

Central Water Commission
Water Systems Engineering Directorate

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

Dated 09.11.2018

Subject: Submission of News Clippings

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

Encl: As above.

Shri
SPA (Publicity)
9/11/2018

Deputy Director, WSE Dte. -

Dr. G. R. S.
09/11/2018

Director, WSE Dte. - on leave

o/c

For information to:

Chairman, CWC, New Delhi

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

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

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

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

Water sprinkling to control dust

PTI
NEW DELHI, 8 NOVEMBER

The public works department of the Delhi government Thursday carried out a drive to sprinkle water in several areas to settle suspended dust particles as part of efforts to check pollution.

The measure comes on a day when Delhi recorded its worst air quality after Diwali, which saw people in several cities across the country bursting crackers well beyond the two-hour deadline set by the Supreme Court.

According to an official, the department's field staff sprinkled water in ITO, Rohini, Dwarka, Ring Road and other areas of the national capital.

The water sprinkling drive will continue for the next few days as part of anti-pollution measures, the official said.

The Supreme Court has allowed people to burst firecrackers from 8 PM to 10 PM only on Diwali and other festivals. The Supreme Court also allowed manufacture

and sale of just "green crackers" which have low emission of light, sound and harmful chemicals.

But despite the court's

order, firecrackers were burnt before and after the set deadline.

Areas where violations were recorded in the city on

Wednesday included Mayapuri Vihar Extension, Lajpat Nagar, Lutyens Delhi, IP Extension, Dwarka and Noida Sector 78.



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

जलवायु परिवर्तन और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा

समुद्री जल-स्तर बढ़ने से लोग बड़ी तादाद में बेघर होंगे और शरणार्थी बनेंगे, उन्हें सीमाओं में घुसने से रोकना सुरक्षा बलों की सबसे बड़ी चुनौती होगी।

जलवायु परिवर्तन पर अंतर-सरकारी पैनल यानी आईपीसीसी ने पिछले दिनों दक्षिण कोरिया के इंचियोन शहर में एक रिपोर्ट जारी की, जिसमें कहा गया है कि वैश्विक जलवायु परिवर्तन के दूरगामी प्रभाव से बचने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय को आपात स्तर पर तत्काल प्रयास करना चाहिए। पैनल का मानना है कि अगर

मौजूदा दर से ग्लोबल वार्मिंग यानी वैश्विक तापमान बढ़ता रहा, तो साल 2030 से 2052 के बीच तापमान-वृद्धि 1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस हो सकती है। औद्योगिक क्रांति से पहले के समय से यदि तुलना करें, तो हमारी धरती अब तक एक डिग्री सेल्सियस गरम हो चुकी है और तापमान में अब हर 0.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस की वृद्धि मानव जाति के लिए किसी गंभीर नतीजे की आहट होगी। रिपोर्ट में भारत की खस्ता हालत पर भी रोशनी डाली गई है।

अनुमान जताया गया है कि पृथ्वी के कुछ हिस्से इतने गरम हो जाएंगे कि वहां मानव जीवन मुश्किल हो जाएगा और समुद्र का बढ़ता जल-स्तर द्वीपों व कई देशों के निचले तटीय इलाकों को निगल लेगा। समुद्री जल के इस तरह बढ़ने, सूखा पड़ने और खाने-पीने की किल्लतों के कारण लोग देश के भीतर और अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा के पार, दोनों तरह से विस्थापित होंगे। यह दर-बदर किसी भी राष्ट्र और उसके आसपास के देशों में अस्थिरता पैदा करेगा और भविष्य के कई संघर्षों को जन्म देगा।

हालांकि व्यापक रणनीतियों के सहारे इस आसन्न मुश्किल का सामना उन तमाम देशों द्वारा किया जा रहा है, जिन्होंने पेरिस समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं, मगर दुनिया भर की सेनाओं को भी अपनी-अपनी राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के हित में जलवायु परिवर्तन के खतरे के खिलाफ खुद को बदलना होगा और नई रह तलाशनी होगी। भारत के लिए लड़ाई से देखें, तो ग्लेशियरों का पिघलना, बाढ़ का अचानक आना, समुद्री जल-स्तर का बढ़ना, चक्रवाती तूफान में तेजी, रेगिस्तान व मैदानी इलाकों में तापमान का बढ़ना, जंगलों में आग लगना, नदी के



सेना के ठिकाने, सैन्य कार्रवाई के समय उनकी तैनाती, उनके माल-असबाब, संगठनात्मक ढांचा, रसद, रणनीति और युद्ध लड़ने की तकनीक आदि सभी कुछ हमें फिर से तय करने होंगे। आंतरिक सुरक्षा प्रबंधन के पूरे ढांचे को भी बदलना होगा। चूंकि बड़े संगठनों का कार्याकल्प यूं ही नहीं हो जाता, क्योंकि यह एक लंबी प्रक्रिया होती है, इसीलिए इस चुनौती से निपटने की दिशा में हमें सामूहिक तौर पर सोचना चाहिए।

हमारे नीति-नियंताओं को खासतौर से बंगाल की खाड़ी के तटीय इलाकों के बारे में सज्जीद होना चाहिए, जो दुनिया के सबसे संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों में एक है। यह क्षेत्रीय अस्थिरता का जनक हो सकता है। कुछ विशेषज्ञ मानते हैं कि अतिरिक्त ग्लोबल वार्मिंग बांग्लादेश, म्यांमार और भारतीय राज्य पश्चिम बंगाल, ओडिशा और आंध्र प्रदेश के तटीय इलाकों को डुबो देगी, जिससे भारत में बड़े पैमाने पर 'क्लाइमेट रिफ्यूजी' यानी जलवायु परिवर्तन की वजह से बने शरणार्थियों की आवक बढ़ जाएगी। जलवायु परिवर्तन पर 'ग्लोबल मिलिट्री एडवाइजरी कौंसिल' के अध्यक्ष मुनिरुज्जमां का तो यह भी मानना है कि ऐसे शरणार्थियों की संख्या करीब दो करोड़ हो सकती है।

जाहिर है, इन्हें जमीनी और तटीय सीमाओं से दखिल

की समीक्षा करनी होगी। राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा हितों और मानव दायित्वों के बीच संतुलन भी साधना होगा।

जलवायु परिवर्तन की राष्ट्रीय रणनीति के हिस्से के रूप में हमें क्षेत्रीय सहयोगी तंत्र को भी मजबूत बनाना चाहिए। हमें महाद्वीप की सेनाओं के बीच आपसी रक्षा सहयोग की संयुक्त कमांड संरचना बनाने पर ध्यान देना चाहिए, जो प्राकृतिक व मानव निर्मित आपदा का आपस में मिलकर सामना करे। यह तंत्र इस क्षेत्र में काम करने वाली संयुक्त राष्ट्र की एजेंसियों व अन्य गैर-सरकारी संगठनों के साथ मिलकर काम करे। चूंकि भारत एक उभरती हुई बड़ी ताकत है, इसीलिए उसे इस दिशा में नेतृत्व की भूमिका निभानी चाहिए।

हम इस पारिस्थितिकीय क्षेत्रीय सैन्य बटालियनों में सेवानिवृत्त सैन्य कर्मियों को भी शामिल कर सकते हैं ताकि उन तमाम इलाकों में जंगल बसाने का एक निहायत जरूरी काम हो सके, जो समाज के कुछ असामाजिक तत्वों के लालच की भेंट चढ़ गए हैं और निर्जन हो गए हैं। इसके अलावा, जलवायु सुधार को लेकर हमें यू-ईजीनियरिंग के प्रयासों को भी गति देनी चाहिए और इसमें भी सेवानिवृत्त सैन्य इंजीनियरों को शामिल करना चाहिए। ये प्रयास हवा से कार्बन डाई-ऑक्साइड को हटाने और पृथ्वी तक पहुंचने वाली सूर्य की विकिरणों को सीमित करने से जुड़े होंगे।

आईपीसीसी की रिपोर्ट निश्चित रूप से जलवायु परिवर्तन के तय नतीजों के प्रति विश्व समुदाय को जागरूक कर रही है। उम्मीद है कि यह अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप को भी इस मुद्दे पर अपने अडिगल खड़े को छोड़ने के लिए बाध्य करेगी। संयोग से, अमेरिका उन 20 देशों की सूची में दूसरे स्थान पर है, जहां अंतरराष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा एजेंसी के मुताबिक कार्बन डाई-ऑक्साइड का सबसे ज्यादा उत्सर्जन होता है। यह समझना होगा कि राजनीतिक सदृच्छा ही पेरिस समझौते के सफल क्रियान्वयन की कुंजी है, जिसका उद्देश्य वैश्विक तापमान के स्तर को 1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस के नीचे रखना है। चूंकि वक्त तेजी से फिसलता जा रहा है, इसीलिए

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

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

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

✓ The Print (9th Nov, 2018)

Modi's office is worried about JNU report that echoes Pakistan concerns on Indus waters

KRITIKA SHARMA 9 November, 2018

JNU study says global warming could leave Pakistan side of Indus River Basin completely dry in less than 100 years, calls for better water budgeting.

New Delhi: A study by researchers from JNU on the effect of climate change on the Indus Basin waters has got the Prime Minister's Office worried, ThePrint has learnt.

The study has concluded that climate change would give India greater control of the Indus Basin waters, which could leave Pakistan vulnerable and has hence called for better management of the water budget between the two countries.

The study has been published in the *International Journal of Climatology*, a highly reputed peer-reviewed journal on the environment.

Sources said the PMO concerns stem from the fact that an Indian university is now "echoing Pakistan's stance on the Indus Basin waters", and that too on an international platform.

The PMO, ThePrint has learnt, has got in touch with Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan and asked him to get details about the study, fearing political and diplomatic ramifications.

The study

The study, conducted by Prof A.P. Dimri, along with Dhirendra Kumar, Simran Chopra and Anubhav Choudhary, has found that the current rate of global warming is expected to have a dire impact on the lower Indus river basin in Pakistan.

The study points out that if temperatures continue to rise as they have done in recent years, this part of the basin could even dry up by 2099, resulting in India having a larger control over the river waters.

Significantly, it concedes that because India is the upper riparian state, any role it plays will impact the politics of water across the river basin, including in Pakistan.

"Due to changing climate, IRB (Indus River Basin) region is vulnerable from water security point of view," the study says.

"In the present study, it is found that upper IRB region has huge control over the downstream water availability. Any ambiguous shift in water budget over upper IRB will have an adverse impact on water stress in lower IRB."

The impact on climate change on agriculture and water security is a relatively new science and thus will need adaptation policy at the governance level, the study says.

A bone of contention

India and Pakistan have been at loggerheads over the sharing of the Indus Basin waters, a dispute aggravated both by climate change and the poor management of resources.

The two countries share five of the Indus River tributaries, of which waters from three — Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum — flow from India to Pakistan, while two — Sutlej and Beas — flow into India.

In 2010, Pakistan took India to the International Court of Justice in The Hague over the latter building a dam on the Kishenganga, a tributary of the Jhelum. Pakistan contended that India, the upper riparian state, was violating international law.

Although the permanent court of arbitration dismissed Pakistan's complaint in 2013, going with the Indian argument that the dam on the Kishenganga is a "run-of-the-river project", the fact remains that water disputes between the two countries are a matter of great concern.

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

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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
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Deccan Chronicle
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The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

The Economic Times- Delhi (9th Nov, 2018)

Paddy Purchase for Food Security may Fall 8%

After heavy rains in September hit the mature crop, farmers are harvesting a lower yield

Pershanth.Kr@timesgroup.com

Chandigarh: Paddy procurement for federal food security system is likely to decline 6-8% in India as farmers are harvesting a lower yield after heavy rains in September had hit the harvest-ready crops in the northern states. The overall decline in output of paddy is likely to impact government procurement as well as export of non-basmati paddy from India.

Farmers are harvesting a lower yield per acre in key rice producing states of Punjab, Haryana and UP. The drop in yield has fuelled the price of paddy and likely to reduce government purchase of the cereal this season.

"The total output is likely to touch 160-165 lakh tonnes this season as rains seemed to have checked the possibility of record output," KAP Sinha, principal secretary, Punjab Food and Supplies, said. The arrival of paddy for government procurement is delayed by 20-30% compared to the last season as crop maturity has been affected.

The September rains had affected paddy at the pollination stage and early-sown basmati at the time of maturity. The state government had pegged the total output of paddy at around 200 lakh tonnes this year, after the initial crop estimates indicated a bumper harvest.

Heavy rains had also affected paddy crop in UP where procurement will begin next week.



"Maturity of the crop is late by at least 10 days due to rains and each passing day hampers the

yield," Soraaj Singh, director, Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Department, said. He maintained that the actual loss of yield could be accessed after the crop arrival, he said.

The overall loss of yield is expected to be around 10-15% in Uttar Pradesh.

"The yield, due to unfavourable weather and overall output, may fall and it may also affect government procurement," an official of Food Corporation of India based in UP said. India is among the top exporters of non-basmati rice in the world with consignments of 8.6 lakh tonnes traded last year.

Private rice millers who buy paddy directly are pegging loss in yield of more than 20-30% this season.

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
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Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

✓ The Hindu (9th Nov, 2018)

Four reservoirs to get more storage

Silt to be removed after years; officials blame delay on administrative reasons and lack of funding

K. LAKSHMI
CHENNAI

The city's reservoirs will soon be able to store more water. The Water Resources Department is gearing up to remove silt deposited in the waterbodies after years of project planning.

The reservoir at Cholavaram will be the first among the four waterbodies, including Poondi, Red Hills and Chembarambakkam, to be desilted and provided with improved infrastructure.

The project is crucial as the reservoirs are primary sources of Chennai's drinking water.

Pointing out that this is the first major project taken up in many decades, officials of the WRD said the work was delayed due to administrative reasons and lack of funding.

While work would be initiated in the Cholavaram lake at a cost of ₹5.4 crore by December, the department is awaiting government order to take up the project in other reservoirs early next year.

Besides repairing the shutters, the silt deposited in

Superior storage

Reservoirs that supply water to the city will soon have augmented capacity, thanks to the Water Resources Department finally gearing up to remove silt deposited in them

Long overdue: Poondi reservoir in Tiruvallur district will be among the lakes to be desilted by the water resources department.

■ S. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

■ The present storage capacity of the four reservoirs is 11,257 million cubic feet (mcft)

■ Once the project is implemented, the reservoirs will have an additional storage capacity of 2,000 mcft

■ The reservoirs have a total water spread area of about 21,000 acres

■ Project will be executed over three years

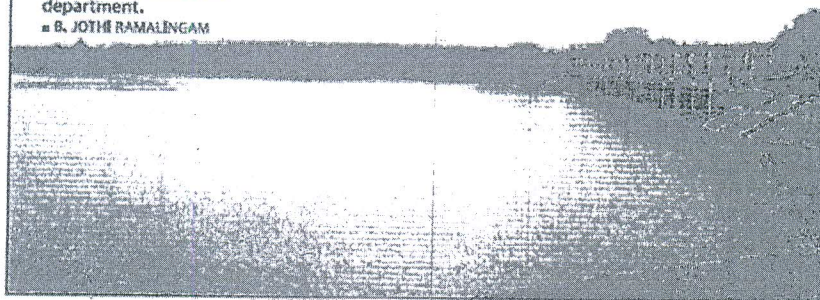
■ Cholavaram lake will be the first to be desilted, with work starting in December

■ Work at Red Hills, Chembarambakkam and Poondi will be taken up early next year

■ The cost of desilting Cholavaram lake is estimated at ₹5.4 crore

■ Upper and lower supply channel of Cholavaram lake will also be improved

■ The additional storage will be equivalent to two months' drinking water supply to the city



the lake would be removed and a road would be laid on top of the bund to be used as an inspection track.

The upper supply channel, which brings inflow from Tamaraipakkam and

cut, and lower supply channel, used to discharge water to Red Hills reservoir, are also being improved, an official said.

Officials recalled that the storage of Cholavaram reser-

voir was already increased by 200 million cubic feet (mcft) by raising the full tank level. Similar works would be taken up at Chembarambakkam and Poondi reservoirs.

In Red Hills, the long-pending problem of misuse of water spread area along Ambattur-Red Hills Road would be addressed. "We plan to form a foreshore bund on the rear portion of the reservoir to prevent encroachments," said an official.

Project to run for 3 years
The project period would run to three years as a desilting exercise can be done during the months when the water level is low.

The total capacity of the reservoirs now is 11,257 mcft. This would be further increased by nearly 2,000 mcft once the project is completed.

The additional storage equals two months of city water supply.

"We are also seeking advice from the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement project on executing the project, including strengthening the bund. The project would also generate revenue for the government through sale of *savudu* soil removed from the reservoirs," the official added.

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

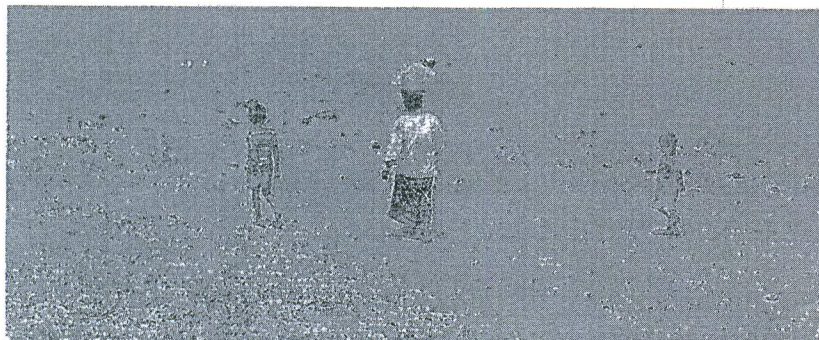
Hindustan (Hindi)
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Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

✓ The Hindu Businessline (8th Nov, 2018)

Drought conditions persist in many States

TV JAYANT



Karnataka, which estimated the loss from drought to be ₹16,500 crore, has already sought Central assistance of ₹2,434 crore - H_S_Manjunath

Bihar, Karnataka and Maharashtra already seeking drought relief from the Centre

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

As many as seven major States, apart from many smaller States in the North-East, are threatened by a drought-like situation that would severely hit food production and livelihood, apart from drinking water availability in coming months, an expert has warned.

"The soil moisture deficit is under extreme to exceptional category in many states. If the condition doesn't improve, many parts of the country may witness a water crisis similar to that experienced in 2015-16," said Vimal Mishra, an associate professor in the Civil Engineering Department of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Gandhinagar.

According to one report, as many as 33 crore people in 2.5 lakh villages of 266 districts in 11 States were affected by the severe drought in 2015-16.

"This year's drought is different from that in previous years as water scarcity is already affecting a large part of the country," Mishra told *BusinessLine*.

Among the States where the rainfall deficit has already translated into drought-like situations are Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, and many North-Eastern States, he said.

Even though, the India Meteorological Department forecast 97 per cent of the long period rainfall average of 89 centimetres during the 2018 South-West monsoon season, the rainfall received was only 91 per cent of the quantum.

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Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu (New Delhi)

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

The Times of India (A)

Business standard

The Economic Times

✓ The Hindu Businessline (8th Nov, 2018)

Seeking Central assistance

Some States have already declared a drought in their jurisdictional areas. While Karnataka declared 100 talukas across 24 districts as drought-affected last month, Bihar said a drought was imminent as 33 out of its 38 districts suffered a rain deficit during the monsoon season.

Karnataka, which estimated the loss from drought to be ₹16,500 crore, has already sought Central assistance of ₹2,434 crore for drought relief.

Maharashtra is the latest State to seek drought relief. On October 31, the State government declared as many as 141 talukas across 26 districts in the States drought-hit and sought financial assistance of ₹7,000 crore from the Centre. The State has a total of 355 talukas and 182 of them are said to be drought-prone.

While eight drought-affected districts each are in the Vidarbha and Marathwada regions, five are in north Maharashtra and four in western Maharashtra. Water scarcity has also hit one district in the Konkan region of the State.

According to the IIT-Gandhinagar researchers led by Mishra, who runs the Water & Climate lab, which regularly forecasts soil moisture in different parts of the country, a drought is looming in other States too. "Excessive groundwater pumping may worsen the situation in coming months. The States may face both surface and groundwater crises in the near future," Mishra said.

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

The Print (9th Nov, 2018)

Delhi's air pollution is a water crisis in disguise

ANDY MUKHERJEE 9 November, 2018

Delayed rice planting relieves pressure on aquifers but exacerbates the stubble burning that chokes the capital.

It's that time of the year when pollution in India's capital becomes unbearable, courts upset people by restricting Diwali firecrackers, and the environmental authorities threaten draconian steps like banning cars.

This is also the season for hand-wringing over the practice of burning crop residue in New Delhi's neighboring states of Punjab and Haryana, when soot blows toward the city. Scientists estimate that on Monday, one-third of the Delhi National Capital Region's overhang of harmful particulate matter, elements finer than a fraction of a human hair, derived from stubble burning.

Including the capital region, India is home to nine of the world's 10 most-polluted cities. Beyond the health risks, the smog crisis threatens to erode competitiveness just when the country is starting to boast of rapid improvements in its ease-of-doing-business rankings.

No matter how hard the authorities try to discourage private vehicles, shut down coal-fired power plants, or curb construction and heavy industry, Delhi's air quality stands no chance as long as 30 million tons of paddy stubble goes up in flames over 15 to 20 days. In late October and early November, pollution alternates between very poor and severe.

The problem is typically identified as one of expensive technology and scarce labor: Mechanized harvesters generate a large volume of stubble and straw. This stuff is useless as cattle feed, but if left untreated it uses up the nitrogen in the field and reduces yields of the next crop, which is wheat.

A \$1,900 Happy Seeder that plants wheat while mulching the paddy stubble isn't cost-effective for small farmers. Gathering up the residue is also problematic. Rural labor in prosperous Punjab increasingly consists of migrants who return home to celebrate Diwali. Burning the waste seems like the most logical solution to farmers, even though the villagers themselves are blighted by pollution.

The issue goes deeper than technology and labor, though. Paddy isn't a natural crop for the Punjab region. It guzzles too much water, and an over-reliance on groundwater (Punjab has more tube wells than farmers) has been rapidly depleting aquifers. But Indian policymakers want farmers to grow wheat and rice in order to feed a large and growing population without having to rely on imports.

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It was only in the 2000s that the severity of a burgeoning water crisis was understood. Since 2008, the Punjab government has delayed sowing of rice by setting a mandatory start date. This year, it was postponed by another five days to June 20 to save 2.4 trillion liters of water. But later paddy sowing means even greater pressure after the harvest to clear the fields for wheat, and that's made Delhi's October-November air pollution even more concentrated, spoiling Diwali celebrations.

Put another way, Delhi's air pollution is at least partly a water crisis in disguise. Weaning Punjab's farmers off rice would be next to impossible, and given the primacy of food security, politicians won't even seriously try. But it's time to recognize that halfhearted measures such as forced delays in sowing have environmental and economic costs that also must be weighed. – *Bloomberg*

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Hindustan Times
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Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

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

✓ United News of India (5th Nov, 2018)

Garudeshwar weir dam will keep Statue of Unity safe

Kevadia, Nov 5 (UNI) The Garudeshwar weir dam being constructed in Narmada near the 'Statue of Unity' would not only ensure that the river around this monumental tourist attraction remains filled up all the time stretched around 12 km like the Sabarmati along with the riverfront in Ahmedabad but also act as an emergency energy-source.

The all important weir is a vital aid to the beauty of both the statue and the valley of flowers as it would make the river look beautiful by keeping it filled up. It is situated in Garudeshwar at a distance of 9 km from Sadhu between the seat of statue of unity and 12 km from Kevadia where Sardar Sarovar dam is situated.

The government has claimed that it has not and would not cause any displacement in any of the villages situated around the banks of Narmada. The fears that it would cause floods on reaching its maximum height have also been termed 'base-less'.

The total height of the weir is to be kept at 31.75 meter. And so far it has been constructed up to around 27 m height. The work up to full height would be completed in next around six months.

J K Garasia, Executive Engineer of the Hydro Power division-4 of the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd, who takes care of compensation process of around 12 weir project affected villages including Vagadiya, Indravarna, Garudeshwar, Nana and Mota Pipariya, Vasantpura and Gora, said 'It is to maintain water level in the 12 km stretch of the river from Gadureshwar to the Sardar Sarovar Narmada dam in Kevadia (around 3.5 km from the statue site) for production of electricity through the reversible turbines at the river bed. This in turn would also ensure that the river in and around the statue remains filled-up round the year. From the water thus stored all the six turbines of the river bed hydel power plant could be run for six continuous hours, he said.

The 12 km stretch is also being developed as a river bank garden named valley of garden, which was also inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The water in the river would also make it look beautiful to the national and international tourists visiting the area which has now become an international tourist destination after the unveiling of 182 m high statue of Sardar Patel which is the world's tallest statue.

The dam's main power plant ie river bed one houses six 200 MW Francis pump-turbines to generate electricity and include a pumped-storage capability. Additionally, a power plant on the intake for the main canal ie canal bed contains five 50 MW Kaplan turbine-generators. The total installed capacity of the power facilities is 1,450 MW.

On being asked about the allegation that there were issues regarding acquisition of land for the weir dam on the river bank in the around a dozen villages, Garasia said, 'We have so far acquired 170 acre of land and would acquire another 40 to 45 acres mainly in Kevadia and Gabhana villages. All the norms for compensation have been followed. The fear of flood due to the weir and rumours of submerging of fields with standing crop are all baseless. The construction of weir, started in December 2014, would be completed in another six months, he said adding that some of the villagers who claim that their land has been acquired or submerged have no proof in document and the new village maps.

Collector of Narmada R S Ninama also said that there won't be any displacement due to the weir project. 'Only small pieces of lands of one to 2 acre dimension have been acquired along the river bank and no house or residential area has been affected. No body is being displaced due to it,' he