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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.

S. John
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SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

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For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
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Panel formed to check Yamuna level

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: National Green Tribunal on Monday formed a joint-inspection committee of officials from Delhi, Haryana and the Delhi Jal Board to monitor the levels of Yamuna and, once again, asked authorities to check how much water was flowing into the river.

A bench comprising of judicial member Justice Jawad Rahim asked DJB and Yamuna Upper Canal Board to check the flow of wa-

ter into the Yamuna and the amount of water that was being extracted at Okhla. The bench directed them to inform NGT on the same by the next date of the hearing.

The directions came after the Delhi counsel had argued that water being released by Haryana government had reduced considerably, leading to dried up areas in the Yamuna.

NGT had earlier rapped DJB, asking them what they had done to clean Yamuna and that Haryana co-

uld not be blamed solely. The bench noted that the river had been reduced to a 'sewer line' in the capital.

"Why are you picking up things here and there?" the bench had said earlier. "We are only concerned with pollution in Yamuna. You are coming up with a new plea each time. We are interested in the entire stretch of Yamuna and not confined to segments. We are not going to compartmentalise the river as it is all one ecosystem," the bench observed.

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Water crisis to intensify in India: Unesco report

BLEAK PICTURE Says population growth, climate change will add to scarcity across country

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NEW DELHI: A new report released by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) ahead of World Water Day on March 22 shows that the water crisis will be intensifying across India by 2050. Central India is staring at deepening water scarcity that means withdrawal of 40% of the renewable surface water resources.

The already stressed ground water resources will face even greater pressure in north India. SK Sarkar, who heads the water resources division at policy think-tank TERI, said that groundwater depletion was extremely severe in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. "Ground water depletion carries with it the risk of salinity," he said.

South and central India will experience high levels of risk from poor water quality in its river basins by 2050. The report relies on a study done by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis for its estimations in future scenarios.



■ **Experts say the already stressed groundwater resources will face greater pressure in the coming years.**

HIMANSHU VYAS/HT FILE

Contamination is not only a problem with surface water resources but also groundwater, according to SWA Naqvi, a scientist at the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and NIO director, "There is metallic contamination but also contamination from improper disposal of human excreta," he said.

There is growing evidence to show that because of dumping of faecal matter in the ground — either because of open defecation or soak-pits toilets with improper

disposal of faecal matter — leads to contamination of groundwater aquifers with E-coli bacteria, according to experts.

The Unesco report said that over 2 billion people worldwide do not have access to safe drinking water but almost twice that number of people do not have access to safe sanitation. The demand for water is expected to increase by almost one-third by 2050 compared to 2010 levels.

China, India, United States, Russia and Pakistan are the larg-

est consumers of water at present and they will continue to be top water guzzlers in 2050.

The report attributed the water scarcity to population growth and climate change, which were not just fuelling water scarcity but also flooding in areas that are not historically flood-prone. According to the report, the number of people exposed to flood risk surged from 1.2 billion to day to 1.6 billion in 2050, and assets valued at US \$45 trillion will also be at risk.

The report recommends nature-based solution that mimic nature, citing the example of small-scale water harvesting structure in Rajasthan that quenched the water demand of 1,000 villages.

Another example of this is the underground taming of floods for irrigation (UTFI) project, that is being piloted in the Ganga river basin. UTFI is a way of managing both flooding and drought because the method entails channelising excess flow during the wet season for the recharge of aquifers, thus curbing flooding downstream.

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'Falling groundwater level, salinity of water in Delhi'

PTI

NEW DELHI, 19 MARCH 2018

The water level at some places in south and south-west Delhi has gone 20 to 30 metres below the ground level, said the latest economic survey of the national capital released today.

The survey also underlined the rising nitrate content in the groundwater level, thus making it unfit for human consumption.

In some areas of Shahdara and Kanjhawala, nitrate content has been found to be more than 1,000 mg/litre, the survey report tabled in the Delhi Assembly said.

According to the report, more than the prescribed limits of fluoride and chemical concentrations have been found in groundwater at various locations in the national capital.

The report said that the Central Ground Water Board

had taken steps to regulate the number of tube wells commissioned in the city.

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has 4,209 functional tube wells and 14 ranney wells.

The survey said the flood plains downstream of Wazirabad and the area adjacent to Najafgarh lake were being explored for extraction of water on a sustainable basis.

Pre-feasibility studies for groundwater recharge through the abandoned Bhatti Mines and canal system in the northwestern region of Delhi have also been taken, it said.

Deepening of old lakes and other water bodies, preserving and developing the forest area, construction of check dams at Asola wildlife sanctuary and plantation of trees are some of the steps being taken to improve the groundwater resources, the survey report added.

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World needs 'greener' water policies as demand rises: UN

AFP

PARIS, 19 MARCH

Governments should focus on "greener" policies to improve the supply and quality of water as climate change and a growing global population threaten the water security of billions, the United Nations said today.

In its 2018 World Water Development Report, the UN calculated that an estimated 3.6 billion people -- nearly half the global population -- live in areas where water can be scarce at least one month per year. And this number could rise to 5.7 billion by 2050, the report warned.

"If we do nothing, some five billion people will be living in areas with poor access to water by 2050," said UNESCO Director General, Audrey Azoulay, at the presentation of the report in Brasilia.

"This report proposes solutions that are based on nature to manage water better. This is a major task all of us need to accomplish together responsibly so as to avoid water-related conflicts," she said.

Global water use has increased by a factor of six over the past century and continues to grow steadily at a rate of about one percent per year," the report said.

And use is expected to rise significantly due to population growth, economic development and changing consumption patterns, among other factors.

"The vast majority of the growing demand for water will occur in countries with developing or emerging economies," the report said.

At the same time, the global water cycle was intensifying due to climate change, "with wetter regions generally becoming wetter and drier regions becoming even drier." 'Ecosystem-friendly' - So-called "grey" or man-made water infrastructure -- such as reservoirs, irrigation canals and treatment plants -- were no longer sufficient to meet these challenges, said the report's editor-in-chief, Richard Connor.

There is increasingly limited room to build more reservoirs because of silting, envi-

ronmental concerns and restrictions, as well as the fact that in many developed countries the most cost-effective and viable sites had already been used, the UN argued.

"In many cases, more ecosystem-friendly forms of water storage, such as natural wetlands, improvements in soil moisture and more efficient recharge of groundwater, could be more sustainable and cost-effective than traditional grey infrastructure such as dams."

"Nature plays a unique and fundamental role in regulating the different functions of the water cycle," Connor said.

Nature-based solutions "can act as regulator, cleaner and water supplier."

The report said that green solutions were already showing great potential.

New York, for example, has protected the three largest watersheds that supply water to the city since the late 1990s through forest preservation programmes and paying farmers to take on environmentally friendly practices.

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Cauvery conundrum²⁰⁵¹

Though the 16 February judgment on the Cauvery dispute is not favourable to Tamil Nadu, the State government is urging the Centre to implement it in toto which means the setting up of a Cauvery Management Board and a Cauvery Water Regulation Committee within six weeks of the judgment. Four weeks have already passed. All that the Centre has done so far is to obfuscate the judgment. Karnataka, the only State south of the Vindhyas where the BJP has taken roots, goes to the polls in the next few months and the ruling party at the Centre is determined to wrest power there at all costs. Of the four Cauvery riparian States, Karnataka is the lone State opposing the Supreme Court order. Being the State where the Cauvery originates, Karnataka wants to keep its waters under its absolute control irrespective of the party in power in the State.

The Congress government of Siddaramaiah has already made its position clear: it would not allow the formation of CMB or the CWRC. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has no time to meet an all-party delegation from Tamil Nadu to press for their formation. In a specially convened session of the Tamil Nadu Assembly on 15 March, a resolution urging the Centre to constitute the CMB and CWRC was passed unanimously. New Delhi is deaf to Tamil Nadu's pleadings.

Until 1974, Karnataka was releasing 324.6 tmcft of water into Tamil Nadu's Mettur dam. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's interim report of 1991 reduced the quantum to 205 tmcft. Its final award in 2007 reduced it further to 192 tmcft. The Supreme Court, by allotting additional 14.75 tmcft to Karnataka, curtailed Tamil Nadu's entitlement to 177.25 tmcft. Chief Justice Dipak Misra, who authored the judgment, said there was empirical evidence that Tamil Nadu had 20 tmcft of ground water and asked the government to tap at least half of it. "We are not unmindful of over-extraction of groundwater in the absence of adequate replenishment and further in the areas proximate to the coastal zone is generally avoidable," he said. Tamil Nadu has the record of utilising maximum quantity of groundwater for irrigation. Karnataka has much more groundwater, 97 per cent of it potable. That did not catch the eye of the CJ. The 1956 inter-state river water sharing law does not authorise the Union government or the judiciary to arbitrate on groundwater.

The SC affirmed that the waters of an inter-state river passing through the corridors of the riparian States constituted national asset and cannot be said to be located in any one State. Being in a state of flow, no State can claim exclusive ownership of such waters and assert a prescriptive right so as to deprive the other States of their equitable share.

The ball is now in the Centre's court. By not implementing the order, the Centre has put the institutional credibility of the SC at stake.

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बेलगावी में 100 मिमी बारिश

20-3-18

बेंगलूर @ पत्रिका. बंगाल की खाड़ी और प्रदेश के तटीय क्षेत्रों में बने निम्न वायुदाब के कारण बारिश का सिलसिला बरकरार है। सोमवार को प्रदेश के कई क्षेत्रों में भारी बारिश दर्ज की गई।

बेंगलूर मौसम विज्ञान केन्द्र के अनुसार सोमवार को बेलगावी के मनोली में 100 मिमी तक बारिश हुई, वहीं कोडगु जिले के मडिकेरी, चिक्कमंगलूर जिले के जगर, मलालूर में 90 मिमी, होरानाडू, मुथीहल्ली, निड्वाले, कूवे, अंतिकोडिगे क्षेत्रों में 70 मिमी तक बारिश दर्ज की गई। इसके अलावा भागमंडला, नपोक्लू, कोट्टीगेहारा, जयपुरा, बालेहोनूर, धर्मस्थल, बेलहोंगल, शृंगेरी, मागडी, चिंचोली, हिदकल, कुंदागी, मदापुर, सोमवारपेट, कम्मराडी, अज्जमपुरा, चिक्कमंगलूर, बसरालू और सातेबेन्नूर में 20 से 50 मिमी तक बारिश दर्ज की गई।

बारिश से 5 डिग्री अधिक लुढ़का पारा

बारिश के कारण प्रदेश के तापमान में भारी गिरावट दर्ज की गई है और सोमवार को बेंगलूर सहित प्रदेश के

कई जिलों का तापमान सामान्य से 5.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस नीचे दर्ज किया गया। आंकड़ों के अनुसार रायचूर, चित्रदुर्गा, गदग, बल्लारी और बेलगावी जिले का अधिकतम तापमान सामान्य से 4 से 5.5 डिग्री नीचे 30 से 33 डिग्री सेल्सियस के नीचे दर्ज किया गया। वहीं बेंगलूर जिले सहित विजयपुर, बागलकोट, मण्ड्या और शिवमोग्गा जिले के तापमान में 2 से 3 डिग्री सेल्सियस की गिरावट दर्ज की गई और तापमान 30 डिग्री सेल्सियस से नीचे चला गया। मौसम विभाग के अनुसार बारिश के कारण अगले दो दिनों में अधिकतम और न्यूनतम तापमान में और अधिक गिरावट दर्ज की जा सकती है।

24 घंटों में हो सकती है भारी बारिश

मौसम विज्ञान केन्द्र के अनुसार अगले 24 घंटे में उत्तर आंतरिक कर्नाटक में बेंगलूर, बल्लारी, चामराजनगर, चिक्कमंगलूर, चित्रदुर्गा, दावणगेरे, हासन, कोडगु, मण्ड्या, मैसूर और शिवमोग्गा के कई क्षेत्रों में आंधी के साथ तेज बौछारें पड़ सकती हैं।