Central Water Commission
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Diesel engines line the Botad sub-branch canal, installed to 'lift' Narmada water; (below): a farmer-installed engine with pipes to draw and transport water. Javed Raja

Narmada waters more in canals than in farms

HARISH DAMODARAN & GOPAL KATESHIYA

SURENDRANAGAR, RAJKOT, DECEMBER 7

IHAKARSHIBHAI DAYABHAI Patel does not deny that the Narmada river waters have reached Gujarat's parched Saurashtra region. They are, indeed, irrigating his own and also other farmers' fields in Malod village of Surendranagar district's Wadhwan taluka.

"The issue isn't whether the water has come, but at what cost," says this 30-acre farmer whose village is just a couple of kilometres from the Dhanki-Botad sub-branch canal. There is enough water in this one as well as five other sub-branches — Vallabhipur, Maliya, Limbdi, Dhrangadhra and Morbi — of the Saurashtra Branch Canal (SBC), which, in turn, offtakes from the Narmada Main Canal (NMC) near Kadi in North Gujarat's Mehsana district.

According to Patel, the problem is not with water in the canals or sub-branches, but taking it further to the fields, "for which we have had to shell out money ourselves". He is among the many farmers in Malod and adioning villages who have installed diesel engines on the bunds of the Botad sub-branch canal, to "lift" and carry the Narmada waters.

A typical Rajkot-made 10-horsepower diesel engine costs around Rs 40,000. It could go up to Rs 55,000 if a 16-hp engine were used, to enable pumping water over a longer distance. But the main investment is in the PVC pipes, through which the pumped water can be conveyed to the fields.

"A standard 8mm pipe comes at Rs 50-55 per feet. Adding digging and underground laying costs takes it to Rs 75. For 1 km, you need about 3,300 feet of pipe, which will cost Rs 2.5 lakh. There are farmers who have installed engines and pipes to carry water to their fields even up to 10 km or more." claims Patel.

The investments are, however, only one part. Even more is the recurring cost. A diesel engine takes about five hours to water a one-acre field of *kapas* (raw un-ginned cotton), while burning 1.5 litres of diesel per hour on an average. Assuming five irrigations for the crop's entire duration, the total fuel cost at current diesel prices of Rs 62 per litre works out to over Rs 2.300 an acre. This is more than half the cost of harvesting ("picking"), which, at Rs 5/kg on an average *kapas* yield of 800 kg, translates into Rs 4,000 an acre.

"We were initially prepared to incur these costs, on top of investing Rs 15-25 lakh on



engines and pipes, only because Narmada water was available and *kapas* rates, too, were Rs 1,100-1,200 per 20-kg. But today, prices are at Rs 850-900 and there is no return on our investments. Narmada has only added to the debts of the *khedut* (farmer)," complains Patel.

Surendranagar, which votes Saturday, is incidentally India's biggest cotton-producing district and seen to have benefited most by the arrival of water from Sardar Sarovar, popularly known as the Narmada dam.

Narendrasinh Rana, a member of the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh's Gujarat state executive body and the RSS-affiliated organisation's former Surendranagar district president, blames the problems of Saurashtra's farmers mainly on the poor progress in building the distributaries, minors and subminor canals that are supposed to take the Narmada waters to the fields.

The Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltc has completed the 458 km-long NMC from the massive dam at Kevadiya in Gujarat's Narmada district to the Rajasthan border the SBC that offtakes from the main cana at about 263 km in Kadi (Mehsana); and al its six sub-branch canals serving the Saurashtra region.

"Whatever work has been done on the distributaries, minors and sub-minors is either incomplete or shoddy. As a result, the burden of last-mile investment has virtually been loaded on to the farmer. The diesel en gines you see on the canal bunds are technically illegal. But do the *kheduts* have choice?" Rana points out.

He cites the example of Halvad in Mort district. This taluka receives Narmada wate from three sub-branch canals — Maliy. Dhrangadhra and Morbi — fed by the SBC pumping station at Dhanki i Surendranagar's Lakhtar taluka. "But all th water hardly goes to farmers' fields. Mucha it is used by industry or for drinking wate supply in urban centres," he adds.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 08 12. 2017

Hindustan Times 1 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 (ibniH) [s A Indian Nation Nai Duniya (Hindi) The Times of India (A) Blitz .

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

Saubhadra Chatterji ■ letters@hindustantimes.com

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha's ruling party Biju Janata Dal has threatened to disrupt the upcoming winter session of Parliament that starts from December 15 after the

Centre refused to intervene in a water dispute involving Mahanadi river with Chhaitisgarh. The Navin Patnaik-led party is

the fourth largest in Parliament with 28 MPs. It has often supported the BJP on several key bills and issues, creating artift in the opposition camp. Its support came handy for the BJP in the Rajya Sabha where the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance is

still in minority.

The Odisha government appealed to the Supreme Court for a tribunal over the dispute

ODISHA HAS APPEALED TO THE SC FOR A TRIBUNAL TO SORT OUT DISPUTE THAT BEGAN AFTER C'GARHSTARTED BUILDING A BARRAGE ON THE RIVER THAT FLOWS. HROUGH BOTH STATES

that began after neighbouring Chhaftisgath started building a barrage on the river that flows through the two states

The Centre on Wednesday fold the SC that "the prayer of the plaintiff(Odishagovernment) is devoid of any merit :: construcfruitful", leaving the BJD leadershipfurious.

This is a political ploy. The BJP-led government at the Centre doesn't want barrage construction work to be delayed in Chhattisgarh. So, a year after we appealed, they said no giving the Chhattisgarh government precious time to carry on the project,"BJD'sLok Sabha leader Bhartruhari Mahtab said.

*According to Odisha, The new projects disrupt the flow of water to the Hirakud Dam, a major source of irrigation to both the states. Chhattisgarh says the bar-tagas only bullect rainwater and donateffect hellow of the river.

The Centre informed the SC on Wednesday that it was not in fayour of forming a tribunal under the water disputes act and tion of a Tribunal would not be wants the matter to be amicably settled between the two states.

BJD leaders said they will try

to secure the support from other parties, just as it got in the state, against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on the issue.

The BJD has found support from its archrival Congress and ersiwhile allies like the Left parties to take on the BJP in the state assembly.

"We are political rivals. We don't want to join hands in politics but for Mahanadi, we will fight together. Our demands are same. We want a tribunal," Congress' Narasingha Mishra, leader of Opposition in Odisha assembly, said. "The committee, which was formed by the Centre to talk to the two states, held two meetings and submitted any further meeting would not be fruitful, Mishra, who recently organised an all-party meeting in Bhubaneswar, added.

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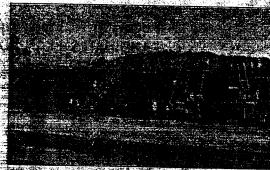
and documented at Bhagirath(English) & Publicity Section, CWC

Srinivasa Rao Apparasu

HYDERABAD: When Andhra Pradesh chiefminister N Chandrab abu Naidu last week accused the central government of creating hurdles in completing the Polavaramproject on river Godavari,

many were surprised..... Naidu's Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is a constituent of the Bhar atiya Janata Party (BJP) led National Democrafic Alliance (NDA) and his criticism was uncharacteristic. However, those in the know say the CM's harsh words were not unexpected. Alot is riding on the \$58,000 crore project, It will get water for drinking, irrigation and generate power, so Polavaram, and Andhra's new capital Amaravati, are crucial projects for Naidu ahead of the 2019 assembly polls. But the project is progressing at a snall's pace though Andhra Pradesh has spent ₹12,000 crore in the past 12 years, and Naidu is beginning to lose apatience. Declared a national project, the Centre is supposed to bear the entire expense under the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, including cost escalations and rehabilitation of evacuees, who, as per an estimate, could number 1.8 lakh.

Officials say Naidu is frustrated as the Centre is releasing money only in dribs and drabs. The National Bank for Rural and Agricultural Development is to



Project on Godavari riverwill build the second largest dam ifter Sardar Sarvovar dam on Narmada in Gujarat. — IIII PHOTO

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960 MW (megawatt) will be the installed capacity of the dam towards. generation of hydroelectric power

80 TMC First major river linking project, it will take 80 tmc of water from Godavari to Krishna river

7 lakh ha of area in Krishna and Visakhapatnam districts will receive

irrigation

2017 estimated cost ₹58,319 crore 2005

for land acquisition and rehabilitation and resettlement of affected tribals

extend loans, to be repaid by the Centre. So far. 1,982 crore has been made available out of the ₹23,814 crore to be given by 2020.

A common complaint heard in the Andhra secretariat corridors is that the Centre is raising a lot of Raidu's efforts to speed up the

Jaitley's statement that the Cen-

only for the irrigation component has also riled up Andhra officials. They also say the Centre has said if the project is not completed by 2018, its grant component will be *converted into a loan.

queries before releasing funds. project by calling for fresh tend-Union finance minister Arun ers has been stonewalled. The Centre wrote to him in Novemtre would bear the expenditure ... ber, arguing against it on the

ground it may lead to liftgation and cost overruns. The opposi-tion has stepped in, accusing Naidu of seeking kickbacks.

Andhra officials deny the allegation, but what remains undeniable is the project is in hot water as is TDP BJP ties. We've main tained utmost restraint because we are part of NDA. But it is testingour patience," Naidu had said.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 08.12.2017 in the

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

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# Odisha braces for heavy downpour, squally winds

Weather system to intensify into deep depression in the next 24 hours; Met office

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHUBANESWAR

More than 10 districts of Odisha are likely to be lashed by heavy rain, coupled with squally winds, from Friday due to a depression over the Bay of Bengal.

The depression over the southeast Bay of Bengal and its neighbourhood moved northwards at a speed of about 35 kmph during the past six hours and lay centred about 870 km southeast of Gopalpur, the meteorological centre here said.

move north-northwestwards and reach north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha

coasts around December 9 ber 10, director of local metemorning, it said, adding the system is likely to intensify further into a deep depression in the next 24 hours.

Weakening of system

However, there is a probability of slight weakening of the system when it approaches north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coasts.

thundershower is likely to occur at some places in coastal districts and Koraput, Gajapati and Malkangiri disrain is expected in coastal interior districts till Decem-

orological office S.C. Sahu said.

Thereafter, heavy rainfall is likely to lash some places in Gajapati, Ganjam, Rayagada, Khorda, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Malkangiri and Koraput districts in the subsequent 48 hours.

The meteorological office Under its impact, rain or advised hoisting of Distant Cautionary Signal Number One (DC-I) at Paradip and Gopalpur Ports in Odisha. Squally winds with a speed The system is likely to tricts by Friday, Widespread of 40 to 50 kmph and gusting up to 60 kmph is likely to districts and many places in prevail along and off Odisha coasts till December 10.

Sea condition would be rough to very rough along and off Odisha coasts and fishermen are advised not to venture into sea from December 10.

Rain in West Bengal

The meteorological department forecast heavy rain in the coastal areas of Gangetic West Bengal on Friday owing to formation of a depression in the Bay of Bengal.

The districts of East Mid napore, West Midnapore, South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas and Howrah are likely to receive heavy rain on Friday, Regional meteorological director G.K. Das said.



Under a cloud: A passenger aircraft flies into rain clouds hovering above Bhubaneswar on Thursday . BISWARANJAN ROUT

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Deccan Herald

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## AoL responsible for damage of Yamuna floodplains: NG7

Use  $\stackrel{*}{\sim}$ 5 crore fine submitted by the foundation for restoration work, green board tells DDA

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

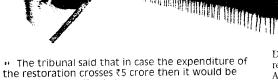
n a setback to the Art of Living Foundation of spiritual leader Ravi Shankar, the National Green Triunation Thursday held it responsible for causing damage and environmental degradation of the Yamuna flood plains by holding a three-day cultural extravaganza last year.

While refusing to impose an additional environment fine on the AoL which has already deposited Rs 5 crore, the NGT ordered the DDA to use this amount to restore the floodplains and bill the AoL if the cost is more or return to it the balance if the cost is below that amount.

The AoL termed the verdict "erroneous and untenable" and said they would move the Supreme Court against it.

Ordering that the Yamuna riverbed should not be used to hold any cultural activity of this kind in future, the green panel directed the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to assess the damage caused on floodplains and compute cost of restoration in line with the





The NGT also said that Yamuna floodplains should not be used for any activity which can cause damage to the environment.

recommendations of the expert panel appointed by it.

recovered from the AoL.

"We hold and declare that AoLis responsible for causing damage and environmental degradation of the floodplain of river Yamuna limited to the area that was awarded to it by DDA and the State of UP, in terms of the report of the High Powered Committee," the NGT said in its judgement.

The AoL had organised the

World Culture Festival from March 11-13, 2016, on the floodplains and constructed an oval-shaped stage over an area of seven acres.

Noting that the AoL has already deposited Rs 5 crore with the DDA, it said "in the event, the expenditure for that purpose on the portion of the land forming part of Phase-II of the project of DDA is found to be in excess of Rs 5 crore, DDA would be at liberty to recover the said amount and AoL shall be liable to pay the said amount on demand.

"If finally the expenditure to be incurred on that amount is less than Rs 5 crore, the remaining amount would be refunded by DDA to AoL," a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar said. The tribunal rapped the DDA over its failure to main tain the natural features and ecology of the Yamuna floodplains and said it has failed to exercise its statutory duty in consonance with the environmental laws in force.

It, however, refrained from imposing environmental compensation on the DDA on the ground that it has already planned construction of a bio-diversity park and improvement of floodplains from its

own funds. The bench, also comprising Justice Jawad Rahim and expert member B.S.Sajwan, saic that even the Delhi Pollution Control Committee had failed to exercise due caution in granting permission to AoL.1 should have considered the request for permission in accordance with environ mental laws in force.

Before the pronouncemer of the judgement, the NGT wa informed that Justice R Rathore, who had earlier hear the matter, had recused from the bench.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 6.12.2017

in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
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The Times of India (A)
Blitz []

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

### Gyclone effect: City records highest Dec rain in 50 yrs

Richa.Pinto@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Owing to Cyclone Ockhi, the city recorded the highest ever December rainfall on Tuesday, in just 12 hours. Rainfall during 8.30am 8.30pm at the IMD's Santacruz observatory was 36mm, which beat the previous record of 31.4mm, recorded on December 12.1967.

As Ockhi came close to the city on Tuesday, it brought in a day full of grains and gusty winds, leading to a steep drop in temperatures. The maximum temperatures recorded at both the Santacruz and Colaba observatories were 10 degrees lower than on Monday. As a result, at several places, noon ti-

me unusually was much cooler than dawn. Also, there was barely atwo-degreedifference belween maximum and minimum temperatures at most places.

Ockhi's threat had prompted the government to keep schools shut, which lead to an easing of school-time traffic. For adults, it was business as

usual, barring minor absentee ism, though organizations had issued advisories to employees. While rainfall was moderate, rumourmongers were busy creating panic with fake news on the sea link and various roads, prompting the BMC to tweet: "Please don't create panic." In fact, no transport disruption

was reported from anywhere in the city. The trains ran, as did the buses and cars.

All2,606 boats and other vessels off the state's coast since Saturday have been accounted for, and no fishermen are missing. Passenger boat services, suspended because of Ockhi, are likely to resume on today. News item/letter/article/editorial published on 10.12.2017

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

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THIRDWANA DE APORAM, DEC 7. Three podies greenes covered this morning of the Kerala coast, taking the death toll due to Cyclone, Ockhi to 36 even as resque operations are going on in full swing to trace the 96 missing fishermen.
Sources in the State control room monitoring the rescue operations, said with the recovery of three more bodies, the death toll in Ker-ala due to the cyclone has gone up to 36 and 96 fisher men are yel to be traced.

While a body was recovered near Alappuzha by the Marine enforcement wing, two bodies

flying between Kozlinkode:

Kochi zoesis had sighted a SISHERMEN STAGERALL ROKO

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Hundreds of ninefloikon finansuay staged a fall roko at the ermen this morning following which Navy has sent a Domier aircraft and ship to the area which is close to Lakshad-weep islands, the sources said.

Meanwhile, shipping services from Kozhikode to Lakshad-from Kozhikode to Lakshad-steps to trace more than 1,000 fishermen reportedly missing after they put to sea from Kanyakuman which is close to Lakshad-weep islands, the sources said.

Meanwhile, shipping services steps to trace those missing following cyclone Ocknishermen. from Kozhikode to Lakshadweep began today with around 60 passengers boarding the high speed vessel from



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- Protesters also blocked the Thiruvananthapuram Kanyakuman national highway. People from nine coastal panchayats of Kanyakuman district in Tamil Nadu were staging the protest

Beypore this morning.

MV Minicov, the passenger agranted travel clearance: Around 1,500 passengers vessel, sherthed at Beypore vessel arrived at Beypore to Lakshadweep when the had suffered some damage vessel arrived at Beypore to Lakshadweep when the fon the cyclone following sfrom the islands to ferry the eshipping services resumed which MMD officials had not passengers, the sources said on December 5.—PII

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 6.12. 2017 in the

Hindustan Times Statesman The Times of India (N.D.) Indian Express Tribune Hindustan (Hindi) Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
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News item/letter/article/editorial published on 2.12.2017

in the

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ा कश्मीर में भी भूकंप जम्म उत्तराखंड में बुधवार रात आए तेज भूकंप में बाद जम्म कश्मीर में भी बहितार सुबंह "मूकंप के झैटके महिस्स किए गए। मीसम बिज्ञप के झन्सार मूकंप की बीजता है ने सांगी गई र है। इसका केंद्र थांग के उत्तर-पूर्व में 111 किमी दूर रहा। News item/letter/article/editorial published on 10.2017 in the

Hindustan Times Statesman The Times of India (N.D.)

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## गंगा सफाई के लिए उद्यमी 1,500 करोड़ खर्च करेंगे: गडकरी

मुंबई, (भाषा): केंद्रीय जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण मंत्री नितिन गडकरी ने आज कहा कि गंगा को साफ सुथरा और स्वच्छ बनाने तथा घाटों का कायाकल्प करने के लिए घरेलू कंपनियों के साथ-साथ अंतरराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों तथा उद्योगपतियों ने 1,500 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करने की प्रतिबद्धता जताई है।

गंगा को साफ सुथरा और स्वच्छ बनाने के कार्य को आगे बढ़ने के लिए शहर में उपस्थित गड़करी ने इस मामले पर चर्च के लिए 150 से अधिक उद्योगपतियों, मुख्य कार्य कारी अधिकारियों और प्रबंध निदेशकों को आमंत्रित किया था।

गडकरी ने संवाददाताओं से कहा, मैंने पिछले सप्ताह गुंगा कायाकल्प



परियोजना को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए लंदन में रोडशो किया था। हमें गंगा सफाई के लिए विभिन्न संस्थानों और ब्रिटेन के व्यापारिक समुदाय से 1,000 करोड़ रुपये की प्रतिबद्धता प्राप्त हुई

है। इसी के साथ घरेलू उद्योग ने गंगा सफाई के लिए 500 करोड़ रुपये देने की प्रतिबद्धता जताई है। उन्होंने कहा कि पटना, कानपुर, हरिद्धार और कोलकाता में नदी के किनारों के उत्थान और घाटों के विकास का जिम्मा ब्रिटेन के प्रमुख उद्योगपतियों ने उठाया है।