metre-wide, 13-km-high big dam at Yarlung Tsangpo to divert the Brahmaputra," Mr. Bora said.

Excess silt

As reported earlier, official reports of the colour of water in the Siang, in Tuting, changing emerged from the Arunachal Pradesh office of the CWC on November 10 and it attributed it to excess silt. What caused the deluge of silt, however, wasn't specified. But the water at Tuting was still potable, according to the CWC. Earlier, Masood Hussain, Chairman, CWC, had said that the agency's preliminary reports did not find traces of cement or high alkalinity in the river — or signs of construction.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 4/1/18 in the

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Indian Express

Tribune

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Mahanadi: Naveen rejects Centre's offer for talks

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, 6 JANUARY

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday rejected Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari's proposal for tripartite talks with Chhattisgarh on the Mahanadi water dispute.

The CM iterated the precondition that Chhattisgarh should stop construction of barrages upstream of Mahanadi first. Establishing a Tribunal as per the inter state water dispute act is the only way out, he asserted.

Replying to questions at a function organised by a newspaper, the CM pointed out that negotiations had been held with the then Union Minister Uma Bharati and Chhattisgarh government earlier. It failed as they did not agree to halt the ongoing barrage work, he said.

Gadkari had written to Patnaik a couple of days ago proposing 'yet another' attempt at a negotiated settlement. He had suggested a tripartite discussion and sought a suitable date and time

from the CM.

Gadkari had said past experiences with tribunals have not been good and it had taken years to resolve water disputes. The CM did not yield and insisted on expeditious establishment of a tribunal.

Responding to another question on the Centre neglecting Odisha, Patnaik said there were several areas like railway development where much more ought to have been done by the Centre.

He said a supportive government at the Centre is important for economic development of the state but unfortunately this has not been the case. Patnaik reiterated that his party, BJD, will remain equidistant from the BJP and the Congress.

Within an hour of the CM's statements, Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, addressing the valedictory of the event gave a firm rebuttal. "If the BJD wants to indulge in politicking over the Mahanadi issue rather than resolve the water dispute in the interest of Odisha, so

be it," he said.

Pradhan said the BJD is trying to drum up a atmosphere that the Centre has stalled the process, but the facts disprove this. None of the seven water dispute tribunals have ever been constituted within one year of a state requesting it, he said, while giving details of each of the seven - Narmada, Cauvery, Krishna, Godavari and even Odisha's appeal on Vamsadhara. In fact Vamsadhara tribunal was set up four years after Odisha had asked for it, he pointed out.

Pradhan gave a point-by-point rebuttal to the charge of Central neglect, stating that Odisha's railway budget was less than Rs 700 crore earlier, but under the Modi government it has risen to Rs 5000 crore. Educational institutes of repute like NISER, IISER, IIM and medical colleges have been facilitated, he added. National Highway, port development and airport development have all come about in Odisha during the last three and half years, Pradhan said.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on Jan 17 in the

Hindustan Times
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The Times of India (N.D.)
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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
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Delhi, Ggn feel the chill on coldest day of the season

Temperature Plummets To 4.2°C, Air Quality 'Severe' Too

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Photo: PTI

New Delhi/Gurgaon: Saturday was the coldest day so far this winter in the capital and Gurgaon as the mercury dived under the 5 degrees Celsius mark in both cities. Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 4.2 degrees Celsius. Gurgaon was colder at just 4 degrees Celsius.

Officials at the Regional Weather Forecasting Centre (RWFC) Delhi told TOI clear skies and northerly winds from Jammu and Kashmir pushed the mercury down a notch from the 5-6 degrees mark it was hovering around over the last couple of days.

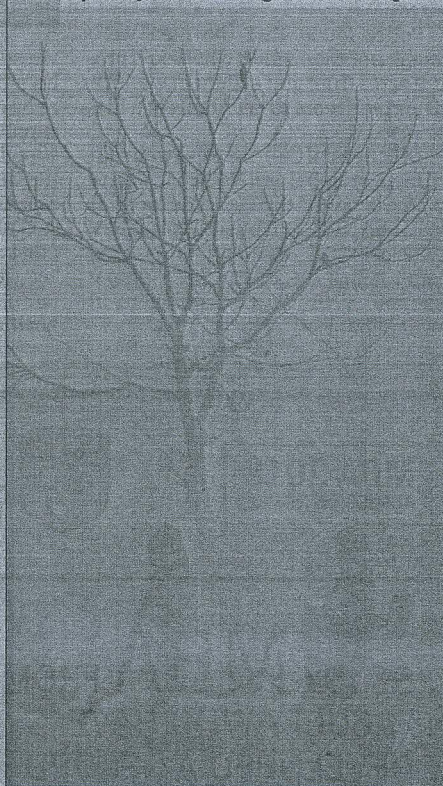
The weathermen said there was "no unusual weather activity at all", and that wind speed was likely to pick up further, causing the blanket of fog lingering over the region to dissipate. "Due to the clear skies and brisk wind speed, the temperature dipped. We are likely to see colder days where the minimum will stay at 4 degrees Celsius average. We will continue to see foggy conditions but it will be shallow," said an official at RWFC.

The new week is likely to begin on an even chillier note with the minimum temperature expected to fall to 3 degrees Celsius.

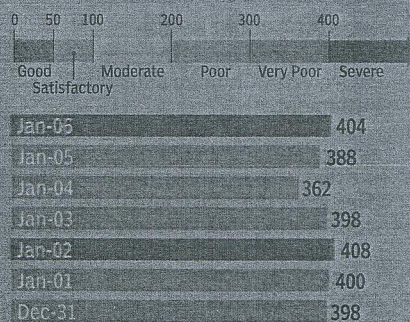
In parts of Delhi, Saturday morning visibility fell to as low as 50 metres. By noon, however, there was a significant

CAPITAL SHIVERS AND CHOKES

Air quality 'severe' again with AQI crossing 400 for the second time this week



Delhi's AQI in the past seven days, with PM2.5 as the prominent pollutant (in µg/cubic metres)



Source: CPCB

Maximum **20.8°C**
(1 degree above normal)

Minimum **4.2°C**
(3 degrees below normal)

improvement to over 1,000 metres. The fall in mercury also resulted in a spike in the pollution levels with Delhi's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) touching "severe" with an index of 404 - the second time this week. Gurgaon's AQI was a

shade better at 355, but still in the 'very poor' category. Ghaziabad, though, was the most polluted place in NCR with an AQI of 480, which is classified as 'severe'.

D Saha, head of the Central Pollution Control Board's air

laboratory said the deterioration in air quality was due to the drop in temperatures and an increase in humidity levels. "Air quality will stay similar in the next few days and it may even deteriorate by 5-10%," said Saha.

Mahanadi row gains political significance

POLL PLANK The Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal has found a handle to counter the BJP, which is the new threat on the block

Debabrata Mohanty
 letters@hindustantimes.com

BHUBANESWAR: Raising the twin issues of regionalism and central neglect has helped the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) counter anti-incumbency in Odisha many times in the past two decades, successfully keeping political rivals at bay.

However, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) turned out to be a challenge that could not be shrugged off as easily. Although the party managed to win just one Odisha seat in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, it piggybacked on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationalistic credentials to rapidly become a force to reckon with. The party scored a ninefold jump in zilla parishad seats during the 2017 panchayat elections, giving the BJD a major scare and pushing the Congress to the third position.

For a time, it seemed as if the BJD had no option but to brace for the impending saffron triumph. Fortunately, in Mahanadi water dispute, the Naveen Patnaik-led party has finally found a handle to counter the new threat on the block.

THE DISPUTE

The Raman Singh-led BJP government in Chhattisgarh has been building six industrial barrages on the Mahanadi, a river that over half of Odisha's population depends on, for nearly seven years now. The first sign of a dispute with the upper-riparian state became visible when BJD parliamentarian Dilip Tirkey raised the issue in the Rajya Sabha in July 2016.

The BJD says these structures will

prevent water from reaching at least 24 million residents of Odisha at a time when the Mahanadi is witnessing an 80% reduction of flow in non-monsoon months. Chhattisgarh denies the claim, stating that the barrages only store monsoon water that otherwise drains into the Bay of Bengal.

Stressing on the party's claim, BJD leader Bhartruhari Mahtab moved an adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha to discuss the formation of a river water tribunal under the Inter State River Water Disputes Act 1956. Though speaker Sumitra Mahajan promptly rejected it, none of the BJD members seemed particularly unhappy. They had finally found an issue to whip up popular sentiment against the BJP.

"The Mahanadi dispute is to the BJD what the Ram Mandir is to the BJP," said a senior party leader, underlining Patnaik's need to counter anti-incumbency in the run-up to the 2019 assembly polls. Hemmed in by rising farmer suicides due to agrarian distress in western Odisha, Patnaik could not have sought a better issue to raise his evergreen central-neglect cry.

MAHANADI'S IMPORTANCE

The river, which runs through at least 20 of Odisha's 30 districts, virtually fuels the state's economy and agriculture. Apart from providing at least 60% of the state's 42 million population with subsistence, the Mahanadi also forms a big part of Odisha's cultural ethos. On the environmental front, as many as six biodiversity hotspots in Odisha, including the Bhitarkanika wildlife sanctuary, Chilika lake, Tikarpada sanctuary and Chandaka elephant reserve, directly depend on the river.

Once feared by residents for the destruction it wreaked through floods, the Mahanadi became Odisha's lifeline when the state government built a 25-km-long earthen dam across its

in 1953. Besides acting as an effective flood control system, the dam irrigated over 2.35 lakh hectares of cropland and generated 347.5 megawatts of hydropower for the state.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

The river water, 90% of which is said to flow during monsoon months, provides subsistence to over 30 million people spread across Odisha and Chhattisgarh. The Central Water Commission estimated in 1947 that in its worst possible years Mahanadi would have at least 20.61 million acre feet (MAF) of water flowing through the river on an annual basis. Of this, Odisha should get 12.28 MAF, while the rest can be used by Chhattisgarh. Experts, however, term the data outdated in view of the reduced water flow in recent years.

"The flow of water in the monsoon came down from 26.15 MAF in 2005 to 13.24 MAF in 2015 due to erratic rainfall," said Sarat Kumar Mohanty, retired chief engineer of the Odisha water resources department. "Moreover, the non-monsoon flow of water on the Odisha side almost halved between 2005-06 and 2014-15."

This water flow will fall further after Chhattisgarh constructs six industrial barrages—Kalma, Saradi, Basantpur, Mirauni, Sheorinarayan and Samoda—on the Mahanadi. Incidentally, four of the structures have already been completed.

The Chhattisgarh government defended the ongoing projects by stating that they would impact less than 4% of the river water. "These barrages are designed to store monsoon water, so they can be used in the summer. Non-monsoon water will be stored," said HR Kutare, engineer in chief of Chhattisgarh's water resources department.

POLITICAL FALLOUT

In mid-2016, the BJD claimed in Parliament that Chhattisgarh's dams would choke the Mahanadi—turning the river into a veritable stream. Patnaik then sought the establishment of a water dis-

Dispute over river

The Chhattisgarh govt is building six barrages on the Mahanadi, a river that over half of Odisha's population depends on



Industrial barrages

Barrage of woes

The six industrial barrages in question are Kalma, Saradi, Basantpur, Mirauni, Sheorinarayan and Samoda.

If all these structures operate in tandem, the non-monsoon outflow to the Odisha side of Mahanadi will be 0.67 MAF.

The green tribunal stayed the construction in July, on a petition filed by social activist Sudarshan Das. Environmentalists say reduction of water flow due to the barrages will affect biodiversity hotspots

Dry facts

By 2051, Odisha and Chhattisgarh will need 36.18 MAF and 27.48 MAF water per year from Mahanadi respectively.

The total availability of water from the river currently stands at 40 MAF. This will only reduce as the years go by.

The total catchment area is 1.41 lakh square kilometres (45.73% in Odisha and 53.9% in Chhattisgarh).

Over three crore people are likely to be affected across Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

Hirakud

Hirakud dam, the first river valley project to be taken up post-independence, was originally planned as a flood-control reservoir to mitigate floods in the downstream delta.

Due to siltation, the capacity of the reservoir has decreased by 24% since its construction

Sharing of water

There is no water-sharing agreement in the case of the Mahanadi. An attempt was made during the pre-foundation days in 1983, when Madhya Pradesh chief minister Arjun Singh and Odisha chief minister JB Patnaik agreed to form a joint control board on water sharing between the two states, but nothing came out of it.

Of all inter-state water tribunals, only three have delivered verdicts found acceptable by the states involved

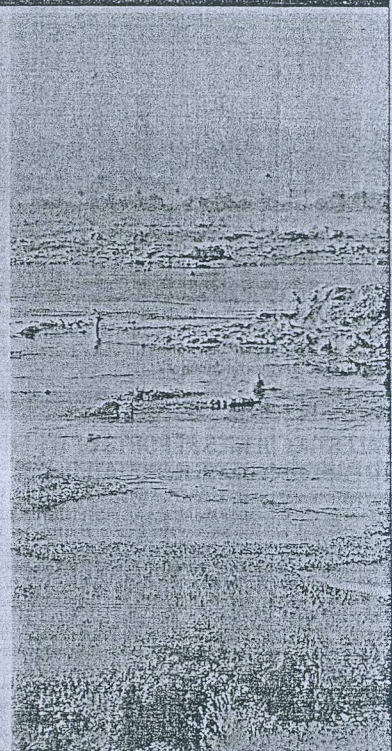


PHOTO: RANJAN PANDA

pute tribunal under the River Water Disputes Act-1956 to determine the sharing of non-monsoon water between Odisha and Chhattisgarh. The demand was rejected by the Centre.

While replying to a series of questions on the Mahanadi river issue in the Lok Sabha last week, Union water resources minister Nitin Gadkari requested the Odisha government to settle the dispute with Chhattisgarh through discussion. Gadkari said that the Centre acknowledges the right of Odisha to demand a tribunal and that it would ensure it is done in the next three months.

"A composite tribunal which will merge all the tribunals of various states on the anvil and once that becomes a law, Odisha will get a tribunal on the Mahanadi water dispute with Chhattisgarh," said Gadkari.

This decision could hurt the BJP's electoral prospects in the western Odisha districts of Bargarh, Sambalpur and Bolangir, where the party did well in the

local body elections last year. The BJD is already turning it into a poll issue through rallies and padyatras, telling the people how the Centre is sacrificing Odisha's interests in favour of neighbouring Chhattisgarh.

The BJD has rejected Gadkari's dialogue proposal saying discussions on the matter would make sense only after the Chhattisgarh government halts construction work on the river.

"There is no point in discussing the issue with Chhattisgarh as the Centre has not asked the neighbouring state to stop construction work along the upstream of the river Mahanadi," said BJD spokesman Prashanta Nanda.

BJD MP Mahtab has also questioned Gadkari's suggestion of holding discussions instead of a tribunal. "The Centre earlier expressed its inability to restrain Chhattisgarh from constructing the barrages and that is the reason why Odisha is not coming forward to sit with the centre for discussions," he said. Last month,

Mahtab was busy painting the Union government as biased in the Lok Sabha. "The Centre is supposed to maintain neutrality when a water-sharing dispute arises between two states. However, the neutrality of this government has been compromised," he said.

The BJD's campaign is finding resonance on the ground.

Jaydev Pradhan, a farmer from Sonepur's Ulunda block, said that he has never seen the Mahanadi in such a pathetic state during peak monsoon as he did this year. "This August, the riverbed was so dry that you could actually play cricket on it. If that is how the river looks like in monsoon, imagine how it would be in summer months. Where will we get our water from?" he asked.

Several kilometres downstream of Sonepur, boatman Uddhab Behera seemed just as worried. "This time, the mighty Mahanadi resembled a small pool," he said.

(With inputs from Ritesh Mishra in Chhattisgarh)

BJP SCORED A NINEFOLD JUMP IN ZILLA PARISHAD SEATS DURING THE 2017 PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS, GIVING THE BJD A MAJOR SCARE AND PUSHING THE CONGRESS TO THE THIRD POSITION