

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 14.10.16 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

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Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

Centre releases ₹447 cr for Renuka Dam project

Will release more funds after Niti Aayog nod



Renuka Lake in Sirmaur district, 166 km from Shimla. PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

KULDEEP CHAUHAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 13

After hanging fire for 22 years, the 175-m-high Renukaji Dam has finally set to see the light of day as the Ministry of Water Resources has released Rs 446.96 crore to Himachal that will enable HP Power Corporation Ltd (HPPCL) to pay land award to dam oustees.

Though Himachal had demanded Rs 1,981.35 crore as an immediate assistance to expedite the land acquisition process and give awards to the project-affected villages, the Centre has released Rs 446.96 crore early this month, saying, "The rest of amount will be released after the Niti Aayog gives its clearance to the proj-

ect."

The ministry has released this amount to Himachal asking the state government to release it to the HPPCL within 15 days.

The HPPCL has appointed the Chief Engineer, Renukaji Dam, to expedite the payment of land award to the oustees whose land measuring about 1,130 hectares has been acquired over the years.

All clearances have been given for the project as far as Himachal is concerned, said HP Power Corporation Ltd managing director HK Sharma. Even the state committee, headed by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, had constituted by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to assess the status of the project, had

submitted its report to the NGT and nothing is pending on the part of Himachal, he pointed out.

The Renukaji Dam on the Giri river in Sirmaur will supply 23 cumecs of water to Delhi. It will store 49,800 ha m of water in which Himachal will get 40 mw power while water will be distributed among Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh.

The cost of project has already shot up from Rs 3,572 crore in 1994 to Rs 6,000 crore in 2016 as the project remained in deep freeze for the last 22 years. As per agreement, the Centre has to give 90 per cent funds while 10 per cent share would be paid equally by five beneficiary states.

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Mahadayi row: Congress, BJP set for showdown

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU: With the Goa unit of the Congress opposing the talks over sharing of the Mahadayi waters with Karnataka, an all-party meeting scheduled for October 19 here is likely to witness a slugfest between the ruling Congress and the Opposition BJP. Though leaders of all political parties put up a united show on the Cauvery dispute, they seem to be divided on resolving the inter-State Mahadayi dispute.

The decision of Congress leader in the Lok Sabha M. Mallikarjun Kharge to seek the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in resolving the long-pending dispute has not gone down well with State BJP leaders. The State unit of the BJP termed the Goa Congress' opposition to talks "a distinct sign of the Congress' non-cooperative attitude."

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Stop choking our rivers even more

Adopting eco-friendly options in religious ceremonies can help save the Yamuna

The jury is still out on the extent of damage to the Yamuna floodplains following the mega Art of Living meet earlier this year. Now tonnes of debris have been dumped in the river after Durga Puja, putting enormous pressure on what was once the lifeline of Delhi. Religion and tradition may dictate that idols be immersed in the river but given its condition, this practice must be lessened or discontinued altogether. The idols and other objects immersed contain toxic paints and non-biodegradable substances. These choke a river which is already gasping for breath — along a 22-km stretch of the river that passes through Delhi, there is no aquatic life at all. The pollution is also due to the fact that at least 21 drains discharge their effluent into the river every day accounting for 67% of the pollution. This poses a huge challenge but measures must be taken not to add to this.

It is not as though there is no way out of this immersion process. In several areas, there are tanks into which the idols and accompanying items are immersed. If the immersion of idols in rivers is a matter of faith, the Yamuna is considered a holy river and there is no cause to degrade it any further. Today, many more people than before are using idols made of eco-friendly substances. Much of the other accoutrements of the puja can be recycled and need not be dumped into any river. But given the pathetic condition of the river, which has been reduced to a drain in many parts of Delhi, it is clear that the authorities have to impose restrictions on immersing non-biodegradable items on the grounds that this is in consonance with faith. The Ganga is similarly hugely polluted with the faithful immersing all sorts of items of worship in it. Hundreds of crores of rupees have been spent on the Ganga Action Plan but the river is still polluted and its waters unfit for either drinking or bathing. In the case of the both the Ganga and Yamuna, huge amounts of money has been spent on sewage treatment plants but there has been little impact so far. The Mithi river in Mumbai and the Hindon in Uttar Pradesh are going the same way, in fact according to the Central Board for Pollution Control, there is not a single river in India that can be termed clean.

Cleaning a polluted river is not an impossible task. Not so long ago, the Thames was very badly polluted. Today, it hosts a variety of aquatic life and is considered among one of the clean rivers in Europe. While what we face here is a gargantuan task, some steps like minimising these mass immersions could help

दिनांक 14.3.2019 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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14 Oct - The Tribune

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Renuka Lake in Sirmaur district, 166 km from Shimla. PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

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दिनांक 13.01.2016 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Govt drafts bill on sharing of river waters

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Seeking to resolve several inter-state disputes over the sharing of river waters through model legislation, the Centre has come out with the draft National Water Framework Bill, 2016, to provide a mechanism to develop and manage river basins in an integrated manner so that every state gets an "equitable" share of a river's water without violating the rights of others.

The draft bill also pitches for establishing a river basin authority for each inter-state basin to ensure "optimum and sustainable" development of rivers and valleys



The 26-page draft says every person has a "right to sufficient quantity of safe water"

and devises an integrated approach to conserve water and manage groundwater in a sustainable manner.

Since water is a state subject, the proposed legislation will not be binding on the states for adoption even if it becomes a law through Parlia-

ment in due course. It will work as a model bill for the states, giving them a framework to make local laws to use and conserve water.

The 26-page draft says every person has a "right to sufficient quantity of safe water for life" within easy reach of the household regardless of caste, creed, religion, age, community, class, gender, disability, economic status, land ownership and place of residence.

"The draft bill will go to the Union Cabinet for its approval. Once it gets the required nod, the Union water resources ministry will introduce it in Parliament," an official said but gave no time

frame for its introduction. He added, "We have already sought the states' opinion. The ministry will take a call after analysing the states' views".

Keeping various water disputes in view, the draft bill proposes establishing institutional arrangements at all levels within a state, and beyond up to an inter-state river-basin level, to "obviate" disputes through negotiations, conciliation or mediation before they become acute. It also says that each river basin authority will prepare a master plan — for the river basin under its jurisdiction — comprising such information as may be prescribed.

दिनांक 13.10.2015 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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13 Oct The Hindu

After 16 months, Krishna water set to quench Chennai's thirst

With the canal bed dry, water is expected to reach Uthukottai only by Oct. 14

K. LAKSHMI

CHENNAI: After nearly 16 months, Chennai will soon receive Krishna water from Andhra Pradesh, just in time to save the city from a looming drinking water crisis.

Water from the Kandaleru reservoir in Andhra Pradesh was released into the Kandaleru Poondi (KP) canal on Monday evening after sustained efforts of the Tamil Nadu government that sought water to augment Chennai's supply. Chennai had been receiving Krishna water till May 2015.

Following the recent directive of the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, about 200 cubic feet per second of water is being discharged into the 152-km-long KP canal, which carries water from the

Kandaleru reservoir to the inter-State limit in Uthukottai, Tiruvallur district.

Confirming the water discharge into KP canal, sources in the Water Resources Department (WRD) said the water was expected to reach the zero point at Uthukottai by October 14 or October 15.

Normally, it takes two or three days for the water to reach the zero point. But the canal bed is dry and the water may take longer to reach the State limit.

"It has covered about 50 km so far. The volume of water being discharged will be stepped up gradually," a source said.

The water release has come at a time when the storage in four city reservoirs — Poondi, Cholavaram, Red Hills and Chembarambakkam — is fast depleting.

KRISHNA WATER: FACT FILE

Chennai is at present supplied with 750 million litres a day



IN FULL FLOW: A file picture of Krishna water from the Kandaleru reservoir in Andhra Pradesh flowing through the Kandaleru-Poondi canal in Uthukottai near Chennai. —

PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Since 1996, the city has received a total of 73 thousand million cubic feet of Krishna water

• In 2014-15 (till May 2015), Chennai received nearly 5.59 thousand million cubic feet of Krishna water. This is equal to six months of drinking water supply to the city

• As per the agreement between Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, Chennai is entitled to get 12,000 million cubic feet of Krishna water every year

• Water is released in two spells from the Kandaleru reservoir in Andhra Pradesh: July to October and January to April

दिनांक 12.31.2011 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Brahmaputra Board revamp likely soon

KALYAN BAROOAH

NEW DELHI, Oct 11: The long-awaited move to revamp the defunct Brahmaputra Board is likely to become a reality soon, with the Centre readying a note to convert the board into a basin-level authority.

The move will also mark the formal dumping of the UPA-sponsored proposal to set up the ambitious North East Water Resources Authority (NEWRA), which failed to take off owing to stiff opposition of Arunachal Pradesh. The proposal was a pet project of the then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, who pushed hard for setting up such an authority.

After the NDA came to power in Delhi, the Central Government constituted a nodal group to look into all aspects to restructure the Brah-

maputra Board as a basin-level authority. The nodal group has since submitted its report on restructuring of the Brahmaputra Board. The proposal to restructure the board as a basin-level body is currently being drafted by the Centre, sources said.

The move by the Centre followed after pressure from the northeastern states, mainly Assam, to act fast on the long-pending proposal to restructure the Brahmaputra Board. The then Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi had on several occasions raised the issue with the Centre. Assam also pressed the Centre to either act on the proposal to set up the NEWRA that has become a nonstarter or expedite the long-pending move to revamp the board by passing the Brahmaputra Board Amendment Bill.

(See page 2)

दिनांक 12 दिसम्बर को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Brahmaputra Board ...

(Contd from page 1)

Sources in the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) admitted that the working of the Brahmaputra Board has come under a lot of criticism from the northeastern states. The Bill to amend the Brahmaputra Board Act has been revived and the idea is to make the board more responsive and function better.

The budgetary allocation for the Brahmaputra Board was also hiked from Rs 56 crore to Rs 90 crore. The funds have been earmarked for the Majuli Island Protection Project and flood management works, sources added.

The northeastern region with its geographical area of 26.52 million hectares has a

combined water resources potential of (Brahmaputra and Barak River) 586 BMC, which is among the highest of all river basins in the country.

The original 2004 proposal to revamp the Brahmaputra Board, which has been lying in the cold storage, envisages redefining and widening the objective of the board, so as to include integrated water resources development involving irrigation, flood management and hydropower generation. The draft note prepared by the MoWR was circulated among different ministries and based on such inter-ministerial consultations, a Bill was to be introduced during the Monsoon Session of the Parliament last year seeking amendment of the existing Act:

Meanwhile, despite the raging controversy over construction of mega dams in the Northeast, the Brahmaputra Board has completed preparation of a detailed project report (DPR) on several ventures. Sources said that DPRs were completed for five projects – Siang single stage dam and Subansiri single stage dam in Arunachal Pradesh, Tipaimukh dam in Manipur, Pagladiya dam in Assam and Bhairabi dam in Mizoram.

The Pagladiya Dam Project is under execution by the Brahmaputra Board, while the Siang and Subansiri dam projects have been handed over to the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) for execution.

दिनांक 12.3.14 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Team winds up Cauvery basin assessment in TN

CHENNAI, Oct 11: The high-level technical team constituted by the Supreme Court on the Cauvery issue today held discussions with the Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary, as it wrapped up its two-day assessment of the Cauvery basin in the state's Delta districts.

The team led by Central Water Commission Chairman GS Jha, held discussions with Chief Secretary P Ramamohana Rao and Public Works Department Principal Secretary SK Prabakar.

Jha later told reporters that the team was in the process of processing the data collected in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and analysing them. It would submit its report in the Supreme Court on or before October 17.

He thanked both the states "for nicely organising the visit and sharing the information so that we can be able to assess the ground realities in a very feasible manner."

Asked if Tamil Nadu had put forth any demand in today's meeting, he replied in the negative.

"There is no demand as such and we have

not tried to put things in the demand and release manner. We will be just assessing the ground realities," he said.

"Of course, the utilisation part will also be there; availability and utilisation, so you may say that the demand will be in the form what is the utilisation, what can be the best utilisation possible," he added.

Asked what the state farmers had told them, Jha said they had presented a memorandum in Tamil and that officials here have been asked to translate it and "distribute among members so that we can look (into it) before we embark on writing the report."

Farmers of the Cauvery delta region had on Monday told the team that they were incurring a loss of around Rs 1,000 crore to Rs 2,500 crore each year due to the Cauvery dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

The team was formed by the Supreme Court to assess the situation in the Cauvery basin in both the states. It had already visited Karnataka last week. — PTI