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Delhi, Raj, Haryana headed the Latur way as groundwater extraction soars

Per Capita Availability Declining

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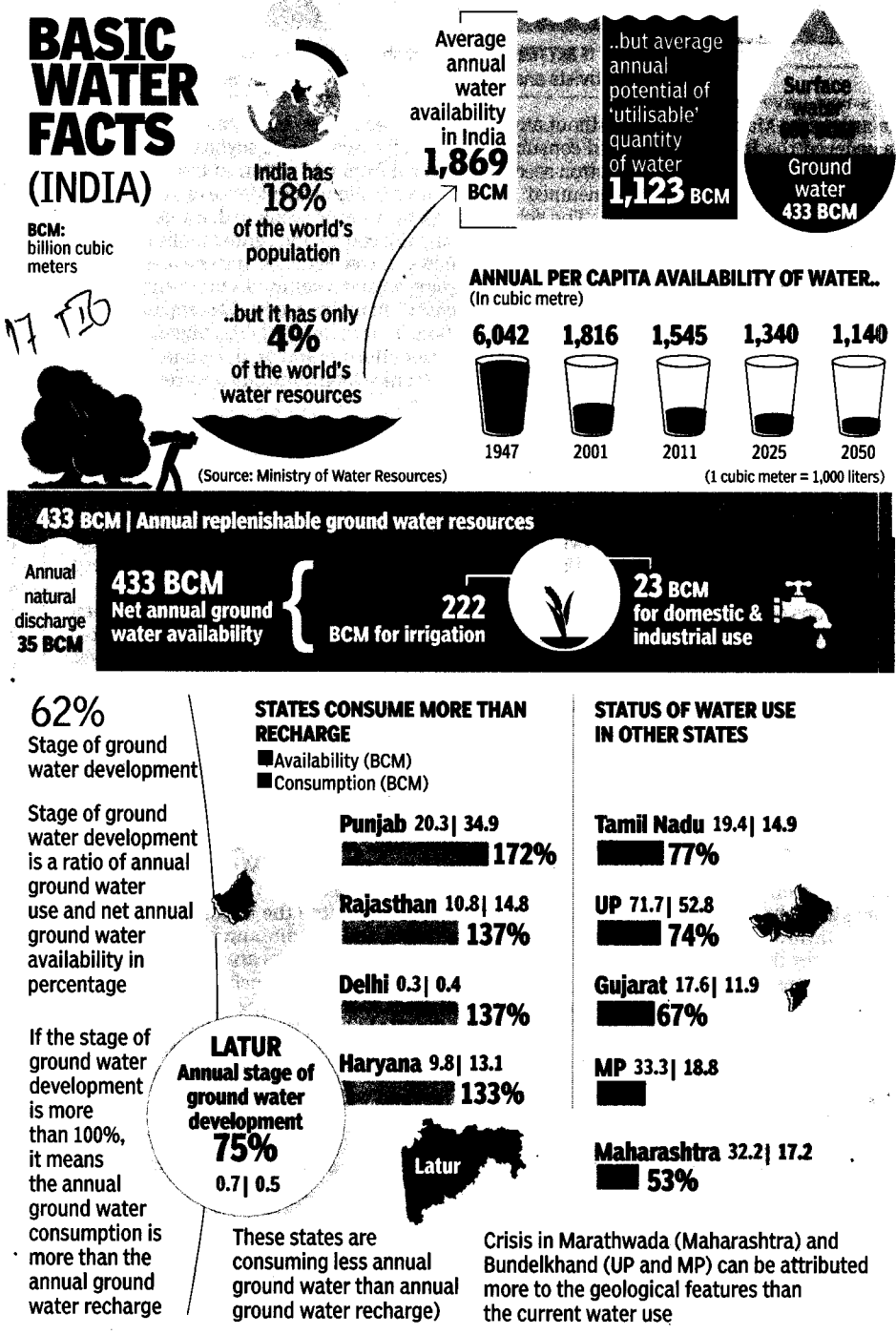
New Delhi: As water trains and tankers help battle Latur's worst drought ever, rampant extraction of groundwater could soon push Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan towards a similar harrowing shortage of water.

Analysis of water use by different states shows that a gradual decline in per capita availability could leave these states in the same precarious position as the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, which has faced two consecutive years of drought.

The latest assessment of the country's dynamic groundwater resources, performed by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), shows that these states, in fact, consume much more groundwater than their rechargeable limit every year, making them vulnerable to severe water scarcity.

Delhi recently witnessed how perilous the situation can get when agitating Jats cut off its water supply from Haryana. It could get much worse in the future if one looks at the way Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan have been drawing water from the ground.

Referring to the situation in Punjab and Haryana, former CGWB scientist Shashank Shekhar said, "Indiscriminate use of water in agriculture is a major concern. The practice of provid-



ing free electricity to farmers must be immediately discontinued to stop the misuse of groundwater in Punjab."

"Since agriculture consumes the maximum water across the country, the use of drip irrigation and sprinklers must be encouraged through various incentives," he added.

Though the record of Maharashtra is better than its northern counterparts in terms of groundwater extraction, Latur district had been extracting more than the state average and now it does not have water to draw from existing borewells.

"There is need to drill a number of borewells in Latur with the help of geological data and remote sensing maps on prevailing hydrological information," said Shekhar, currently an assistant professor in Delhi University's geology department. "Many of them may fail to trace water. But there are chances that a few of them will tap the water bearing rocks," he added.

Though the exact estimate of groundwater resources can only be made after completion of the ongoing exercise of aquifer (underground layer of water-bearing rock) mapping, the Centre is, meanwhile, looking at various options to conserve water in a big way. One option is to introduce the tank-based water conservation model practised by the 11th century Kakatiya dynasty in Warangal area.

Under the Kakatiya dynasty, the then kings had promoted a small tank-based irrigation system which turned out to be a prudent method. Inter-connected rain-fed tanks were built to store rainwater. The Telangana government has, in fact, already launched 'Mission Kakatiya' that aims to de-silt the existing tanks and build more such tanks to conserve water.

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10-yr-old girl face of Hindon revival plan

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Meerut: For most girls her age, life revolves around dolls and dresses, but 10-year-old Manassangyini Chaudhary has already trekked to the Kanchenjunga base camp at 16,300-ft and will now campaign to save west UP's heavily polluted Hindon river as the face of Hindon River Rejuvenation Project.

Born to an environment loving couple from Baraut in Baghpat district, Manassangyini is passionate about saving glaciers and rivers. "From a very early stage, my father explained to me the important role nature plays in our lives. We have spent a lot of time in



natural surroundings," she says. "We have read about droughts and the havoc contaminated water plays with human lives. There are so many villages in our district where people are suffering from all kind of water-borne diseases. I have decided to devote my life to the cause of environment conservation."

Manassangyini is passionate about saving glaciers and rivers. She will now campaign to save west UP's heavily polluted Hindon river, as the face of its revival plan

The Hindon project is a joint initiative of Tarun Bharat Sangh, an NGO, Water Resources Group and the UP government. Manassangyini came to TBS founder Rajendra Singh's notice through reports of her family's Kanchenjunga feat, in which her younger sister Suryassangyini set a record for being the youngest

trekker at the base camp. "I had read about this girl in newspapers when she had trekked to the Kanchenjunga base camp," Singh told TOI over phone. He came to know how she was cultivating love for nature among her friends, and sensed her strong passion for environment conservation.

Singh, a Magsaysay awardee who is known as 'Water Man of India', invited Manassangyini to his Alwar-based NGO "to give a short presentation at a workshop on Leadership for 'Social and Ecological Justice'. In that half-hour presentation, she left everyone awestruck. Later, she approached me to help her save waterbodies in her region."

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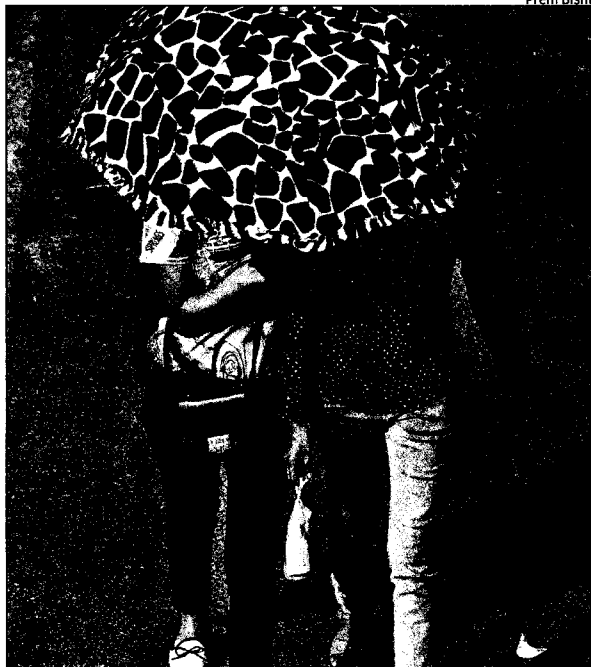
Capital sizzles at 42°C, Ggn even worse

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Heat wave conditions set in over Delhi and neighbouring areas on Saturday as the national capital recorded its highest temperature this season with 42 degrees Celsius — five degrees above normal — resulting in a hot and dusty afternoon. This is the highest temperature recorded in April since 2010, when the maximum temperature went up to 43.7 degrees Celsius. The highest temperature ever recorded in Delhi during April was 45.6 degrees Celsius in 1941.

The hottest region in the city was Palam, where the day temperature soared to 44 degrees Celsius. The highest temperature at Palam during April was recorded at 45.3 degrees Celsius on the 25th April, 1970. In NCR, Gurgaon recorded a day temperature of 43.5 degrees Celsius.

There is some relief in



Prem Bisht

HEAT IS ON Rain is expected to bring relief in the next three days

An official said that a western disturbance from April 17 to 20 will stall the rise in mercury and bring some relief

sight with dust storms expected over the next three days with a possibility of light rain in isolated parts of the city on Monday.

"A western disturbance will be affecting northwest India from April 17 to 20. It is quite on the north and will not have any significant impact on the plains of northwest India. However, it will arrest the rise in temperatures and provide some relief from the heat wave. A fall of about 2-4 degrees is being expected in the maximum temperatures over northwest India between Saturday and Monday. A rise of 1-2 degrees is being expected in the maximum temperatu-

res over central, west and adjoining regions of peninsula India during the next 2-3 days," said a Met official.

For Delhi, the Met department has predicted a partly cloudy sky with the possibility of a thunderstorm accom-

WEATHER

Max 42°C / Min 24.6°C

C
Moonrise: Sunday - 02:45 pm

Moonset: Monday - 03:39 am

Sunset: Sunday - 06:48 pm

Sunrise: Monday - 05:53 am

Partly cloudy sky. Maximum & minimum temperature on Sunday will be around 40°C & 25°C. Max Humidity on Saturday was 60% and min 19%

panied by lightning on Sunday. Monday is expected to have a partly cloudy sky with the possibility of rain and thunderstorm or dust storm. The sky will remain partly cloudy for another day before it starts becoming mainly clear from Tuesday onwards.

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INDIA DRYING OUT: STUDY

'LATUR-LIKE WATER CRISIS COULD HAPPEN ACROSS THE COUNTRY'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, 15 April

With the increase in the number of hot days and rising day and night temperatures, India is drying out marked by persistent moisture deficit conditions that may lead to Latur-like water crisis across many parts of the country, warned a study conducted jointly by Assocham and Skymet Weather Services.

"Today nine states are reeling under drought... India has seen two back to back droughts... India is drying out. In addition, there is an increase in the mean annual air temperature in many regions of the country. Prominent increase has been observed in the number of hot days and day and night temperatures from 1951 to 2013. The overall temperature has been



increasing while the all India Monsoon rainfall has been decreasing from 1960 onwards," the paper pointed out.

The study 'Managing Climate Risk in Agriculture' comes at a time when several parts of the country are facing water crisis, leading to distress in the rural landscape. Although, the Met department and Skymet have both predicted normal monsoon this year, the onset of these rains is still far away.

But the past weather behaviour over several years has shown that "we are perpetually witnessing

El Nino in the Pacific. There is a known inverse correlation between El Nino and the Indian summer monsoon. Between 1900 and 2000, there used to be one drought per decade on an average, while between 2000 and 2015, there have already been five," the paper said.

Climate change has a severe impact on Indian agriculture, so much so that it is "undoing a lot of the achievements of the Green Revolution", it said.

The paper referring to a large pool of expert studies on the subject said how rice crop yield decreases with the rise in temperature. For example, an increase in temperature by 2°C decreases the grain yield by 15 to 17 per cent.

"It is an alarming situation because the paddy and wheat production in Northeast India has already

been stagnating or even declining. Short-season crops (vegetables and fruits) are the worst affected by changes, particularly during critical periods of their growth," it said.

In his foreword to the study, Skymet Weather Services CEO Mr Jatin Singh said, "Prior warning about the perils approaching becomes even more imperative in a rapidly changing climate. Fluctuating weather patterns are increasingly manifesting themselves in stronger and more formidable ways. The recent Chennai deluge, El Nino induced back-to-back droughts and heat records setting new standards every year ~ all of these herald bigger calamities in the future unless we treat climate change as a serious threat to the environment and to humanity".

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Govt takes conflicting positions on drought

Secy Panel At Odds With Centre On Jobs

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New Delhi: Battling drought in one-third of the country and facing a writ petition by Swaraj Abhiyan in the Supreme Court, the government is taking conflicting positions on MGNREGS, the rural jobs scheme.

In the apex court, the government has argued that all is hunky dory and it is well prepared to deal with drought. It has said 50 days of additional employment in drought affected areas was notified and funds would not be a constraint.

Meanwhile, the mammoth committee of secretaries under the cabinet secretary, which has been formed to prepare the plan to deal with drought as well as the Swaraj Abhiyan petition, said in its note that though extra days of employment had been an-



Four of eight drought-hit states have a negative balance of funds

nounced, "the provision of labour budget depresses the sentiment and does not permit generation of employment in drought-affected areas as envisaged". The secretaries'

panel said there was a need to "work out ways and means to ensure that employment is provided to people in the drought-affected areas".

In many ways, labour budget, introduced in the last two years, has become the bane of MGNREGS. This was done by the ministry of rural development as part of "intensive participatory planning exercise" to arrive at labour and work projection so that financial resources may

be made available. Another feature was states ending the financial year with wage and material payments bills pending due to inadequate funds from the Centre.

This resulted in states having a negative balance of funds, i.e. expenditure being more than available funds. Twenty states are saddled with negative balance and four of the eight drought-hit states have a negative balance of Rs 1,455 crore. In such a scenario, the government's argument in the SC of 50 additional days of employment rings hollow since not only is there lack of funds but also no system to monitor additional employment.



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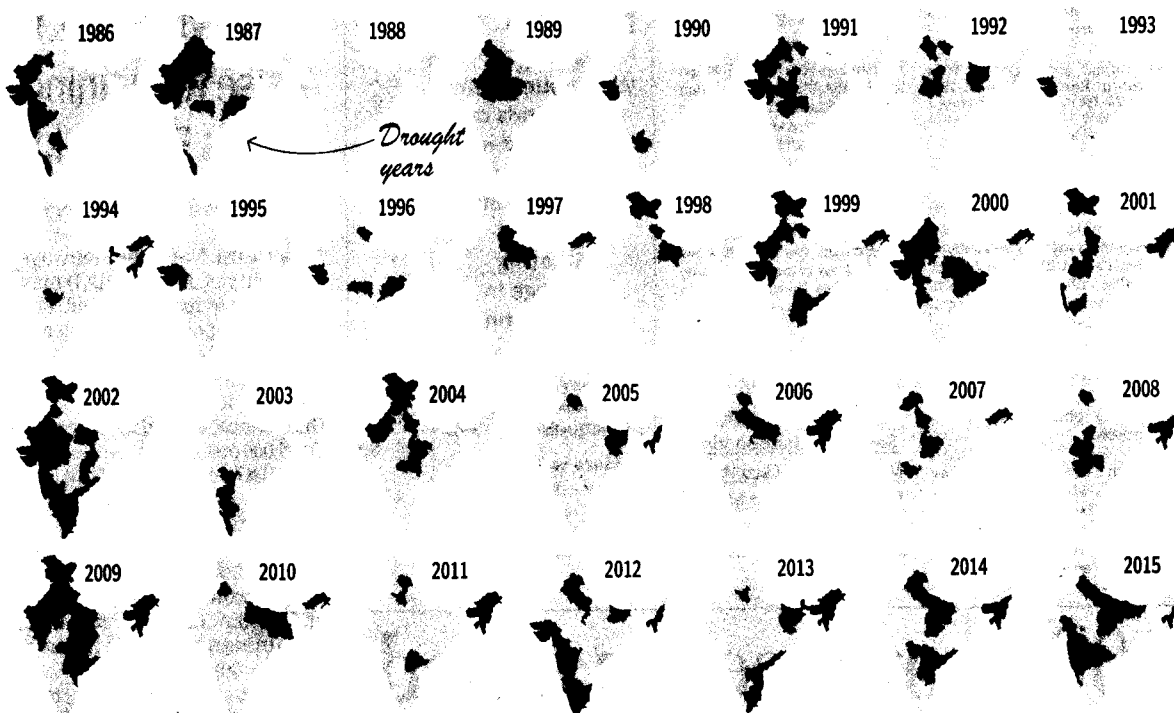
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HOW MONSOON CONTROLS OUR DESTINY

A normal monsoon will surely be good for the economy—both national and household. But how good? That depends on more than just the adequacy of total annual rainfall. Will the monsoon start and end on time? Will its geographical spread be even across all states? A good rainfall could even be an average of a few weeks of scanty and a few weeks of excessive rains. There are many factors that determine a monsoon's impact. Here are the six key ones:

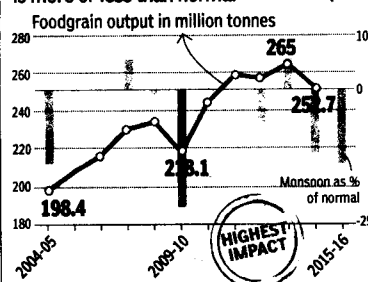
① Geographical spread

In the last 30 years, monsoon was normal in 23. But even during normal years, there were districts or states that suffered a drought. In the maps below, red areas are places where rainfall was less than normal by 20% or more



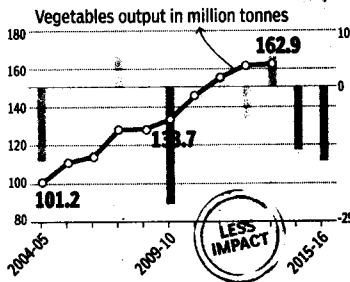
② Monsoon and foodgrains

The most direct impact of deficient rains is on foodgrain output—it rises or falls depending on whether monsoon is more or less than normal



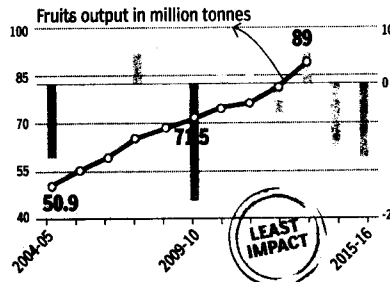
③ Monsoon and vegetables

Since 2004-05, vegetable produce has never fallen even during the drought year of 2009



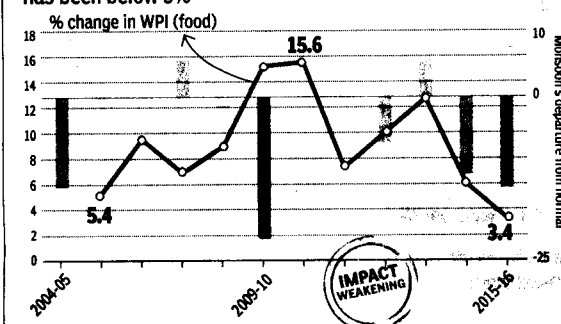
④ Monsoon and fruits

Fruit harvest has been even less affected by monsoon fluctuations than vegetable output



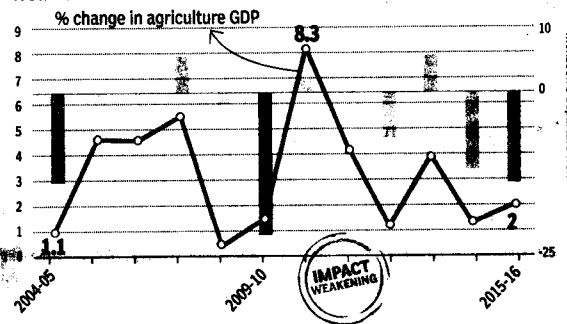
⑤ Monsoon and food prices

Wholesale food inflation spiked to double digits in 2009, but in the last two years of drought, it has been below 5%



⑥ Monsoon and farm GDP

Agriculture's share in GDP—which includes volume and value of farm output—shows a positive but weak correlation with rainfall



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कई पक्षों की राय लेने के बाद तैयार हो रहा मसौदा, इसका पालन करना राज्यों के लिए अनिवार्य नहीं होगा

केंद्र जल प्रबंधन के लिए विधेयक लाएगा

तैयारी

नई दिल्ली | एजेसी

देश के कई राज्यों में जल संकट के मद्देनजर सरकार जल्द ही एक विधेयक लाने जा रही है। इसके तहत जल भंडारण सुनिश्चित कर उसके प्रभावी प्रबंधन पर राज्यों के लिए दिशा-निर्देश तय किया जाएगा।

केंद्रीय जल संसाधन सचिव शशि शेखर ने रविवार को बताया कि कई पक्षों की राय लेने के बाद विधेयक का मसौदा तैयार किया जा रहा है। इसे 15 मई तक अंतिम रूप दिया जा सकता है। यह एक रूपरेखा वाला कानून है।

इसका पालन करना राज्यों के लिए अनिवार्य नहीं होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि मौजूदा जल संकट को देखते हुए यह विधेयक मददगार होगा। जरूरत पड़ी तो अन्य मंत्रालयों से भी सलाह ली जाएगी। इसके बाद ही राज्यों को दिशा-निर्देश जारी किया जाएगा।

दलित बहुल गांवों के लिए योजना



केंद्रीय मंत्री उमा भारती ने रविवार को कहा कि सरकार उन दलित बहुल गांवों की मदद के लिए बीआर अंबेडकर के नाम पर एक योजना शुरू करने पर विचार कर रही है, जो जल संकट से जूझ रहे हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि अंबेडकर की सोच थी कि देश के हर गरीब व्यक्ति तक पानी पहुंचे। हम इसे लागू करेंगे। एक परियोजना पर भी विचार-विमर्श किया जाएगा और

इसका नाम बाबा साहब के नाम पर होगा। उन्होंने बताया कि मंत्रालय ने जल क्रांति अभियान के तहत प्रत्येक जिले में पहले ही दो गांवों का चयन जल ग्राम के तौर पर किया है।

भूजल संचय पर जोर : लातूर के जल संकट का जिक्र करते हुए शेखर ने कहा कि अगले 10 साल तक जल प्रबंधन को लेकर व्यापक सोच की जरूरत है। उन्होंने पानी के भंडारण, खासतौर पर भूजल संचय पर जोर दिया। उन्होंने कहा, हर साल 90 दिन की अर्धमानसून की होती है, लेकिन बारिश केवल 30 से 35 दिन होती है। इसे ध्यान में रखकर पानी बचाने पर ध्यान देना होगा।

भूजल स्तर 80 से 120 फुट तक पहुंचा

जमशेदपुर। जमशेदपुर और उसके आसपास के इलाकों में भूजलस्तर औसतन 80 से 120 फुट तक पहुंच गया है। पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग के सर्वे के अनुसार छोटा गोविंदपुर, गदड़ा, सुंदरनगर आदि इलाकों में भूजल स्तर में तेजी से गिरावट आ रही है।

फैसला : बिना वजह पानी बहाया तो जुर्माना लगेगा

बागपत | महबूब अली

पानी की फिजूलखर्ची को बचाने के लिए अहेड़ा गांव के वृद्ध व युवा आगे आए हैं। रविवार को गांव में पंचायत आयोजित की गई। पंचायत में सर्वसम्मति से निर्णय लिया गया कि यदि गांव के किसी भी व्यक्ति ने बिना किसी वजह पानी खर्च किया तो उस पर पांच सौ रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया जाएगा।

अहेड़ा गांव में प्रमोद कुमार की अध्यक्षता व महेश कुमार के संचालन में पंचायत आयोजित की गई। पंचायत में निर्णय लिया गया कि अब लोग पानी की फिजूलखर्ची को बचाने के लिए जहां घर-घर जाकर लोगों को जागरूक किया जाएगा। वहीं यदि कोई पानी को बिना

नैनीताल में गाड़ी घोने और भवन निर्माण पर रोक

हल्द्वानी। जल संकट को देखते हुए नैनीताल जिले में घरेलू भवनों और शॉपिंग कॉम्प्लेक्सों आदि के निर्माण पर रोक लगा दी है। शनिवार को डीएम दीपक रावत ने बैठक बुलाकर सभी प्रकार के निर्माण कार्यों को तत्काल प्रभाव से रोकने को कहा। डीएम ने वर्कशॉप में गाड़ियों की धुलाई और बागवानी करने पर भी जुर्माना लगाने के निर्देश दिए हैं।

किसी वजह खर्च करते पाया जाता है तो उस पर पांच सौ रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया जाएगा।

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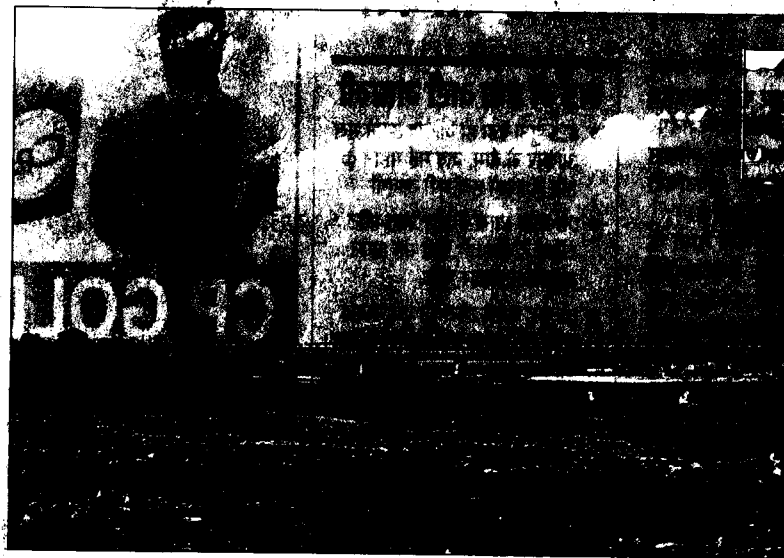
पानी शुद्ध रखने का साधन ही बना रहा यमुना को विषैला

बुरा हाल

आगरा/मथुरा | हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स

पहाड़ों की षोड से निकलती निर्मल, अविश्ल यमुना मैदानी क्षेत्रों में पहुँचते ही जहरीली हो जाती है। जहाँ एक तरफ बड़ी बहन गंगा मायके में बीमार है, तो दूसरी तरफ छोटी बहन यमुना में किए गए साफ-सफाई के इंतजाम ही कालिंदी में कालिख घोल रहे हैं।

केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड की रिपोर्ट में तो यमुना देश की सर्वाधिक प्रदूषित नदी है। तमाम औद्योगिक इकाइयों का रसायन नदी में प्रदूषण घोल रहा है। नतीजतन मथुरा की खरन स्ट्रीम गोकुल बैराज के ऊपर यमुना में ऑक्सीजन की मात्रा घटने लगी है।



आगरा में नालों से बहकर आई गंदगी ने यमुना की सूरत बिगाड़ दी है। • फाइल फोटो

आगरा

खुले नाले खतरा बने

खुले नाले भी यमुना के लिए खतरा बन गए हैं। जल निगम की यमुना प्रदूषण नियंत्रण इकाइयों द्वारा शहर में नालों से निकल रही गंदगी का सैटेलाइट सर्वे कराने से खुलासा हुआ कि प्रतिदिन यमुना में करीब 350 एमएलडी डिस्चार्ज हो रहा है।

172 एमएलडी है आगरा में बने एसटीपी की कुल सीवर शोधन क्षमता

80%

खुले नालों से यमुना में बहायी जा रही है ताजमहल की गंदगी

72 से अधिक नालों से हर दिन करीब 100 एमएलडी (10 करोड़ लीटर) गंदगी यमुना में गिर रही है

प्रदूषण के दो कारण +1-18

1. एसटीपी घोल रहे जहर

यमुना को शुद्ध रखने के लिए बने एसटीपी (सीवरेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट) ही जहर घोल रहे हैं। बड़ी का नगला (2.5 एमएलडी) एसटीपी से यमुना में पहुँच रही गंदगी में बीओडी की मात्रा 59 मिलीग्राम/लीटर है। सीओडी 290 मिलीग्राम/लीटर और सस्पेंडिंग सोलिड 84 मिलीग्राम/लीटर है।

2. कारखानों का रसायन

मथुरा और वृन्दावन के नाले ही यमुना को बीमार कर रहे हैं। चांदी कारखानों से निकलने वाला रसायन नाले-नालियों में होकर यमुना में गिर रहा है। प्रदूषण के कारण पीना तो दूर, आचमन तक से श्रद्धालु कतराने लगे हैं। विशेषज्ञों की मानें तो यमुना के पानी से चर्म रोग, त्वचा कैंसर और एलर्जी जैसी घातक बीमारियाँ हो रही हैं।

पेयजल को गंगाजल योजना

रिफाई प्रदूषित यमुना का पानी शोधन के बाद भी पेयजल लायक नहीं रहा। जल निगम को यमुना जल में मौजूद तत्वों के परीक्षण के बाद अपर गंगा नहर से लिंक पालड़ा फॉल (बुलंदशहर) से आगरा की पेयजल व्यवस्था के लिए गंगाजल योजना बनानी पड़ी। सिकंदरा पर एशिया की सर्वाधिक उन्नत वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट तकनीक एमबीबीआर (मूबिंग बेड बायोलॉजिकल रिफ़क्टर) का इस्तेमाल यमुना जल शोधन के लिए करना पड़ा है।

यमुना एक्शन प्लान (वाईएपी)

फेस वन और फेस-2 में 21 नालों को टेप किया है। एसटीपी बनाए गए हैं। अभी 500 किलोमीटर सीवर लाइन और बिछेगी, तभी गंदगी साफ होगी। एसटीपी से निस्तारित उत्पन्न की गुणवत्ता के लिए नियमित सैपलिंग हो रही है।

-यश कुमार जैन, महाप्राबंधक, यमुना एक्शन प्लान

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Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Kal Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

PLIIT

and documented at Elphinsth (English) & Publicity Section, QWC,



7.8 तीव्रता
11:58pm भारतीय समय

233
मौतें
580
घायल

अब एक्वाडोर में भूकंप

लैटिन अमेरिकी देश एक्वाडोर भूकंप से दहल उठा है। राजधानी कीटो से 170 किमी दूर शनिवार रात आए इस भूकंप से 233 लोगों की मौत हो गई। गायक्विल एयरपोर्ट बंद कर दिया गया। एक दिन पहले जापान में भूकंप से 41 लोगों की मौत हो गई थी। अफगानिस्तान, भारत, पाकिस्तान और म्यांमार में भी हाल के दिनों में भूकंप के झटके महसूस किए गए।

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The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (V)

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and documented at Elnorpath(English)& Publicity Section, UNO,

मजबूत मानसून से लौटेंगे अर्थव्यवस्था के 'अच्छे दिन'

नई दिल्ली, (वार्ता): आर्थिक विकास की धीमी रफ्तार और पिछले दो साल से सूखे की मार झेल रही भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए इस साल मानसून मजबूत रहने के अनुमान से अच्छे दिन लौटने की उम्मीद बढ़ गई है।

पिछले लगातार दो साल खराब मानसून तथा रबी मौसम की फसलों पर बेमौसम बारिश एवं ओलावृष्टि की मार से अर्थव्यवस्था को काफी झटके लगे हैं। कमजोर मानसून के कारण वित्त वर्ष 2014-15 में अर्थव्यवस्था की रीढ़ कृषि क्षेत्र की विकास दर शून्य से 0.25 प्रतिशत नीचे चली गयी जबकि वित्त वर्ष 2015-16 में इसके 1.2 प्रतिशत रहने की उम्मीद है। इसके अलावा खाद्यान्नों का उत्पादन भी वित्त वर्ष 2014-15 में इसके पिछले वित्त वर्ष के रिकार्ड 26.56 करोड़ टन से घटकर 25.20 करोड़ टन पर आ गया। इसी तरह गत वित्त वर्ष में भी मामूली बढ़ौतरी के साथ इसके

25.32 करोड़ टन रहने का अनुमान है। इसके मद्देनजर वर्ष 2014 के पूर्वार्द्ध में उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (सीपीआई) आधारित खुदरा महंगाई दर आठ प्रतिशत से अधिक रही जो 2014 के उत्तरार्द्ध में और वर्ष 2015 में नियंत्रण में तो आई, लेकिन खाद्य पदार्थों की महंगाई दर अन्य वस्तुओं की तुलना में ऊंची बनी रही।

पिछले साल दालों की कीमत 200 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम तक पहुँच गई थी। कमजोर मानसून से ग्रामीण लोगों के खरीदने की क्षमता प्रभावित हुई जिसका पूरी अर्थव्यवस्था पर असर पड़ा। दहाई अंक की विकास दर हासिल करने की उम्मीद लगाये बैठी सरकार को भी मायूस होना पड़ा और वित्त वर्ष 2014-15 में देश का सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (जीडीपी) उम्मीदों के विपरीत 7.3 प्रतिशत की दर से बढ़ा।

इस बीच पिछले सप्ताह भारतीय मौसम विभाग (आईएमडी) के वर्ष

उम्मीद

पिछले दो साल से खराब मानसून और बेमौसम बारिश से रबी फसलों को लगा झटका, इस बार अच्छी बारिश की संभावना

2016 के मानसून सीजन (जून से सितंबर) के दौरान देश में सामान्य से छह प्रतिशत अधिक बारिश होने और निजी कंपनी स्काईमैट के इस दौरान दीर्घावधि औसत से 35 प्रतिशत अधिक बारिश होने के अनुमान ने भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के अच्छे दिन लौटने की उम्मीद बढ़ा दी है। विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार अगर मानसून अच्छा रहा तो चालू वित्त वर्ष में कृषि क्षेत्र के रिकार्ड छह प्रतिशत की दर से बढ़ने की उम्मीद है। वित्त वर्ष 2015-16 में खाद्यान्नों

का उत्पादन 25.32 करोड़ टन पर पहुँचने के अनुमान के साथ ही चालू वित्त वर्ष में भी इसमें बढ़ौतरी की संभावना बनी है। इससे महंगाई में और कमी होने के साथ ही ग्रामीण आबादी की क्रय शक्ति में बढ़ौतरी हो सकती है। इससे टिकाऊ उपभोक्ता उत्पाद और आटो के साथ अन्य क्षेत्रों में मांग बढ़ने से आर्थिक विकास को गति मिलेगी। यह निवेश को बढ़ावा देने में भी मददगार साबित होगा। इसके मद्देनजर रिजर्व बैंक गवर्नर रघुराम राजन ने अर्थव्यवस्था में मांग के स्तर को बनाये रखने के उद्देश्य से कहा कि अगर अनुमान के अनुसार मानसून मजबूत रहा तो हम ब्याज दरों में और कटौती पर विचार कर सकते हैं। हम महंगाई के स्तर और अच्छे मानसून के संकेतों पर लगातार नजर बनाये हुये हैं। अगर सब कुछ उम्मीदों के अनुरूप रहा तो हमारे पास ब्याज दरों में अगली कटौती का मौका हो सकता है। कआरबीआई ने 05 अप्रैल को जारी

चालू वित्त वर्ष की पहली द्विमासिक ऋण एवं मौद्रिक नीति समीक्षा में रेपो दर में 0.25 प्रतिशत की कटौती की थी।

अच्छे मानसून की खबर से उत्साहित वित्त मंत्री अरुण जेतली ने कहा कि अगर मानसून मजबूत रहा तो चालू वित्त वर्ष में तेज आर्थिक विकास दर हासिल करने में हम सक्षम हो सकेंगे। लगातार दो साल सूखे की मार झेलने और निर्यात गिरने के बावजूद वित्त वर्ष 2015-16 में देश की आर्थिक विकास दर 7.5 प्रतिशत से अधिक रहने की उम्मीद है। इसके अलावा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (आईएमएफ) के ताजा विश्व आर्थिक परिदृश्य (डब्ल्यूईओ) में कहा गया है कि वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था के पटरी पर लौटने की धीमी रफ्तार जैसे जोखिमों के बावजूद वर्ष 2016 में भारत की आर्थिक विकास दर 7.5 प्रतिशत और इसके अगले वर्ष भी इतनी ही वृद्धि दर का अनुमान है।

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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 Bhadrath(English)& Publicity Section, CV/C.

गर्मी ने छुड़ाए पसीने, लू से देश परेशान, सूखे ताल-तलैया

■ एजेंसियां, नई दिल्ली

उत्तर भारत के कई हिस्सों में चिलचिलाती धूप ने लोगों की परेशानी बढ़ा दी है। तेलंगाना प्रदेश और आंध्रप्रदेश लू से सबसे बुरी तरह प्रभावित हुए हैं। अभी तक दर्जनों लोग इसमें मारे गए हैं। भुवनेश्वर में अधिकतम तापमान ने 45.8 डिग्री सेल्सियस होकर अपना रिकॉर्ड तोड़ दिया। यूपी में 24 घंटे में तापमान 42 डिग्री तक पहुंचने के आसार हैं। महाराष्ट्र में मराठवाड़ा क्षेत्र के लातूर में शनिवार शाम पांच लाख लीटर पानी लेकर एक विशेष ट्रेन पहुंची।



लोगों को पानी के लिए लंबी लाइन में घंटों खड़ा होना पड़ रहा है।

तेलंगाना के करीमनगर में जमीन इतनी गर्म हो गई कि महिला ने फर्श पर ही ऑमलेट बना लिया, वो भी बिना किसी गैस-चूल्हे के।

17 NBS

Narayan Pawar/MT



नैनीताल और आसपास की झीलों का जलस्तर कम हो गया है। नैनीझील के किनारों से दूर तक मलबा नजर आ रहा है।



Ashok Kachre/MT



गर्मी के कारण लातूर में यह कुआं भी सूख चुका है।

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

राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में 22 किलोमीटर के बीच 22 नालों का पानी इसमें गिर रहा, यह नदी की कुल लंबाई का मात्र दो फीसदी हिस्सा है

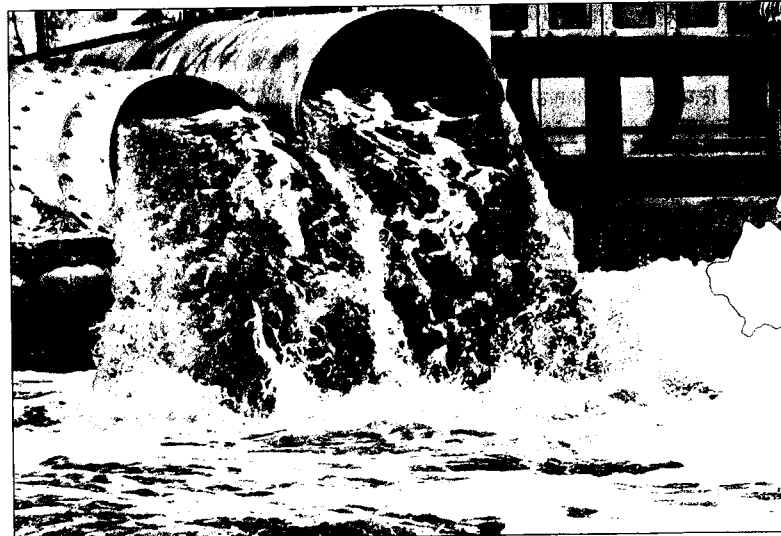
दिल्ली की वजह से यमुना 80 फीसदी मैली



नई दिल्ली | विवेक तिवारी

यमुनोत्री से चली स्वच्छ व निर्मल यमुना दिल्ली पहुंचने पर प्रदूषित हो जाती है। सेंटर ऑफ साइंस एंड इनवायरमेंट की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार दिल्ली में यमुना का दो फीसदी हिस्सा इस नदी में 80 फीसदी प्रदूषण के लिए जिम्मेदार है।

दिल्ली के 22 नाले इस नदी को नाले में तब्दील कर देते हैं। दिल्ली से आगरा तक यह नदी काफी प्रदूषित रहती है। इस नदी में चंबल नदी के मिलने के बाद ही इसमें प्रदूषण का स्तर कुछ कम होता है। केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार दिल्ली के वजीराबाद बैराज से चंबल नदी के बीच की दूरी लगभग 580 किलोमीटर है। इस दूरी में यमुना में प्रदूषण का स्तर काफी अधिक है। घरों से निकला सीवर का पानी नदी में 80 प्रतिशत प्रदूषण का जिम्मेदार है।



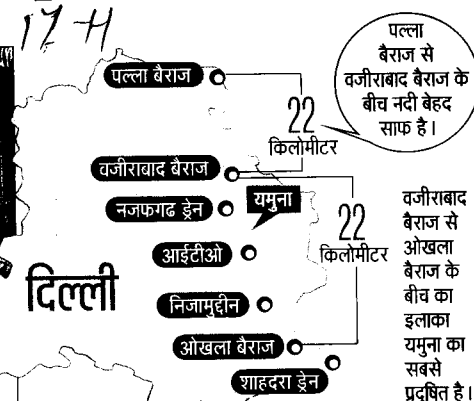
राजधानी दिल्ली में यमुना नदी में यूँ गिरता है रोजाना गंदा पानी। • फाइल फोटो

580 किलोमीटर दूरी है
दिल्ली के वजीराबाद
बैराज से चंबल नदी
के बीच की

80 फीसदी प्रदूषण के लिए जिम्मेदार है राजधानी का दो फीसदी हिस्सा

विशेषज्ञ की राय

विशेषज्ञ एस नवी ने बताया कि यमुनोत्री से इलाहाबाद तक यमुना कुल 1376 किलोमीटर की दूरी तय करती है। दिल्ली में यमुना की यात्रा 44 किलोमीटर की है। पल्ला बैराज से वजीराबाद बैराज के बीच की दूरी 22 किलोमीटर है। इस बीच नदी बेहद साफ है। वहीं वजीराबाद बैराज से ओखला बैराज के बीच यह नदी 22 किलोमीटर तय करती है। यह यमुना का सबसे प्रदूषित इलाका माना जाता है। दिल्ली के विभिन्न इलाकों के 22 नालों से सीवर का पानी यहीं यमुना नदी में गिरता है।



उत्तराखंड में यमुना पर संकट नहीं

यमुना यमुनोत्री हिमनद से निकलती है। उत्तराखंड में 136 किलोमीटर बहने के बाद यह यूपी से होकर हरियाणा में जाती है। यमुना और उसकी सहायक नदियों पर 14 छोटे बड़े बांध बनने हैं। इनसे यमुना का मूल स्वरूप बदल जाएगा।

5 प्रदूषण के स्तर को कम करने को सरकार गंभीर नहीं है। वर्तमान में प्लांट 20 बीओडी लेवल तक पानी को साफ कर रहे हैं। प्लांट की तकनीक पुरानी है। इसे बदलने की जरूरत है।
-विनोद जैन यमुना विशेषज्ञ

शराब कंपनियों का पानी बंद हो : उद्भव

मुंबई। सूखे की मार झेल रहे महाराष्ट्र के मराठवाड़ा क्षेत्र में अब शराब व बीयर कंपनियों को मिलने वाले पानी में भी कटौती हो सकती है। शिवसेना अध्यक्ष उद्धव ठाकरे ने राज्य सरकार से मांग करते हुए कहा कि सूखे की स्थिति भयावह है। इसलिए शराब कंपनियों का पानी बंद कर देना चाहिए।

राज्य सरकार में मंत्री पंकजा मुंडे ने इस मांग को गलत ठहराते हुए कहा कि शराब उद्योग को मिलने वाला पानी खेती व पीने के लिए नहीं होता है। उन्हें अलग से आरक्षित पानी मिलता है। (वि.सं.)

बारिश के लिए घटोत्कच की पूजा

चम्पावत । जिले में सूखे से परेशान लोगों ने घटकू मंदिर में शनिवार को हवन यज्ञ कर बारिश के लिए भगवान से प्रार्थना की।

मुख्यालय में स्थित घटकू मंदिर में पहली नवरात्र से पूजा अर्चना और हवन का कार्यक्रम जारी है। शनिवार को दशमी के दिन मंदिर में विशेष हवन यज्ञ के साथ कुण्ड में जल भरा गया। इसके बाद विशेष पूजा अर्चना कर बारिश के लिए प्रार्थना की गयी। (हिटी)

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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 Bhadrachal (English) & Publicity Section, CWC.

केंद्रीय मंत्री उमा भारती ने कहा- इस वर्ष अक्टूबर से ही दिखने लगेगा असर

गंगा साल भर में साफ हो जाएगी

कानपुर | प्रमुख संवाददाता

साल भर में गंगा साफ होगी और अक्टूबर-2016 से इसका असर भी दिखने लगेगा। ये कहना है केंद्रीय जल संसाधन एवं नदी विकास मंत्री साध्वी उमा भारती का। शुक्रवार को शहर पहुंची उमा भारती ने सर्किट हाउस में बातचीत के दौरान कई मुद्दों पर बात की।

अयोध्या जाते वक्त कुछ देर के लिए कानपुर सर्किट हाउस में ठहरीं केंद्रीय मंत्री ने गंगा सफाई पर कहा कि बड़े शहरों में कॉमन ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट बनाए जाएंगे। इन ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट चलाने की जिम्मेदारी निजी एजेंसी को दी जाएगी। तीस वर्ष तक निजी एजेंसी ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट चलाएगी। पश्चिम बंगाल से चुनावी दौरा करके सियालदाह राजधानी से तड़के कानपुर पहुंची उमा भारती ने चुनावों पर कहा कि वहां पर भाजपा की सरकार बननी तय है क्योंकि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के जनहित के कार्यों से पूरा देश जुड़ गया है।



शंकराचार्य पर टिप्पणी से इंकार

केंद्रीय मंत्री उमा भारती ने ज्योतिष एवं द्वारका शारदा पीठ के शंकराचार्य स्वामी स्वरूपानंद सरस्वती के उस बयान पर टिप्पणी करने से इनकार कर दिया जिसमें उन्होंने कहा था कि महिलाएं शनि की पूजा न करें। ऐसा करने से उनके खिलाफ अत्याचार एवं दुष्कर्म की घटनाएं बढ़ेंगी।

उत्तर प्रदेश की सत्ता में फिर लौटेगी भाजपा

साध्वी ने कहा कि पश्चिम बंगाल में भाजपा की सरकार बनना तय है। बंगाल के बाद यूपी की बारी है। यूपी में भाजपा 1992 की तरह फिर सत्ता में लौटेगी। एक सवाल के जवाब में कहा कि अयोध्या राम मंदिर मुद्दे को चुनावी एजेंडे में शामिल करने का फैसला केंद्रीय नेतृत्व करेगा लेकिन अयोध्या में मेरी आस्था।

मिराज के लिए पानी का रैक कोटा से खाना

जयपुर। जल संकट से जूझ रहे लोगों को पानी उपलब्ध कराने के लिए कोटा रेलवे स्टेशन से पानी के पचास वैगन लेकर एक और रैक शुक्रवार को मिराज खाना हुआ। रेलवे सूत्रों ने बताया कि एक वैगन की क्षमता करीब 54 हजार लीटर पानी की है और पचास वैगन में 27 लाख लीटर पानी आ सकेगा। उन्होंने बताया कि कोटा से यह रैक 1,300 किलोमीटर लंबा सफर तय कर मिराज स्टेशन पहुंचेगा।

यमुना मुद्दे पर केंद्र से बात करेगा संघ

बरसाना (मथुरा)। यमुना आस्था का प्रतीक हैं। यमुना प्रदूषण मुद्दे पर जल्द ही केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री से बात की जाएगी। यमुना प्रदूषण मुक्ति हो या गोवंश की रक्षा संघ हर संभव प्रयास करेगा। यह बातें संघ प्रमुख मोहन भागवत ने संत रमेश बाबा से मुलाकात में कही। वे दो दिनों के लिए वृंदावन प्रवास पर आए हैं।

शुक्रवार शाम करीब डेढ़ घंटे की वार्ता के दौरान हिन्दुत्व और यमुना रक्षा का मुद्दा छाया रहा। संत रमेश बाबा ने उनसे कहा कि यमुना की रक्षा करने से ही राष्ट्र की रक्षा होगी। इससे पूर्व सर संघचालक जब बरसाना (गहवरवन) के मान मंदिर पहुंचे तो यहां गुरुकुल के बच्चों ने शंख बजाकर और पुष्प वर्षा करके उनका जोरदार स्वागत किया। इसके बाद उन्होंने माताजी गोशाला का अवलोकन किया। (हिंदी)

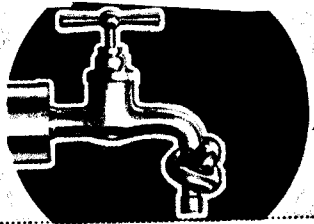
News item/letter/article/editorial published on April 16, 4, 2016 in the

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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Blitz

and documented at Bhadrirath(English)& Publicity Section, CV/C.

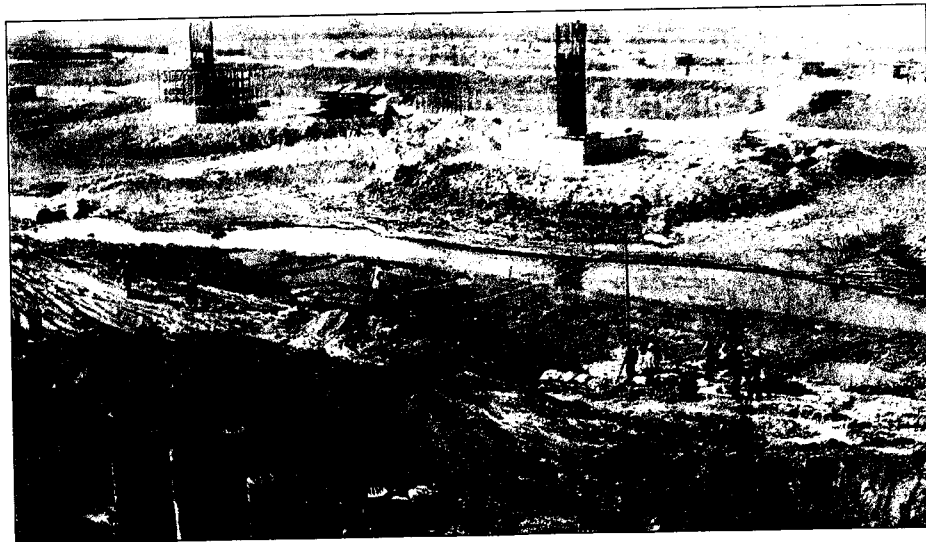


बिन पानी सब सून ⑧

पटना, मुंगेर और भागलपुर के तट से रूटी गंगा

पटना | हिन्दुस्तान टीन

वर्ष 1985 से लेकर अभी तक गंगा की गहराई पटना में 35 फुट से घटकर 20 फुट हो गई है। साथ ही नदी अब दूर भी हो गई है। बारिश के दिनों को छोड़कर सहायक नदियां ही गंगा को बचाए हुए हैं। बक्सर के चौसा से गंगा नदी बिहार राज्य में प्रवेश करती है। बिहार में गंगा का प्रवाह 400 क्यूसेक ही रह गया है। पश्चिम बंगाल में जब गंगा प्रवेश करती है तो बिहार की सहायक नदियों के कारण प्रवाह बढ़कर 1600 क्यूसेक हो जाता है। बिहार में गंगा का कुल प्रवाह 445 किलोमीटर है। वर्ष 1975 में बरसात में बाढ़ के कारण गंगा का पानी शहर में प्रवेश कर चुका था। तब राज्य में गंगा में 32 से 33 लाख क्यूसेक पानी का प्रवाह था।



कभी पटना से सटकर बहने वाली गंगा अब दूर हो गई है। शहर से सटे घाट पर भी गंगा अब नाले में तब्दील हो गई है। • हिन्दुस्तान

पटना में करोड़ों लीटर सीवेज का पानी

186 एमएलडी सीवेज बिना ट्रीटमेंट के गंगा में जाता है। पटना में 25 करोड़ लीटर सीवेज रोज निकलता है।

109 एमएलडी सीवेज प्रतिदिन ट्रीटमेंट करने की व्यवस्था है, लेकिन सही तरीके से प्रतिदिन 64 एमएलडी सीवेज का ट्रीटमेंट हो पाता है।

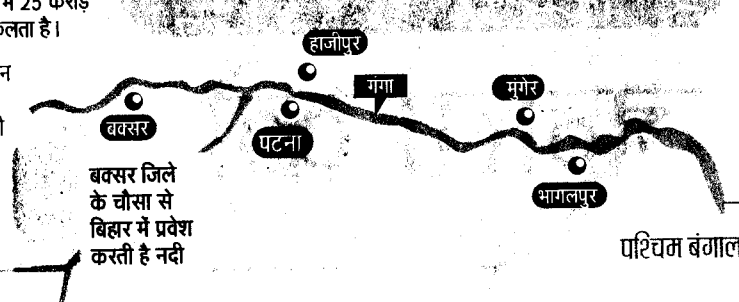
29 ऐसे नाले हैं पटना में, जिनका पानी बिना ट्रीटमेंट के गंगा में जा रहा है। कुल 172 नालों का गंदा पानी गंगा में जाता है।

15 फुट रह गई नदी की गहराई 35 से घटकर पटना में

मुंगेर से 800 मीटर दूर चली गई गंगा

मुंगेर शहर का फेरी घाट कभी मुंगेर किले के पास था। आज यहां से 800 मीटर दूर गंगा का पानी है। सुल्तानगंज में बाबा अजगैबीधाम मंदिर की पहाड़ी के चारों ओर सूखा है। गंगा स्नान के लिए उत्तरवाहिनी गंगा में जो सीढ़ी घाट बनाए गए हैं, वहां अब तभी पानी आता है जब बाढ़ आए।

बिहार



पश्चिम बंगाल में भी प्रदूषित होती है नदी

गंगा को सबसे अधिक प्रदूषित उत्तर प्रदेश करता है। दूसरे स्थान पर बिहार बंगाल आता है। इन प्रदेशों से हर दिन गंगा में दो करोड़ 90 लाख लीटर प्रदूषित पानी के चिन्हित 68 नाले यूपी में और 26 उत्तराखंड में गिरते हैं। यूपी के 40, बिहार के 23, पश्चिम बंगाल के 22 नाले गंगा में गिरते हैं।

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The Hindu

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

सूरज का सितम देश भर में अब तक 70 लोगों की मौत, लू का प्रकोप बढ़ा

5 साल में सबसे गर्म अप्रैल

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patrika.com/india

देश के ज्यादातर हिस्सों में सूरज का सितम जोरों पर है। मौसम विभाग ने बताया कि अप्रैल माह बीते पांच वर्षों में सबसे गर्म रहा है। दिल्ली में अधिकतम तापमान सामान्य से चार डिग्री सेल्सियस अधिक 41 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया।

इसके अलावा तेलंगाना, आंध्र प्रदेश, मराठवाड़ा, विदर्भ और कर्नाटक के अलग-अलग हिस्सों सहित उपमहाद्वीप भारत के हिस्सों में लू का प्रकोप बढ़ना शुरू हो गया है। गर्मी के कारण तेलंगाना में 35 और ओडिशा में लू से 30 लोगों की मौत हो चुकी है। तेलंगाना में सरकार ने गर्म हवाओं के प्रभाव को कम करने के लिए एहतियाती उपाय करने के संबंध में सभी जिलों में अलर्ट जारी किए हैं।

21 तक पारा सामान्य से अधिक रहेगा 15CRP

मौसम विभाग के अनुसार महाराष्ट्र के विदर्भ और मराठवाड़ा, तेलंगाना, रायलसीमा के हिस्सों, पूर्वी और पश्चिमी राजस्थान, दिल्ली और एनसीआर क्षेत्र, पंजाब और हरियाणा, ओडिशा और गंगा वाले पश्चिम बंगाल के क्षेत्र में लू जैसी स्थितियां रह सकती हैं।

ओडिशा में पारा 45 डिग्री सेल्सियस

निजी मौसम एजेंसी स्काईमेट ने बताया कि अधिकांश स्थानों पर पारा 40 डिग्री सेल्सियस से अधिक है। ओडिशा के तिटलागढ़ का अधिकतम तापमान 45 डिग्री सेल्सियस और आंध्र प्रदेश के नलगोंडा का तापमान 44 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। हैदराबाद का भी अधिकतम तापमान 43 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया

12 से 21 अप्रैल के दौरान देश के ज्यादातर भागों में रात का तापमान सामान्य से अधिक रहने की संभावना है। जबकि उत्तरपश्चिम भागों (राजस्थान, गुजरात, पंजाब और जम्मू कश्मीर) में तापमान सामान्य के आस पास ही रह सकता है।

जो 43 वर्ष में सबसे अधिक है। भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग ने बताया कि राज्य के अधिकांश स्थानों पर शुष्क मौसम का असर जारी रहेगा और तापमान 42 और 45 डिग्री सेल्सियस के बीच बना रहेगा। हैदराबाद और तेलंगाना के अधिकांश स्थानों पर लू का प्रकोप अगले दो दिनों तक जारी रहने की संभावना है।

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The Hindu

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WATER CRISIS SET TO AGGRAVATE IN CITY

CHANCHAL SINGH

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New Delhi, 17 April

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has offered to send 10 lakh litres of water every day for the next two months to Latur district in Maharashtra at a time when the Capital is reeling under a severe water crisis - a crisis that is all set to aggravate as extreme summer heat dries up the city's water resources. Even otherwise, Delhi has to depend on the neighbouring state of Haryana for a regular supply of water. Worse, the government is yet to declare its detailed "Summer Action Plan" by which it tackles the water crisis in the city.

The SAP plan is to ensure that the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) is ready with its infrastructure to tackle the crisis. The city's daily demand for water is around 1,050 MGD (million gallons daily), which jumps to around 1,200 MGD in summer. DJB chairperson and Water Resources Minister Kapil Mishra said in February that the plan would be prepared soon. In 2015, the plan was decided on 31 March.

According to a source, the DJB is still in the process of drawing up the action plan. In the last one year, more than 200 new colonies, most of them unauthorised, have been added to Delhi's water supply network, adding to the pressure on the existing system. Moreover, there is an acute shortage of water tankers in the wake of a Supreme Court order banning vehicles more than 10 years old.

The source added, "Instead of filing a special leave petition (SLP) before the court requesting for exemption from the order to ensure that even old water tankers move, given the seriousness of the issue in Delhi, the government is focusing on how to send water tankers to Latur, despite the fact that the Maharashtra government has made it clear that it does not require any such assistance."

Complaints of water shortage have started pouring in from different areas, mainly from South Delhi and Outer Delhi localities. Some such areas are Sangam Vihar, Vasant Vihar, Munirka, Vasant Kunj, Kalkaji, Raj Nagar Extension (Palam), Bakkarwala, Bawana, etc., even though it is just the beginning of summer.

A resident who lives on the IGNOU Road in Saket said, "Our area does not have piped water connection. So we

have to rely solely on water tankers. The tankers come and water is stored underground from where residents are provided water for daily consumption. Rs 1,000 a month is charged for the purpose." Residents of the area complained of water supply being curtailed at the onset of summer and fear that thing will get worse in the coming days.

The source said that even the DJB budget is not being passed. "Though the government has passed its budget and earmarked funds for the DJB, the water body cannot release even a single penny unless it is approved in the board meeting, since DJB is an autonomous organisation. The board meeting has not been convened until now even though summer has already started," the source added.

As a result of this, developmental as well as routine works in the DJB have come to a halt. People living in JJ (jhuggi jhopri) clusters, unauthorised colonies and rural areas are facing an acute shortage of water. "There is also acute shortage of water tankers. The tanker mafia is ruling the roost. Illegal sale of water through private tankers is going on without any check," many of residents complaint.

Kejriwal wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that he was ready to send water to Latur. However, Ministry of Railway is already working on this and has sent three special trains to Latur, each with five lakh litres of water.

Senior BJP leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Vijender Gupta said that Kejriwal was trying to derive political mileage from the suffering of Latur's people. "It was insensitive on his part to take the matter directly to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has already outlined his plans to provide a solution to the water crisis in Maharashtra, Bundelkhand, Telangana, etc. The Delhi CM is not bothered about the people of Delhi. He is only interested in pomp and show. He should first provide water to the people of Delhi," he said.

Water Resources Minister Kapil Mishra, however, claimed that Delhi had sufficient water. He recently told a news agency that there was no crisis. "The crisis is of water management and distribution. This will be done away with the piped water supply network. Our aim is universal access to safe drinking water to each household in Delhi by 2017," he said.

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TEN PER CENT CUT FOR INDUSTRIES IN AURANGABAD

Drought: Breweries' water quota slashed¹⁷⁸⁹

press trust of india

MUMBAI, 16 APR: Faced with acute water shortage, authorities in Aurangabad in the parched Marathwada region today announced 10 per cent cuts for the industrial units and 20 per cent for breweries and distilleries in the area, hours after Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray demanded stoppage of supply.

"We have announced the cut in view of water scarcity. The decision has been taken after discussion with officials concerned," Aurangabad district collector Nidhi Pandey said.

"The rate of water evaporation in the reservoirs has increased suddenly due to high temperatures. The cut will be in force for a fortnight. We will review the situation on 30 April and decide on further course of action," the collector told reporters.

"We have asked industrial units to take steps to save water.



If beer units are using drinking water, it should be stopped. But discontinuing supply of water reserved for them as industrial units is not alright

Pankaja Munde

The quantum of water cut in the 11 liquor units ~ seven breweries and four distilleries ~ is more as they consume more water," she said.

The decision came on a day that Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray said the Maharashtra government should stop water

supply to the beer manufacturing units in the drought-hit Marathwada region to tackle the acute shortage of drinking water.

However, a BJP minister in the Devendra Fadnavis-led government said cutting off water supply to breweries won't be such a good idea.

"If beer units are using drinking water, it should be stopped. But discontinuing supply of water reserved for them as industrial units is not alright," Maharashtra rural development minister Pankaja Munde said in Beed, also in the Marathwada region.

The state water resources minister Girish Mahajan said he has sought a report from the Aurangabad divisional commissioner and other senior officials on the requirement of water for liquor companies.

"If needed, we will not hesitate to stop water supply to these units," he said.

Only 1.8% got 150 days of work in drought-hit states: MGNREGA data

SHALINI NAIR
NEW DELHI, APRIL 17

FOR STATES hit with severe drought, the latest decision of the Ministry of Rural Development to continue providing 150 days of employment under MGNREGA may come as a much-needed succour. However, data shows that in 2015-16 of the households that were provided work under the scheme in these regions, merely 1.8 per cent got full 150 days of employment.

The data for 10 drought-hit states show that a total of 1.52 crore people got employment under MGNREGA in the financial year ending March 31, 2015. But of this, just 2.80 lakh i.e. 1.8 per cent were employed for 150 days.

In states such as Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, the proportion of such workers is 0.2 per cent or less. The data is specifically that of the 1 lakh gram panchayats in the 10 states categorised as drought affected including in Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

However, central government officials attributed the low off-take as a reflection of the demand as they said MGNREGA was demand-driven.

"There isn't much gap between work demanded and supplied," said an official. Going by absolute numbers this is true: of the 1.78 crore households registered as having demanded work, 85 per cent have been provided with some form of work under the scheme. However, the registered official demand is a conservative figure of the actual demand on ground.

Activists have blamed lack of funding for agencies at the state government level for not registering the demand unless they are able to provide work. This is because the Act mandates that once a demand is registered, work has to be provided within 15 days or else the state has to bear the liability of paying each worker an unemployment allowance.

Nikhil Dey of Rajasthan-based Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan said, "In a drought scenario, the government can't produce fodder or water and,

BREAK-UP

Figures are percentage of households that got 150 days of work

Uttar Pradesh	0.17%
Rajasthan	0.2%
Madhya Pradesh	0.7%
Jharkhand	0.8%
Karnataka	2%
Odisha	2.5%
Andhra Pradesh	3.3%
Chhattisgarh	3.4%
Telangana	3.5%
Maharashtra	9.5%

Source: Ministry of Rural Development

hence, NREGA is the only instrument that can generate work and wages for those affected. Last year, there weren't even enough funds to provide for 100 days of work let alone 150 days. Unless the finance ministry gives funds required for MGNREGA, neither the Rural Development ministry nor the state agencies can carry out their mandate."

The Centre has claimed that the Rs 38,500 crore allotted to the scheme in this year's Budget is the highest ever. But Dey pointed out that even if the scheme were to continue as per allocations in 2010-11 while adjusting for inflation, the current allocation would have to be nothing less than Rs 65,000 crore.

MGNREGA guarantees 100 days of wage employment annually for rural households willing to do unskilled manual work. In September 2015, with the monsoon deficit adversely affecting Kharif crop and, thereby, rural incomes, the Cabinet approved 150 days of employment per household in drought-hit areas. However, there was no corresponding increase in the budget allocation for the scheme.

Last year, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had promised an additional Rs 5,000 crore if the scheme requires it. However, it was only after several states sought more funds, the finance ministry released Rs 2,000 crore

Earthquake kills 235 in Ecuador

Over 1,500 people injured in 7.8-magnitude jolt; tsunami warning lifted; unknown number still trapped

GUILLEMO GRANJA
MANTA (ECUADOR), APRIL 17

THE DEATH toll from Ecuador's biggest earthquake in decades soared to at least 235 on Sunday as rescuers using tractors and bare hands hunted desperately for survivors in shattered coastal towns.

The 7.8 magnitude quake struck off the Pacific coast on Saturday and was felt around the Andean nation of 16 million people, causing panic as far away as the highland capital Quito and collapsing buildings and roads in a swath of western towns.

President Rafael Correa rushed home from a trip to Italy to supervise the emergency. "The immediate priority is to rescue people in the rubble," he said. "Everything can be rebuilt, but lives cannot be recovered, and that's what hurts the most."

Visiting the quake zone, Vice-President Jorge Glas said 235 had died and more than 1,500 people were injured.

Coastal areas nearest the epicenter were worst affected, especially Pedernales, a rustic tourist spot with beaches and palm trees, which appeared largely flattened.

"There are people trapped in various places, and we are starting rescue operations," Glas said.

Authorities said there were 163 aftershocks, mainly in the Pedernales area. A state of emergency was declared in six provinces.

The quake has piled pain on the economy of OPEC's smallest member, already reeling from low oil prices, with economic growth this year projected at near-zero. It has also propelled Glas — a possible candidate in Ecuador's 2017 election — into the limelight.

One photo on social media purporting to be the entrance to Pedernales showed a torn-up road with a crushed car in the middle and people standing behind.

Local TV station Televisi3n broadcast images from Pedernales showing locals using a small tractor to remove rubble and also searching with their hands for people buried underneath. Women cried after a corpse was pulled out. Locals said children were trapped. One man begged for help: "Pedernales is



People stand next to the debris of a building in Manta, Ecuador, on Sunday. Reuters

1218

destroyed." Many people spent the night on the streets. Enner Munoz, 40, a teacher from Pedernales, said he was returning by car from a nearby locality and saw wooden houses and lamp-posts collapse around him.

"It was devastating, all the roads are cracked open, there were two landslides," he said by phone, adding that bricks had landed in the bed of his home in Pedernales. His terrified family spent the night on the patio.

In Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city, rubble lay in the streets and a bridge fell on top of a car. "It was horrible, it was as if it was going to collapse like cardboard," said Calo Valle, 56, who was guarding a building in the city where windows fell out and parts of walls broke. "I prayed and fell to my feet to

ask God to protect me."

Ramon Solorzano, 46, a car parts merchant in the coastal city of Manta, headed away from built-up areas with his family. Photos from Manta showed Red Cross workers arriving, police hunting through debris, a smashed sculpture and badly damaged buildings. "Most people are out in the streets with backpacks on, heading for higher ground,"

Solorzano said, speaking on a WhatsApp phone call. "The streets are cracked. The power is out and phones are down."

Parts of Quito were without power or phone service for several hours, but the city government said those services had been restored and there were no reports of casualties in the city. **REUTERS**

11 STILL MISSING IN JAPAN

Minamiaso: Eleven people remained missing Sunday in southern Japan from two powerful earthquakes that killed 41 people, as the US military announced it was preparing to join relief efforts and Toyota said it would suspend vehicle assembly in Japan over the course of next week because of quake-related parts shortages. Thousands of rescue workers fanned out to search for the missing. **AP**

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The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Pradhan Chronicle
Pravara Herald

M.P. Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Dunia (Hindi)
The Times of India (AI)
PWT

and also in the following newspapers: The Indian Express, The Hindu, The Times of India, etc.

DDA likely to gift biodiversity park tag to Dwarka green patch soon

Ritam Halder

ritam.halder@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Capital's newest biodiversity park of the city might come up in Dwarka soon.

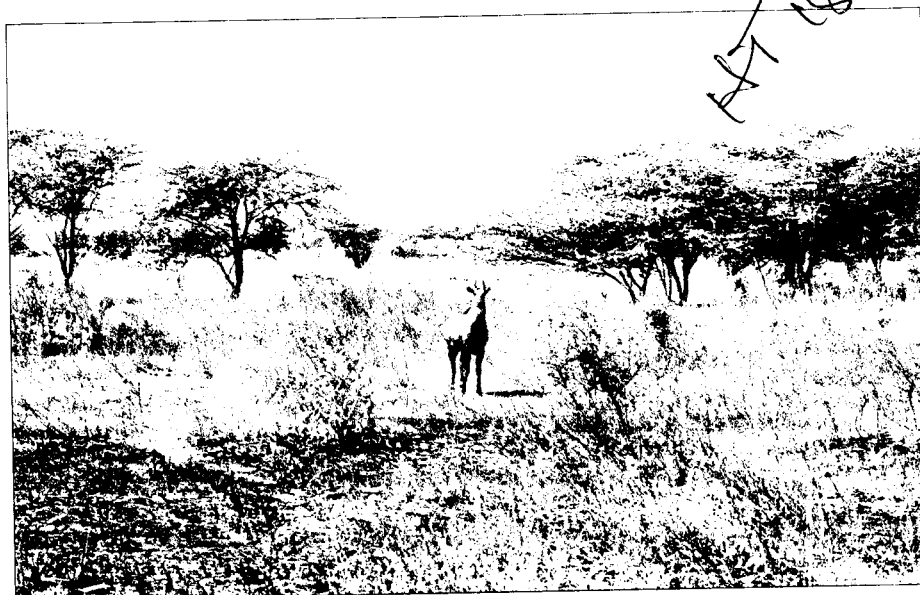
Bharat Vandana Udhara, a 200-hectare green space at Sector 20 which is home to neelgai, jackals, peacocks and even monitor lizards, may be developed as a biodiversity park.

Ecologist CR Babu of the Centre for Environmental Management of Degraded Ecosystems, who assists the Delhi Development Authority in biodiversity projects, confirmed that the DDA was planning a small biodiversity park in Dwarka.

"A group of residents met me and showed me the site specifics and need of the area. I have recommended it to the DDA to develop the spot as a biodiversity park," Babu, who has visited the site to assess whether it has the potential to be developed as a biodiversity park, said.

Delhi at present has two fully functional biodiversity parks. The Yamuna Biodiversity Park is spread over an area of approximately 457 acre near Wazirabad village on the flat alluvial plains while the Aravalli Biodiversity Park, located on the South Central Ridge, sprawls over a 692 acre area.

Apart from this, there are three biodiversity parks that are coming up — at Neela Hauz near JNU campus, Kamla Nehru ridge near Delhi University North



◀ A view of Bharat Vandana Udhara, a 200-hectare green space in Dwarka, that may be converted into a biodiversity park by the Delhi Development Authority soon.

VIPIN KUMAR/ HT PHOTO

campus and Tilpat Valley near Neb Sarai. Two other parks have been planned near DND flyway biodiversity zone and at the Barapullah wetland area near Sun Dial.

When contacted, DDA vice chairman Arun Goel said they were indeed looking into the possibility of coming up with a biodiversity park in Dwarka. "We are looking into the feasibility of setting up a biodiversity park in the area but nothing has been finalised yet," Goel said.

Hindustan Times had last year highlighted the plight of

the 80-hectare green space, which stands as a breathe of freshness among the heavily concretised area of Dwarka. Local residents and environment activists have been trying their best to ensure that this speck of green land survived the rapid and destructive pace of urbanisation.

Diwan Singh, a resident of Dwarka, who is also an environment activist, welcomed the development.

"The residents shall be grateful if DDA gifts a biodiversity park for us. It shall improve the local environment and give

residents a healthier and longer life. It shall also improve water recharge and the ground water quality and levels. We must preserve such green reserves," Singh, who had been campaigning under the aegis of Dwarka Biodiversity Park Campaign, said.

SS Mann, vice president of Sukh Dukh ke Sathi, a local RWA, said a biodiversity park will also help conserve rare wildlife in the area.

"It will help regulate temperature, mitigate noise and air pollution," he said.

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Success story in drought-hit MP

Punjabi farmer grows coriander and reaps handsome profit 18 24

JUPINDERJIT SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 17

Alambir Singh Randhawa (62), a resident of Chandigarh and owner of 160 acres in Sagar district of the drought-hit Madhya Pradesh, had never seen the Betwa river in the region bone dry. The river-fed irrigation system of the state had failed.

With no proper rain since August 2015, he along with other farmers was staring at another season of loss but playing true to the indomitable spirit of a Punjabi, he and his son Pritpal Singh Randhawa have just shown how to fight the rain-starved land by switching to a crop needing less water. They were the only one in Sagar and the adjoining district to opt for the crop in December itself. They harvested the crop last week.

They sowed coriander in 120 acres and made sufficient profit against a loss of at least 50 per cent of wheat and pulses suffered by other farmers. Against an input cost of Rs 7,000-8,000 per acre, the crop has returned them up to Rs 10,000 per quintal. Each acre harvested up to five quintals of the crop.

In contrast, the wheat required inputs of between Rs 12,000 to 15,000 per acre and the returns were negligible. Most of the farmers even lost



Chandigarh resident Pritpal Singh Randhawa (left) shows his crop to another farmer in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh. TRIBUNE PHOTO

their crop. The experiment to try soyabean also failed.

Pritpal Singh Randhawa, 27, told The Tribune from his Chandigarh house that though they managed to sow the crop in time and while several other farmers, eager to emulate them, are making a beeline to their farms, raising a crop was an everyday struggle in the parched land.

Like hundreds of Punjab farmers, who were invited or went to central India besides Gujarat to 'tame' the stubborn barren lands, Rachpal Singh Randhawa, the great grandfather of Pritpal, bought land in five villages in 1912 in the region. By 1930, his fields were producing such grains and pulses that the then British government awarded him the Best Progressive Farmer in that year.

Pritpal, who is a fifth gen-

eration farmer of the family, said Rachpal was the first to install a water pump in the region. After so many decades, his family is the first in the region to have dug 15 wells in one season to get underground water.

"You can imagine that such was the need of water that we had to dig 15 wells to draw water from the tricky underground streams in one season. Earlier, we were drawing water from the Betwa and the Bani river through underground pipes. The last well was dug a decade ago or so. Wells are the last resort as unlike Punjab, underground water is not found everywhere. Water flows in streams in such a way that if you find water at one spot, you cannot get any drop from another bore three feet away," explained Pritpal.

Silver lining

With no proper rain since August 2015 in MP, he along with other farmers was staring at another season of loss but playing to the indomitable spirit of a Punjabi, he and his son Pritpal Singh Randhawa have shown how to fight the rain-starved land by switching to a crop needing less water. They grew coriander and made considerable profit at a time when other farmers growing wheat or soyabean made negligible profits.

Using a local hydrologist, who charged Rs 1,000 for identifying per well, they dug up 15 spots out of which 13 bore water, "Finding water in such a good ratio is considered nothing less than a miracle in MP," he said.

The circle of economy, the cycle of drought

SHARAD VYAS

LATUR: The water train chugged into Latur last week capturing national attention. But it took the spotlight away from the daily struggles of lakhs facing the most immediate consequences of an extended drought and acute water scarcity in Latur district. The vagaries of nature have already taken their toll, the farmer in the hinterland has no way out, and the common man clings to a collapsing water infrastructure in the cramped city space.

Nitin Kalantry, CEO, Kalantry Food Products Limited, a leading exporter and supplier of pulses from Latur, says, "Scarce water availability has resulted in poor farm yield, low income and diminishing spending power of the farmers. The weddings lack the pomp, while festivities are curtailed both in urban and rural areas. It has never been like this before."

Falling output

The local Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) turnover fell to Rs 905 crore in 2015-16 from Rs 1,460 cr the previous year and Rs 1,875 cr in 2013-14. The drop in the arrival of pigeon pea from 15,000 quintal last year to only 5,000 this year is an indicator of the crashing economy, say experts.

Drought and water scarcity is a complex phenomenon. The district administration blames nature's vagaries while the oilseed and pulses lobby point fingers at the water-guzzling sugarcane crop. The politicians, of course, blame each other. Geographically, too, the impact of the current crisis varies across regions.



DEEP CRISIS: Groundwater levels have plummeted. — PHOTO: VIVEK BANDRE

Northeastern Maharashtra Jalkot, Ahmedpur, Deoni, Nitur and Udgir — are facing more of a hydrological drought and scarcity as compared to the slightly better off and greener northwestern belt of Renapur, Latur City and Ausa, which are hit by both an agricultural and meteorological drought. But they are also home to three powerful sugar factories and major sources of water, including the Manjara dam, and the Bhandarwadi barrage among others.

Sugarcane to blame?

"The western belt grew around the big three: Manjara, Raina and Vikas sugar factories; the banks too belong to the same politicians. The cyclical economy was complete once they got better access to water from the barrages. It is this economy that is

facing the prospect of a collapse," says Sudhir Mane of NAAM foundation started by actor Nana Patekar which offers funds as drought relief for farmers.

The ground water level at Jalkot has gone down to an alarming 4.7 metres; at Ahmedpur it is touching 4.38m and at Deoni it is 4.08m. According to guidelines of the Ground Water Act, levels below 1 metre are termed manageable scarcity, those below 2 metres as critical and below 3 metres are declared alarming. The district hit the danger mark in October with an average fall of 3.53 metre across the ten talukas.

In contrast, the East has fewer barrages and dams; existing ones have gone bone dry because of three years of deficient monsoon. At the 33 small water projects at Ahmedpur, having a capacity of 14.4 mcm (million cubic metre), the current water availability is zero. In the 10 water projects, with a capacity of 25.26 mcm at Jalkot, every single drop has disappeared. Ironically, the belt falls in the assured rainfall zone with an expected 700 mm to 800 mm of monsoon as compared to prosperous western sugar belt which is a declared drought prone areas programme (DPAP) Rainfall Zone with less than 500 mm of average rainfall.

"The east was never meant for development as water here doesn't flow with gravity; [the area] being on an elevation, the soil is somehow less fertile than the west. Water used for sugarcane as opposed to the perception of being wasted, always percolated back into the soil in the western belt," says

Vajnathrao Shinde, former Congress legislator from Latur Rural and director of Vikas Cooperative Sugar Factory near Niwali in the western belt.

The shifting rainfall pattern is the biggest cause of crop failure, which has hit both kharif and rabi sowing this year. For example, the average July rainfall in 2013 and a year before was 331.54 mm but in 2015 it was just 31.7 mm in Latur. The number of rain days in a year is now reduced to 36 in Latur and 37 in Beed, leading to reduction in rain precipitation and hence, poor ground water availability. The rainfall deficit in the district has been 50.12 per cent in 2014, and 47.94 per cent in 2015.

"For four years (2009-2013) I grew sugarcane but with falling market prices and changing rain pattern I chose soyabean after taking a loan of Rs 40,000. But that crop failed. I had to sell three of my seven cattle to repay the loan. The vicious cycle never ends," says Dayanand Ashokrao, 26, who has a four acre farm near the Raina sugar factory.

There was no rain in June in the region, some in July and in most parts concentrated around August, and back again in October with devastating hailstorms in February. This mean it becomes challenging for a farmer to opt for pulses (pigeon-pea, urad and moong) and easier to go for oilseeds (soyabean). With only 1.72 per cent water remaining in 141 small and big sources of water, the district officials estimate failure in excess of 70 per cent of the kharif crop.

As many as 125 farmer's suicides, were reported from Latur district till July 2015.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 18/4/16 in the

Hindustan Times	Nay Esharat Times (Hindi)	K.P. Chronicle
Statesman	Punjab Koshari (Hindi)	Aaj (Hindi)
The Times of India (H.D.)	The Hindu	Indian Nation
Indian Express	Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)	Kal Duniya (Hindi)
Tribune	Deccan Chronicle	The Times of India (A)
Hindustan (Hindi)	Deccan Herald	Blitz

and documented at Bhadrachal/English & Publicity Section, CIVIC



A LITTLE RAIN MUST FALL: Residents caught unawares by rain run in Shimla on Sunday. PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

Mercury up, but rain expected

- The hills of Himachal Pradesh on Sunday saw a rise in mercury, recording temperatures three to seven degrees above the average
- The Met office has forecast rains and thundershowers
- "A fresh western disturbance is likely to be active in the region with chances of rain and thundershowers till Monday," an official of the meteorological office said
- The hill state continued to experience hot weather with the day temperature crossing the 39 degrees Celsius mark in some areas
- Una town was the hottest in the state with a high of 39.4 degrees Celsius
- Kalpa in Kinnaur district recorded a maximum temperature of 21.6 degrees Celsius while Dharamsala was hot at 28.6 degrees Celsius
- Shimla recorded the maximum temperature at 27.5 degrees Celsius, 7.7 notches above average
- Popular tourist resorts like Narkanda, Kufri, Kasauli, Manali, Palampur, Chamba and Dal-houise also experienced hot weather.

Shimla, IANS

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 18/4/16 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

Aaj (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

Jagnolli villagers without water for four days

Dry spell results in water shortage in Hamirpur

RAJIV MAHAJAN

NURPUR, APRIL 17

Villagers of the Jagnolli gram panchayat under the Fatehpur subdivision have been facing water scarcity for the past four days.

Sources said the pump set of the drinking water supply scheme developed snag and the IPH department failed to make some standby arrangement for supplying potable water to the villagers.

However, villagers were now consuming water from traditional water sources or hand pumps apprehending consumption of contaminat-

Officialspeak

“The pump set has been repaired and consumers will get proper water supply from Monday. I admit that the IPH subdivision has no standby arrangement of the pump set and department has to repair it for restoring the water supply.”

Rajesh Thakur, assistant engineer, IPH subdivision, Fatehpur

ed water.

Residents of the gram panchayat were up in arms against the IPH Department. They said they had faced similar situations in the past due to the faulty pump set.

The residents threatened to hold protest with empty pitchers and utensils against IPH department on Tuesday

if piped water supply was not restored on Monday.

Sharda Devi, pradhan of Jagnolli panchayat, said repeated faults in the pump set had become an eyesore to inhabitants. She appealed to the IPH Department to replace the old pump set of the scheme.

Rajesh Thakur, assistant

Residentspeak

“Repeated faults in the pump set have become an eyesore. I appeal to the IPH Department to replace the old pump set.”

Sharda Devi, PRADHAN, JAGNOLLI PANCHAYAT

engineer, IPH subdivision, Fatehpur, said the pump set had been repaired and consumers would get proper water supply from Monday. He admitted that the IPH sub division had no standby arrangement of the pump set and department had to repair it for restoring water supply.

OUR CORRESPONDENT

HAMIRPUR, APRIL 17

The prolonged dry spell has resulted in poor supply of drinking water in the district. People have to tread several kilometres to fetch water for their daily needs.

Notably, there has been no rain in the district from almost a month and many of the water schemes were unable to meet the requirements. There were over 100 water supply schemes in

the district that were constructed after spending over Rs 500 crore.

Sources said a multi-crore water supply scheme was yet to take-off in the district. Pipes purchased for the scheme were lying unutilised for the past one year near the residence of the Deputy Commissioner.

Another water supply scheme that was being constructed at the Beas river basin was waiting for completion. The scheme was to

supply water to over 100 villages of the Badsar constituency.

Subhash Chaudhary, Superintendent Engineer of the Irrigation and Public Health, said the IPH was trying its best to meet the water requirement of the public and water would be supplied by tankers to the affected areas.

He urged people not to use drinking water for the irrigation of kitchen gardens and washing vehicles.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 18/4/16 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

Aaj (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

and documented at Bhadrinath (English) & Publicity Section, CV/C.

NOIDA/DELHI

THE HINDU • MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016

CITY/STAFF

Sanjay Van, Neela Hauz Lake gasp for breath

Water bodies face the heat as commercial units come up at Vasant Kunj's Bawa Potteries Complex

MARIA AKRAM

NEW DELHI: When a number of car service stations opened at the Bawa Potteries Complex in Vasant Kunj in the mid 2000s, resident welfare associations and activists were an apprehensive lot. For long, they had been fighting to revive the Neela Hauz Lake and maintain the Sanjay Van, a forest on Aruna Asaf Ali road that is barely a kilometre away from these commercial units.

The Delhi Development Authority had earlier declared Bawa Potteries Complex, an area measuring 0.9 acres, as 'Manufacturing' (Light and Service Industry) under the Master Plan of Delhi, 2001. However, in March 2016, the agency in an affidavit before the National Green Tribunal declared the area as 'Industrial' under MPD-2021.

This came as a surprise to residents of Vasant Kunj, Kishangarh and other neighbouring areas as many of them are still fighting a case of land acquisition, which is pending with the Lieutenant-Governor. As commercial units started to mushroom here, Sanjay Van, Neela Hauz Lake and other small water bodies began to feel the brunt. This was because these



COMMERCIAL CONFUSION: The Delhi High Court had set a deadline of February 2013 for revival of Neela Hauz. But, till date the lake is battling untreated sewage. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

units lacked proper sewage.

"There is no reply from the DDA about when they declared it an 'Industrial' area. Second, what happens to all the industrial waste discharged from these units?" asked Vishwanath Chaturvedi, an activist who has filed a petition in the National Green Tribunal.

Shockingly, the Delhi Jal Board has admitted that during an inspection of the area last year, it was found that no sewer connection existed in the complex. The waste water pipeline had been connected with a nearby 'nallah'. "This flows directly into the Sanjay Van and eventually trickles in-

to the Neela Hauz Lake," said Air Vice-Marshal Vinod Rawat, who joined hands with the DDA in 2009 to revive Sanjay Van.

The Delhi High Court had set a deadline of February 2013 for revival of Neela Hauz. But, till date the lake is battling untreated sewage.

DDA officials say that the agency plans to open a biodiversity park around the lake. "The proposal has been prepared and work on the revival of the Neela Hauz Lake is being worked out," said a DDA official. But now with an 'Industrial' area next to the forest, environmentalists and activists fear that these plans will not reap

any benefit.

Surprisingly, the affidavit submitted by the DDA also states that the Bawa Potteries 'Industrial' area now measures 3.49 acres. "Initially, the site was measured manually and notionally shown in the zonal development plan as 0.9 acres. Later, the area was worked out manually and it came to 3.49 acres," the affidavit submitted by DDA reads.

While the DDA has declared it an 'Industrial' area, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee is yet to recognise it as a 'conforming industrial area'. Only five industrial areas are listed in the South district and these don't include 'Bawa Potteries Complex'. But owners of the service stations here say that commercial activities in the complex date back to the 1950s, before the enactment of the DDA and Municipal Corporation came into place. "The matter is pending in the National Green Tribunal. We don't want to comment on it," said a manager with a car service centre in the area.

When *The Hindu* called the DDA spokesperson on Saturday to ask about the status of the area, he said, "Let me check." Despite repeated attempts, there was no response till Sunday evening.

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

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

M.P. Chronicle
A a J (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Kai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Bhaskar

and documented at Echaritath(English)& Publicity Section, CV/C.



■ New Delhi Municipal Council is giving the Lodhi Gardens a makeover for its 80th anniversary.
SONU MEHTA/HT FILE

Lodhi Gardens to have bird sanctuary, more water bodies

Sourmya Pillai
■ sourmya.pillai@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) is set to make Lodhi Garden a treat for birdwatchers.

The council is giving the garden a makeover as part of its 80th anniversary.

The bird sanctuary will be one of the several other attractions at the 90-acre garden.

The municipal body officials said that the western portion of the garden, near gate number seven, would be developed as a bird sanctuary to attract migratory and local birds throughout the year.

Additional water bodies, more trees and bushes, and spaces for nesting are being developed by the council's horticulture department.

The work may be completed by the end of 2016.

"The garden already attracts over 50 varieties of birds but it was never developed for visitors and birdwatchers. In the coming months, we will develop the space to attract more birds and make it popular among visitors," said a senior NDMC official.

The space will be located away from the jogging tracks and the play areas.

At present, the garden is home to bird species such as parakeets, owlets, magpie robins, hornbills, barbets, flamebacks, starlings and mynas.

"It is a great delight to watch and hear these rare birds sing

and dance during early morning hours. They often gather there when our gardener is watering the plants. We thought the 80th anniversary of the garden will be a great occasion to develop the space for visitors," the official said.

SENIOR OFFICIAL,
New Delhi Municipal Council

He also said that more trees would be planted in that portion of the garden because several local birds also nested there during peak summers.

A feeding area will also be developed, where the visitors can feed the birds and take a closer look at them.

Apart from the bird sanctuary, the council also plans to install LED signages, develop walkways in red sandstone, set up jogging tracks and a small cafeteria for visitors.

The names of all 12 gates of the garden will also be changed, officials said.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 17/4/16 in the

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Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express ✓

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

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Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Kai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

and docu:

Gadkari's wake-up call to home state: it's time you spent more on irrigation

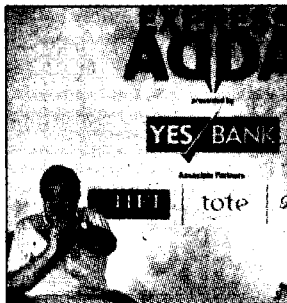


WATERLESS IN MARATHWADA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, APRIL 16

IN A wake-up call to his own party's government in Maharashtra, which is reeling under drought-like conditions, Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, said the state needs to do much more on the irrigation front and water conservation to address the shortage of water.

Responding to queries at the Express Adda in Mumbai Friday evening, Gadkari, who is also the BJP MP from Nagpur, said: "Telangana which is one-third of Maharashtra has given



Nitin
Gadkari at
Express
Adda. Amit
Chakravarty

Rs 25,000 crore for irrigation projects. A big state like Maharashtra has a budget of just Rs 7,000 crore for irrigation projects. I feel the state government should give greater priority to irrigation projects."

Underlining that "drought is not an overnight phenomenon", he said: "States like Maharashtra,

Telangana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan have been facing water problems."

"In states like Madhya Pradesh, agriculture growth was 23 per cent. It has come down to 20 per cent... Maharashtra has been registering a negative agriculture growth for last several years," he said.

Making clear that he did not wish to get into a blame game, Gadkari said: "Irrigation development has long been neglected. The irrigation potential at present is just 18.5 per cent."

He recalled the Jalsandharan (water conservation) initiative of the late Congress chief minister Sudhakar Rao Naik who, like him, hailed from Vidarbha. "I always held Sudhakar Rao Naik in high regard for his work on water conservation."

The state government, he said, should give greater priority to water conservation schemes like check dams to meet the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Gadkari's wake-up call to home state: it's time you spent more on irrigation

water crisis. "Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has taken a good initiative through the Jalyukt-Shivar Abhiyan," he said.

On the controversy over shifting the Indian Premier League (IPL) matches outside Maharashtra in view of the water shortage, he said, "It is a non-issue. There is nothing wrong if they use recycled water for cricket... Rs 100 crore generated from the games should have been used for drought relief in Marathwada... Why should the judiciary give orders on a cricket match?"

Asked if he would like to return to Maharashtra as chief minister, he said, "I

will never come back to Mumbai. Delhi is my destination. Devendra Fadnavis is a very capable man." He said he will continue to ensure rapid development in his own home state. "I want to work as Maharashtra's ambassador for five years."

"Whether it is the development of Mumbai Port Trust or inland waterways along the coast, there are several projects which are now on the fast-track. The hybrid model of fund-raising has ensured no project suffers for want of money. But what needs to be addressed is the system," he said.

Responding to a question on the suspension of AIMIM legislator Waris Pathan

from the Maharashtra assembly for refusing to say Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Gadkari said, "If we don't raise the slogan in India where else? In Pakistan, they say Pakistan Ki Jai... what's wrong."

On the rows over the JNU incident and the suicide of Rohith Vemula in Hyderabad, he said, "How can anybody justify 'Hindustan Ki Barbadi' slogans? There are these leftist groups who have some allergy... In the case of Vemula, it took place in Telangana... The problem is they cannot digest how a RSS-BJP wallah has become the Prime Minister of India. So, they pick such issues... this is vote bank politics at the cost of development."

A young couple poses for a selfie on a hot April afternoon at the Munak Canal near Garhi-Bindroli villages in Haryana's Sonapat district.

They point towards the mounds of soil that betray recent activity while standing atop a sluice gate that was broken by protestors two months ago.

A portion of the canal, measuring 200 feet, and the gate at Bindroli village were damaged on February 21 by Jats protesting against the Haryana government's delay in granting them reservation.

On February 19, the protestors had stopped the flow in the canal — one of the primary raw water sources for Delhi — by closing the sluice gates near Bindroli and Khubdu villages.

They damaged the canal two days later, and Delhi suffered a severe water crisis that lasted more than two weeks.

The canal was finally repaired by the Delhi Jal Board, at a cost of Rs. 1 crore, on March 8.

It took both the Army and the Central Reserve Police Force to

secure the canal, and to keep it that way till the work was done.

Two months on, none of those responsible have been arrested and Delhi's lifeline — the Munak Canal — remains vulnerable to future disruptions.

After the incident, the Haryana Police had filed an FIR on February 22 at Kundli police station on a complaint by Sonipat Sub-Divisional Magistrate Nisanat Yadav. The FIR said that a group of young men had tried to murder a government official present at the canal and blocked the water supply at Garhi-Bindroli.

According to the FIR, the 10 accused — with one of them carrying a country-made pistol — disobeyed government orders and blocked the way of the officer. They were charged with attempt to murder, voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty, wrongful restraint, obstruction to public drainage, rioting and armed with deadly weapon as per sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act.

Though the FIR mentions the



BEFORE REPAIR The repaired canal; reconstruction work was done under the

Two months after the Jat agitation, none of those responsible for the damage has been arrested

names of the accused, along with their villages and fathers' names, no arrests have been made so far. The accused are all residents of Garhi Bala, Bindroli and Mallha Majra, which are villages around the canal.

The Kundli Station House Officer, Inspector Bijender Singh, told *The Hindu* that no progress was made in the case as the accused were not present at their addresses when the police mounted raids.

Locals, however, said "outsiders" were to be blamed.

Sri Bhagwan, whose nephew Sumit Dahiya was among the accused and ended up dying when the Army fired to control protestors, said: "About 10,000 people came from all over to protest. Sumit had nothing to do with it."

Today, the site of the damage has become somewhat of a local sightseeing spot. Like the couple that stopped on their way to click some photos, many come to have a look. CRPF personnel

keep an eye on the site.

The Munak Canal is comprised of the new Carrier-Lined Channel (CLC), which was broken by the protestors, and the old Delhi Sub Branch canal.

It carries about 60 per cent of Delhi's water. The breach of the canal not only threw water supply in the city out of gear for weeks, but exposed Delhi's reliance on Haryana for its lifeline.

"After the damage to the Munak Canal, we have become vulnerable. Now, any group that wants the Centre or any other government's attention can just stop the Capital's water supply," said DJB chairperson Kapil Mishra.

The Haryana Irrigation Department also echoed this concern. Superintendent Engineer R.K. Singla said he had written to the authorities in Sonipat to set up a permanent police post at the canal at Bindroli.

Delhi too held a meeting recently, where Lieutenant-Governor Najeeb Jung and Police Commissioner Alok Kumar Verma were present. Mr. Mishra said the Delhi Police was asked to keep an eye along the canal when it enters the Capital. Mr. Mishra said a representation on the issue of the canal's security was sent to the Centre as well.

WATER SUPPLY

Vulnerable

No arrests for blocking water supply to Gurgaon

ASHOK KUMAR

GURGAON: No arrests have been made nearly two months after the Haryana Police registered a case in connection with the blocking of water supply to Gurgaon during the Jat reservation agitation in February.

Two separate FIRs were registered after protestors blocked water supply to Gurgaon and Delhi.

In the case of breaching Gurgaon Water Supply Channel at Sonipat, which affected supply to the Millennium City, Naveen K. Yadav, Sub-Division Officer, lodged a complaint with the Kharkhoda police station on February 24.

According to the complaint, the channel was blocked by unknown persons on the intervening night of February 21 and 22. Sub-Inspector Shri Mohan, the investigating officer in the case, said that the accused were unknown and could not be identified despite best efforts.

"It is an obscure point where the canal was breached. I made enquiries with the locals, but could not find any eye-witness to it," said Mr. Shri Mohan.

LIFELINE DISRUPTED

When the Jat agitation left the Capital dry



DELHI'S WATER SUPPLY

(Amount of water)

Upper Ganga Canal

240 MGD*

used in Sonia Vihar and Bhagirathi WTPs#

River Yamuna & Bhakra Storage

450 MGD

used in Chandrawal, Wazirabad, Haiderpur, Nangloi WTPs

Munak Canal

90 MGD

used in Okhla, Bawana and Dwarka WTPs

Recycling plants

45 MGD

Ranney wells and tube wells

80 MGD

February 19

Protesters block gates of Munak Canal at Bindroli village. Police manage to take control of the gate for a few hours

February 20

Irate protesters go upstream to Khubru village and block the canal there

February 21

Protesters manage to take control of the regulator at Bindroli again. Firings kill two. Protesters break the canal leaving a 200-foot-long breach. Water crisis in Delhi

March 8 Haryana Irrigation Department and Delhi Jal Board complete repairs, and water flows through the Carrier -Lined Channel

DROUGHT IMPACT

Yeddyurappa to tour affected areas by train

Former CM will not use luxury SUV given by industrialist

S.S. SATISH KUMAR

BENGALURU: After coming under severe criticism, Bharatiya Janata Party State president B.S. Yeddyurappa has decided against using the Rs. 1 crore luxury SUV, given by industrialist-cum-party colleague Murugesh Nirani, for his tour of drought-hit areas.

Mr. Yeddyurappa told reporters here on Saturday that he would travel by train to the drought-hit areas, not by the luxury car.

He will visit the districts of Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, and Vijayapura from April 27 to May 1.

It was announced on Friday that Mr. Yeddyurappa would use the SUV for the visit.

The BJP leader had defended Mr. Nirani saying he had given the luxury vehicle to him for comfortable travel.

While this had come under criticism from the public and

the ruling Congress, BJP leaders are of the view that the party central leadership could also have having advised him against using the luxury car for the tour.

Making it clear that the car was "not a gift", Mr. Yeddyurappa said he would return the car in due course, but use it for other travel purposes. His plan to use the luxury car for touring the drought-hit areas embarrassed even the BJP leaders who felt it would appear insensitive to the plight of the affected people.

'Nirani, a defaulter'

Mr. Nirani's sugar factory has defaulted on dues of more than Rs. 100 crore to farmers. This has angered the Karnataka Sugarcane Growers' Association.

"Mr. Yeddyurappa should show his commitment to farmers by immediately directing Mr. Nirani to sell the SUV, which has been bought in the name of his company, and settle the dues of at least a few farmers from that money," association president Kurubur Shanthkumar said.

Expressing dissatisfaction over Mr. Yeddyurappa ac-

cepting the luxury car from Mr. Nirani, he said: "We want leaders like Mr. Yeddyurappa, who heads the Opposition party, to be aggressive with industrialists who default on farmers' dues by colluding with the government. If Mr. Yeddyurappa accepts the luxury SUV from Mr. Nirani now, he will not be in a position to rein him in if he becomes Chief Minister later," Mr. Shanthkumar said.

He said the association was considering moving court against Mr. Nirani's sugar factory "for its failure to pay dues to farmers".

According to sources, Nirani Sugars is yet to clear dues of Rs. 197.57 crore to sugarcane growers for the crushing season 2015-16 and another Rs. 18.38 crore for 2013-14. The sugar mill, however, made full payment for 2014-15. At a press meet in Bengaluru on Saturday, Congress leader V.S. Ugrappa lashed out at Mr. Nirani for giving an expensive vehicle to Mr. Yeddyurappa, and not clearing the dues of sugarcane growers.

(With inputs from Vijaykumar Patil)

With mercury rising, Aurangabad cuts water supply to beer units

SATISH NANDGAONKAR

MUMBAI: The Aurangabad district administration on Saturday imposed a 20 per cent cut in supply of water to breweries and distilleries, and a 10 per cent cut in supply for industries.

While announcing this, the Aurangabad District Collector Nidhi Pandey said the cut was being imposed for a fortnight. The step was being taken because of the quicker rate of evaporation in the water reservoirs due to temperatures crossing 40 degrees Celsius.

Aurangabad is the beer capital of Maharashtra and has seven breweries and four distilleries. Some of the top brands, including Kingfisher, Carlsberg, Foster's and Heineken have their breweries in the Waliunj industrial estate of Aurangabad, and together produce over 180 million litres of beer annually.

Ms Pandey's announce-



DISMAL SCENARIO: Dry hand pump near Bindusara dam at Beed district, which is reeling under drought. - PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

ment came shortly after Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray sought a cut in supply of water to breweries in the drought-hit Marathwada region. Speaking at a function in Aurangabad he said: "It is essential for the State government to accord priority to water over liquor."

State Rural Development Minister Pankaja Munde, however, differed strongly with Mr. Thackeray. Speaking to reporters in Beed, she said: "We have to realise that the water that is being supplied to industries is from reserved stocks. Water meant for irrigation and drinking is not given to industries."