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Technical Documentation Directorate  
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section  
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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.

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SPA (Publicity)

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16/5

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O/C

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 16/5/12 in the

Hindustan Times  
Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express ✓

Tribune

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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

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Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

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The Times of India (A)

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## KNOW YOUR RIVER

Namami Devi Narmade talks of people's participation.  
But the rest is platitude

ON MONDAY, PRIME Minister Narendra Modi said that future generations will "talk of our struggle to rejuvenate the Narmada river". He was speaking at the conclusion of the five-month long Narmada-Seva Yatra — also called the Namami Devi Narmade — that began in December last year. Its website describes the yatra as the beginning of a "people's movement" to rejuvenate the Narmada. The PM congratulated the people of Madhya Pradesh for participating in the campaign. Given that river conservation initiatives end up being state-driven top-down endeavours, the MP government's efforts signal a welcome change. But the project's website only delivers homilies on plantations, "sustainable use of resources", and soil and water conservation. It does not attempt to address the ecological specificities of India's fifth longest river.

The Narmada, unlike the Himalayan rivers, does not originate from glaciers, but in a forest of sal trees in Amarkantak. The roots of these lofty trees hold rainwater and gradually release it, replenishing the river's catchment area. But in the late 1990s, the sal-borer pest wreaked havoc in nearly 1,50,000 hectares, including the Narmada's catchment area. The river is yet to recover from the ravages. MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has talked of reviving sal forests. But the sal is a self-generating tree. Replanting it, though theoretically not impossible, requires much more effort compared to regenerating other forests. The Namami Devi Narmade website has nothing on how the government intends to go about this endeavour, beyond platitudes about "involving people". It has nothing on preventing future sal-borer epidemics, which as history shows, occur every few decades. Containing the pest would require coordinating with neighbouring states, UP, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

The sal-borer pestilence of the 1990s hurt the Narmada much more compared to the previous epidemics because pollution was already taking a toll of the river. Reports of the Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board incriminate municipal waste for the poor health of the river. So does a study in the International Journal of Chemical Studies, published last year, which shows that industrial discharge and domestic waste from at least 10 cities, including Jabalpur, Omkareshwar and Hoshangabad, have rendered the Narmada's water unfit for drinking. The Narmada rejuvenation plan does envisage sewage treatment plants (STPs) to treat such waste. But given that a majority of the population of cities in MP lives outside the sewerage network — much like most parts of the country — STPs will clean a very small fraction of the dirt that flows into the heavily-dammed Narmada. Given that the plan to clean the Narmada is still in a nascent state, the state government would do well to address these shortcomings. Otherwise, the so-called "people's movement" could come a cropper.



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# PM to states: Follow MP to breathe life into rivers

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**Amarkantak (MP):** PM Narendra Modi praised Madhya Pradesh on Monday for turning the conservation of its "lifeline", the Narmada, into a "mass movement", and urged other states to follow its example in their own river-cleaning campaigns.

The plea was a clear message to states that have so far not been successful in carrying out the Centre's ambitious Ganga rejuvenation programme.

Referring to the state's time-bound plan, he said no programme could be successfully implemented without the involvement of people, no matter what kind of policy it has or how effective the leadership is. "The biggest strength of democracy is 'jan bhagidari' (people's participation). We are seeing great enthusiasm in people here to save the river Narmada," Modi said, addressing a function to mark the conclusion of the 'Narmada Sewa Yatra', which was flagged off on December 11 last year as part of a campaign to create awareness among the masses for

## ACTION PLAN TO REJUVENATE NARMADA

  
Rs 1,500cr to set up sewage treatment plants (STPs) in 18 towns along river

Set 2-year deadline to complete STPs  
Zero discharge of sewage into the river



Massive plantation drive to be launched along the banks and catchment area of river

Nearly 6cr saplings to be planted on July 2. Plantation will be done on both govt and private land



Farmers will be compensated for carrying out plantation on their farm land. Encourage organic farming in villages along the banks of the Narmada river

All panchayats along the river will have Narmada Sewa Samiti

Complete ban on mining activities in and around Amarkantak, from where the river originates



rejuvenating the Narmada.

He also released MP's action plan that details with timelines how the state would go about reviving Narmada's sources of water to the river through a massive plantation exercise in the catchment area and also along the banks of the river that originates from Amarkantak. "I wish this document should go to all states so that they can emulate it for

their respective river rejuvenation plan," said Modi. There are many rivers in India, he said, that are visible only on the map and non-existent on the ground.

MP's Narmada action plan lays great emphasis on afforestation as trees, with their water retention/absorption capacities, in the Vindhyas are the main source of water to the river and its tributaries.



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# Monsoon to hit Kerala as per schedule, says IMD

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**Pune:** Indian Meteorological Department officials said on Monday that monsoon was unlikely to hit the Indian mainland (Kerala coast) early, after the rain system reached south Andamans three days before the normal date.

The officials expect a normal monsoon onset date over Kerala. A K Sahai, climate research and services, IMD, Pune, told TOI that an anti-cyclone in the lower levels over the Arabian Sea was hindering the further advancement of monsoon towards the west coast and Kerala. "Extended range fo-



Monsoon normally reaches Kerala on June 1. A late or early onset by a day is considered normal

recasts show that the anti-cyclone is expected to dissipate by May-end, leading to strengthening of the westerlies. This will translate in to a normal monsoon onset date over Kerala," said Sahai.

Monsoon normally reaches Kerala on June 1. A late

or early onset by a day or two is considered normal. The southwest monsoon had advanced into some parts of southeast Bay of Bengal, Nicobar Islands, south Andaman Sea and parts of north Andaman Sea on May 14, a day prior to its onset date. But there was no progress on Monday.

On how monsoon is expected to fare this year, Sahai said with models showing weakening of El Nino and strengthening of IOD (Indian Ocean Dipole) conditions, hopes for rains close to 100% of the 50-year average were becoming more plausible. The IMD had earlier forecast this year's rains at 96% of the long period average.

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16-5-77  
**प्रधानमंत्री देश की  
नदियों पर चिंतित**

मध्यप्रदेश। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने नर्मदा नदी के माध्यम से देश की नदियों की स्थिति पर चिंता जाहिर की है। उन्होंने कहा नर्मदा संरक्षण कार्ययोजना से अन्य राज्य भी सीख लें।

मोदी ने सोमवार को मध्य प्रदेश में 'नमामि देवी नर्मदे' - नर्मदा सेवा यात्रा के समापन समारोह में कहा देश में ऐसी कई नदियाँ हैं, जो अब सिर्फ नक्शे पर ही रह गई हैं। नर्मदा की रक्षा के लिए की गई पहल के लिए मुख्यमंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान और राज्य की जनता को बधाई देते हुए उन्होंने कार्ययोजना दूसरे राज्यों से भी साझा करने के लिए कहा। (एजेंसी)



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# China-Pakistan water pincer against India: As part of CPEC, mega-dams are planned in Gilgit-Baltistan

Brahma Chellaney



China, which is working to re-engineer the trans-boundary flows of rivers originating in Tibet, has taken its dam-building frenzy to Pakistan-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan, which is part of Jammu & Kashmir. In a new challenge to India, which claims Gilgit-Baltistan as its own territory, China will fund and build two Indus mega-dams at a total cost of \$27 billion, according to a MoU signed in Beijing during PM Nawaz Sharif's visit. The MoU came the same day India announced its boycott of China's OBOR summit, saying no country "can accept a project that ignores its core concerns on sovereignty and territorial integrity".

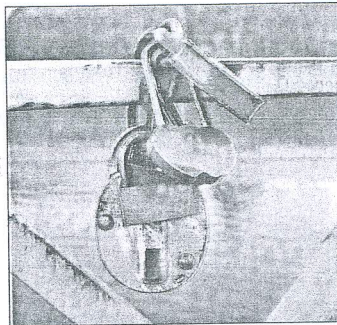
Such is the mammoth size of the planned 7,100MW Bunji Dam and the 4,500MW Bhasha Dam that India does not have a single dam measuring even one-third of Bunji in power generating capacity. In fact, the total installed hydropower capacity in India's part of J&K does not equal even the smaller of the two planned dams in Gilgit. Still, Pakistan disingenuously rails against India's modest hydropower projects in J&K and has sought fresh international arbitral tribunal proceedings against India over two projects, including the tiny 330MW Kishenganga.

Even more striking is China's hypocrisy: It bellicosely protested, almost

on a daily basis, the Dalai Lama's recent visit to Arunachal Pradesh, claiming it to be a "disputed territory", although only Beijing disputes India's control over Arunachal. It also held out threats against India jointly exploring with Vietnam for offshore hydrocarbons in Vietnam's exclusive economic zone. Yet it has no compunctions about unveiling projects – under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) banner – in Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir, a UN-recognised disputed region.

**Pakistani authorities are responding harshly to anti-CPEC protests in Gilgit-Baltistan, where the corridor is widely seen as opening the path to the region's enslavement by China**

CPEC – OBOR's flagship programme, which will cement Pakistan's status as China's economic and security client – has become a convenient cover for Beijing to include major strategic projects, stretching from Gilgit-Baltistan to Pakistan's Chinese-built Gwadar port. The Bunji and Bhasha dams are also claimed to be part of CPEC, which, by linking the maritime and overland "Silk Roads" that China is creating, will gravely impinge on India's security. A grateful Pakistan has given China exclusive rights



to run Gwadar port for the next 40 years.

The Bunji and Bhasha dams, which will largely benefit the dominant Punjab province, located downstream, are set to enlarge China's strategic footprint in the restive, Shia-majority Gilgit-Baltistan. For years, China has stationed several thousand of its own troops in Gilgit-Baltistan, ostensibly to protect its strategic projects there, including upgrading the Karakoram Highway and building a new railway and secret tunnels. CPEC has spurred increased concern that Gilgit-Baltistan, like Tibet, could get overwhelmed by the Chinese behemoth.

Pakistani authorities are responding harshly to anti-CPEC protests in Gilgit-Baltistan, where the corridor is widely seen as opening the path to the region's enslavement by China. The fact that China rules Gilgit-Baltistan's Shaksgam,

Raskam, Shimshal and Aghil valleys – ceded by Pakistan in 1963 to cement its strategic alliance with Beijing – has only added to the grassroots resistance against Chinese projects, which extend to mineral-resource extraction.

Indeed, the Bunji and Bhasha Dam projects are already facing grassroots resistance because they are viewed locally as instruments to expropriate Gilgit-Baltistan's water resources for Punjab province. The Bhasha Dam alone will flood 200 square kilometres of Gilgit-Baltistan, displacing at least 28,000 residents and submerging some significant archaeological sites.

As China uses CPEC to turn Pakistan into a colonial outpost, its new dam projects in Gilgit promise to bring the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) under greater pressure. The paradox here is that China does not accept even the concept of water sharing but its activities in Gilgit are likely to impinge on the world's most generous water-sharing treaty that remains a colossus among water pacts in the world.

The 57-year-old IWT has survived mainly because of India's goodwill and full adherence, even as Pakistan violates the Shimla peace treaty and canons of civilised conduct. China's construction of dams in a disputed region is set to make Pakistan's water relationship with India murkier. The Chinese role will not only cast a pall on the IWT's future but it could also deal a mortal blow to the treaty.

*The writer is a geostrategist and author*