

# MERCURY UP, WATER SCARCE

## Centre must work with states, can't escape drought responsibility: SC

**Bhadra Sinha**

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**NEW DELHI:** The Centre cannot wash its hands off declaring drought in a state and ensuring timely relief, the Supreme Court observed on Tuesday after the government revealed that 256 districts were reeling under an acute water crisis this year.

"It's the Centre's responsibility to advise the states if a drought-like situation is foreseen anywhere. You have satellites to give you weather forecast and the Centre must caution the state if you learn about possibility of a drought in a district, even if it reports good crop season," a bench of Justices MB Lokur and NV Ramana told additional solicitor general PS Narasimhan.

The court's comments came when Narasimhan argued Centre had no role to play in declaring drought. He handed over figures provided to him by the 10 states and said, as per their communication 256 districts were facing rural crisis.

On reading the documents the bench asked him if 33 crore people were affected, to which Narasimhan clarified that the figure mentioned was the total population of the districts. "It is not necessary that everybody in a drought-hit district was actually affected by it," the law officer said. At this the bench commented: "Sometimes figures can be misleading."

A 14% monsoon deficit last year led to lower-than-normal rainfall in 302 of the country's 640 districts. Two straight years of monsoon failure have pushed 256 districts, or 40% of the country's total area, under drought.

Three bad agricultural seasons have crimped food output and farm incomes. Last year, a series of hailstorms from end-February to mid-March flattened crops in about 10 million hectares across 150 districts, or about a quarter of the country.

### PARCHED MARATHWADA

This is the fourth year of drought in five years in the region



■ Villagers in Takalgaon, Latur, line up at a community borewell. HT

**8,522**  
villages  
affected by  
drought



Water left  
in dams in  
Marathwada  
region

**11%** water was available this time last year, Aurangabad divisional commissioner Umakant Dangat said

**8** of the region's **11** major dams are at dead storage level, meaning water from these dams cannot flow out and has to be lifted.

**4,356** water tankers are being used in the region compared to 939 this time last year

**19%** water left in dams across state compared to 32% this time last year

## Supply of tanker water doubles in Marathwada

**Faisal Malik**

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**MUMBAI:** With summer advancing, the number of tankers supplying water to drought-affected areas has doubled in just one month — from 2,279 in March to 4,356 this month.

What has the government worried even more is the dip in water left in Marathwada dams — just 3% water remains in these reservoirs.

Significantly, the total number of tankers deployed last year in the state by this time was just one-third of the current figure.

Out of 34 districts in Maharashtra only seven — Sindhudurg, Nandurbar, Pune, Wardha, Gondhia, Bhandara and Gadchiroli — apart from Mumbai and its suburbs are left where water supply through tankers has not yet started.

In case of Marathwada region, the total number of tankers pressed in to service has reached 2,908. This when Latur district started getting 15 lakh litres of

**THE NUMBER OF TANKERS DEPLOYED LAST YEAR BY THIS TIME IN MAHARASHTRA WAS JUST ONE-THIRD OF THE CURRENT FIGURE**

water every day through railway wagons and 50 lakh litres from rejuvenated Lower Terna Water Supply Scheme that started Sunday, officials said.

Tuesday onwards, Latur is expected to start getting around 25 lakh litre of water through railway wagons.

A close look at the figures show that of the total 4,356 tankers, half of them are being deployed only in the four districts of Aurangabad, Beed, Parbhani and Osmanabad.

Aurangabad district collector Nidhi Pande has already imposed 10% water cut for all industries in the district while for water-based industries — distilleries, breweries and beverages — the water cut is 20%.

KHAN/HT

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NCIES

# Looking beyond the rain gods

India's ability to deal with weather shocks depends on carefully crafted policy decisions

About 330 million people are affected by drought in 10 states as 256 districts reel from severe water shortages and poor farmers suffer crop losses. The current dry spell is partly because of two back-to-back years of bad monsoons. Policy makers have no control over fickle weather whims. As credit rating and research agency Crisil points out, the rising frequency of weather shocks amid higher vulnerabilities has compounded agrarian stress, slashing cultivation income and farm profitability. The importance of villages in India's economy cannot be over-emphasised. About 58% of rural households engage in agriculture and within this, two-thirds are heavily reliant on it. Without rural prosperity, the Narendra Modi government's plans for an economy firing on all cylinders will be easier said than done. India grew 7.6% in 2015-16, outpacing China, but a slowing rural economy can pose major hurdles in sustaining this turnaround. According to planners, for India to sustain a growth rate of 8%, agriculture must grow at least 4%. Alarmingly, rural distress — marked by slowing wages, poor incomes and lower profits from farming — now seems to be getting entrenched.

The silver lining is that after two years of drought, India's June-to-September monsoon is likely to be above normal this year. The country's main rainy season will be 106%, the Met department has said in its initial forecast. The monsoon is critical because nearly 60% of the country's arable land doesn't have irrigation facilities. This means millions of farmers are dependent on rains. Regardless of the eventual course and quality of summer rains, the early predictions do give an early indicator of what is likely in the next few months.

One main reason for the stagnation in yields and agricultural productivity has been a consistent under-investment in land development, a trend perhaps best manifested in the declining spending on irrigation over the last two decades. There is an urgent need for a top-down effort from the government as self-sufficiency and increasing farm land productivity gain importance; a shift is needed towards new and more efficient irrigation techniques like micro-irrigation and water harvesting which can be implemented by individual farmers and rural households. Every drought year, India's response to deal with scanty rains has been knee-jerk, betraying a lack of preparedness. India's ability to deal with weather shocks will critically depend on a matrix of carefully detailed administrative and policy solutions that ensures people's participation while making politicians and bureaucrats accountable.



**The Times of India**  
**Title : Munde's Gaffe**  
**Author :**  
**Location :**  
**Article Date : 04/20/2016**

**Politicians need to see drought as more than a photo opportunity**  
Few actions epitomised the insensitivity of the political class towards farmers afflicted by severe drought than water tankers being used to sprinkle the road for Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah's dust-free ride while visiting drought-hit areas in Bagalkot district. The state has witnessed more than 1,000 farmer suicides between April 2015 and February 2016 and nearly 80% of its taluks have been declared drought-hit. Four cabinet sub-committees were set up last week to take stock of the alarming situation but except Siddaramaiah, no senior minister has even bothered to visit drought-hit areas.

Lack of empathy is an equal opportunity affliction, crossing party lines. In neighbouring NDA-ruled Maharashtra, state water conservation minister Pankaja Munde was castigated for clicking selfies while on an official tour, reviewing drought-related work in parched Latur now being supplied by water trains.

Munde is also the guardian minister of Latur and Beed, among the worst affected districts. Opposition parties have accused her of not conducting a single review meeting during the previous year despite evidence of a drought-like situation in the region for months.

Maharashtra's water scarcity is primarily man-made due to lopsided agricultural priorities. Though sugarcane is cultivated in just 4% of total cultivable area, it consumes nearly 70% of irrigation water in the state. Almost all major state politicians, cutting across party lines, own sugar factories. This effectively makes them water barons as well, cornering the state's water resources for themselves. Successive governments have neither corrected this grave imbalance, nor have introduced long term measures such as drip irrigation, water conservation, encouraging crops requiring less water, or groundwater rejuvenation projects. Reports suggest that the ever-increasing ambition of politicians has fuelled 20 new sugar factories in dry Marathwada over the last three years, regardless of devastating consequences for the depleting groundwater table.

Instead of framing policies to mitigate age-old problems, politicians have often shown their inconsiderate side with uncharitable remarks. In 2013, Maharashtra's then deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar had mocked water scarcity by offering to urinate in dams before being forced to issue a public apology . Water resources minister Uma Bharti recently said it's pointless to plan for drought in advance. India's political parties need to get their act together and find solutions to the drought that plagues more than 25% of India's population nearly 33 crore people in 256 districts of the country .



**The Times of India**  
**Title : 254 of 678 dists in country under the spell of drought**  
**Author :**  
**Location :**  
**Article Date : 04/20/2016**

**33cr People In 2.55L Villages Short Of Water**

A staggering 33 crore people, or more than a quarter of the country's population, are in the grip of drought and consequently fa PARCHED LAND: P 11 & 22 ce drinking water shortage and agricultural distress, the Centre informed the Supreme Court on Tuesday .

The government said it was releasing money to the affected states from its disaster fund to tackle the crisis. Additional solicitor general P S Narasimha, who submitted the data before the court on the basis of figures furnished by 10 states, said Rs 7,321 crore was released on Monday under MGNREGS in addition to Rs 12,230 crore disbursed earlier this month. He said more than 21 lakh households were granted more than 100 days of employment under the rural job scheme in these states.

But the number of people hit by the drought could be higher as Bihar and Haryana haven't declared such a condition despite shortfall in rain.The report stating that 2.55 lakh villages living in 254 districts are drought-affected was placed before Justices Madan B Lokur and N V Ramana.

Interestingly , the Centre did not mention the crisis prevailing in Gujarat despite the state itself admitting on the last date of hearing that more than 637 villages were facing severe water shortage. Taking exception to the decision to not include Gujarat among drought-hit states, the Supreme Court bench asked “why special treatment was being given to the state“. The additional solicitor general replied that this was a mistake and “there is nothing behind the scene and the Gujarat figure would also be placed before the court“.

Drought conditions have forced governments to undertake emergency measures like running water trains in Maharashtra, while a public outcry over “wasting“ water led to IPL matches being moved out of Maharashtra on court orders. Politics has heated up, too, over incidents like use of water to settle dust at a heli pad prepared for a VIP inspection in Karnataka.

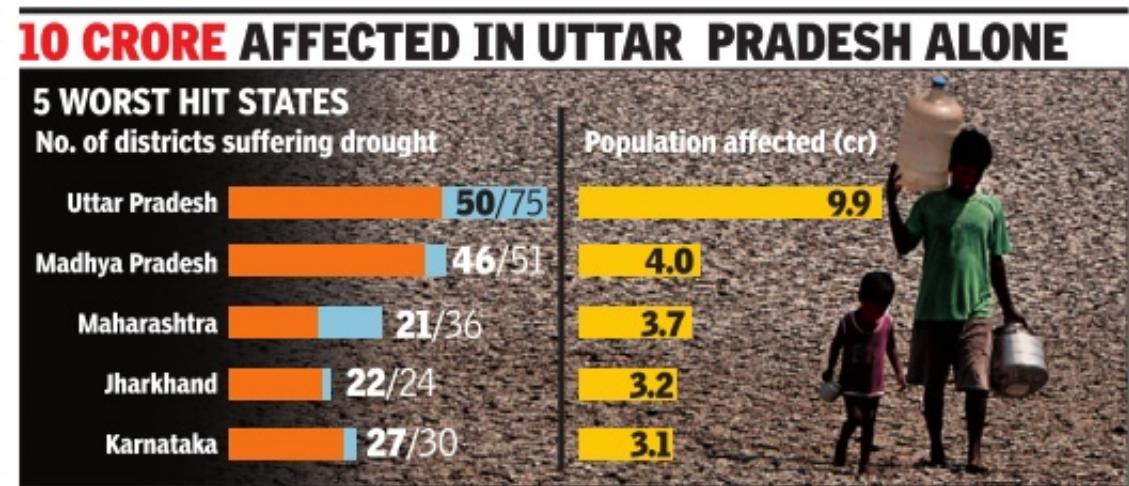
ASG P S Narasimha clarified that figures of drought-hit people have been furnished by states and might be somewhat `misleading' as they had perhaps included entire populations in a drought-hit district.

As per figures placed before the SC, 254 out of total 678 districts in the country are under the spell of drought; the worst-hit state is UP where 9.88 crore people are affected due to rain deficit in 50 districts.

Narasimha told the bench that the government is taking all effective steps to handle the crisis and more funds are being released. He said drought is covered as a natural disaster under the Disaster Management Act and money is being released from the national and state disaster funds.

Have framed disaster mgmt plan: Centre

The Centre on Tuesday told the SC that it is ready with a plan to tackle all disasters, including drought, more than 10 years after the Disaster Management Act was passed in 2005. While apprising a bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and N V Ramana with the steps taken by the Centre to handle the crisis of drought which has assumed the dimension of natural calamity, additional solicitor general P S Narasimha said that draft of the plan had been prepared and drought would be tackled as per the plan. Amit Anand Choudhary TNN



# htspotlight HEAT IS ON

## MERCURY UP, WATER SCARCE

# Shutdown looms over Aurangabad industries

**DOUBLE WHAMMY** Water shortage could lead to city's industrial, trade hub closing in 10 days, rendering lakhs jobless at a time when few rural employment options are available

Ketaki Ghogre  
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**AURANGABAD:** An industrial hub in Maharashtra's Aurangabad district, with 5,000 units and tens of thousands of workers, may shut down in 10 days as its intake well is running dry because of the third successive drought in the region.

The hub draws water from the Nathasagar reservoir of the Jayakwadi dam that is operating at dead storage level, when the height of water is lower than the sluice gates and has to be pumped out.

The hub has four industrial centres near Aurangabad spread across 3,134 hectares that use 54 million litres of water a day, including the drinking water supply of 13 adjoining villages.

If the water supply dries up, it will render tens of thousands of workers jobless in the scorching heat of May in the district that is one of the eight districts in the state's parched Marathwada region.

Many of them migrated to the industrial hub from Marathwada's rural hinterlands where daily strife over water is common and tankers are the local residents' mainstay. Over 1,100 farmers committed suicide in the past year in the region due to the drought and the deepening agrarian crisis.

To solve the problem, the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) sent a letter on Tuesday to the state government, seeking permission to build a canal from the dam to its intake well.

But the proposed canal will fall in the ambit of the Jayakwadi bird sanctuary and requires a go-ahead from the forest department that said such clearances couldn't be given immediately.

The letter from the MIDC industrial area to the divisional commissioner, Umakant Dangat said the 'intake well has water only up to May 1 and as such permission may be given to dig a 700 meters long canal from the submergence area of the dam up to it to ensure



■ The Railways has begun operating a 50-wagon train capable of transporting 25 lakh litres of water to drought-hit Latur in Maharashtra. The Jal Doot arrived in Latur on Wednesday morning. UDAY DEDEKAR/HT FILE

supply continues".

MIDC officials said they expected such a situation and prepared tenders for the work a month in advance but did not expect the forest department hindrance.

Dangat admitted that such a situation had arisen. "I received the letter yesterday and we will do what is necessary to see to it that the MIDC area doesn't shut down. There is enough water in the dead storage of Jayakwadi and this can be tapped. If a canal has to be built, we will do it," said Dangat. He, however, did not clarify on how exactly the MIDC was planning to overcome the forest department hurdle in 10 days.

**THE HUB HAS FOUR INDUSTRIAL CENTRES THAT USE 54 MILLION LITRES OF WATER A DAY, INCLUDING SUPPLY OF 13 ADJOINING VILLAGES.**

## Mumbai clubs get full quota of potable water with no check on use

Chetna Yerunkar  
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**MUMBAI:** While the Indian Premier League (IPL) will have to be moved out of drought-hit Maharashtra to avoid use of water for the grounds, there are over 200 clubs and gymkhana in the city that are still being supplied with at least a combined total of two to four million litres of potable water every day with no tab on its usage.

After the recent controversy over the use of water for maintaining pitches during the IPL, questions are now being raised over the supply of potable water to these clubs and gymkhana in the face of the water crisis in the city. While residential users have been complaining

**▶ We supply potable water to them but cannot control and check where this water is being used—whether for watering lawns or washing floors**

BMC OFFICIAL ON CONDITION OF ANONYMITY

about the shortage of water, there are various sports clubs, recreation clubs and gymkhana that are still supplied with the same amount of water as the Wankhede stadium.

Even after the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) imposed a 50% cut in water supply for commercial users in August, each club is supplied on an average 10,000 litres to 20,000 litres of potable water every day. The civic body has no mechanism in place to find out how the water supplied to these

### short take

**486 MORE GUJARAT VILLAGES IN RED ZONE, TALLY 1,000**

**AHMEDABAD:** The Gujarat government has declared another 468 villages of parched Saurashtra and Kutch region as 'partially scarcity-hit', taking the total number of such villages reeling under acute water crisis, to nearly 1,000. In addition to the 526 villages which had been put in the red zone in the beginning of the month, the state government added 468 villages to the list through an official notification on Tuesday, taking the total number to 994. The government action comes after it faced flak from SC on late declaration of affected villages as scarcity hit due to deficient rainfall in the state. The SC on Tuesday had chided state government for submitting a note instead of an affidavit on the drought situation. **PTI**

## Hyderabad stares at acute water shortage as reservoirs dry up

HT Correspondent  
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**HYDERABAD:** Hyderabad is facing a major water supply crisis, with all four reservoirs supplying water to the city drying up for the first time in 30 years. The water level in the only two existing reservoirs is also falling steadily.

A second consecutive year of drought, rapidly falling ground water table and scorching heat have added to the woes of the Greater Hyderabad region that is home to over one crore people.

State government officials said traditional water sources which the city depends on—the Himayat Sagar, Osman Sagar, Singur and Manjira reservoirs—no longer have enough water for supply. The city is now banking on water supply from the Krishna and Godavari rivers.

At present, the city is getting water from the Krishna and Godavari rivers, thanks to the projects taken up in the past 10-15 years. Pipelines were laid for 170 to 200 kms to ensure supply.

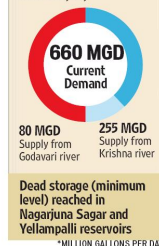
However, falling levels in reservoirs across the two rivers have sent alarm bells ringing. The levels in Nagarjuna Sagar and Yellampally reservoirs across the Krishna and Godavari rivers have reached dead storage.

Hyderabad Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) managing director Dana Kishore, however, is confident that the current supply can be maintained till June 15.

The situation may be tough if there are no inflows into the

### ALARM BELLS IN CAPITAL CITY

**325 MGD** shortage of water every day



reservoirs by that time. With many projects upstream drying up, the board is not sure if the reservoirs will receive fresh inflows even if monsoon arrives on time and there is good rainfall.

As an emergency measure, the board is arranging motors to pump the water from these two reservoirs. Officials said the use of pumps will yield muddy water.

The HMWS&SB is supplying 335 million gallons of water per day, against a demand for 660 million gallons. There is a shortfall of about 47%.

People in many localities, especially those on the fringes of the city, don't have access to piped water. They are being supplied water through tankers which residents say comes once in four to five days.

## Widow immolates self after fight over drawing water in drought-hit Harda

HT Correspondent  
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**HARDA (MP):** A 35-year-old widow set herself on fire following an argument with a neighbour over drawing water from the community tap in the Khirkia tehsil of Madhya Pradesh's drought-hit Harda district on Wednesday. She later succumbed to her burn injuries at the district hospital.

Sources said the locality receives drinking water for only half an hour each day and the local residents jostle to fill their containers and buckets before the tap runs dry.

"When water comes, local women crowd around the tap to fill their buckets. Deceased Shyama Mali had complained that she was not allowed to draw water first due to which she had to return empty handed on many occasions. On Wednesday, she wanted to draw water in time but got into a fight with a neighbour," Darshan Lal, who hails from the same village, said.

According to Mali's brother, Parvat Singh, his sister had earlier also got into a quarrel with her neighbours over taking water from the common tap.

"On Wednesday morning, they again fought with my sister, after which she poured kerosene and set herself on fire. We immediately took her to the Khirkia hospital after which she was referred to the Harda district hospital, where she died."

**THE VILLAGE RECEIVES DRINKING WATER FOR ONLY 30 MINS EACH DAY AND LOCAL RESIDENTS JOSTLE TO FILL THEIR BUCKETS BEFORE THE TAP RUNS DRY**



**The Times of India**

**Title : 'Aravali waste spill A spoils groundwater'**

**Author : Bagish Jha**

**Location :**

**Gurgaon:**

**Article Date : 04/20/2016**

The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), in the affidavit filed on Tuesday before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), has partially agreed to the allegation in a petition that the groundwater in Aravalis is being polluted by untreated waste lying near Bandhwari waste treatment plant on Gurgaon-Faridabad road.

In its three-page affidavit, filed on the direction of the NGT, CGWA has agreed to most of the allegation related to unscientific dumping of waste around Bandhwari waste plant by municipal corporations of Gurgaon and Faridabad. It also taken notice of the claims that leachate has contaminated ground water, thus affecting Gurgaon, Delhi and Faridabad water tables.

The CGWA affidavit has accepted that report published in TOI on September 8, 2015 that the pit where a lake of leachate has been created used to be a seasonal water body of the village, and that the contamination might have even made the water carcinogenic.

The affidavit also put the onus of providing an explanation to the claims made in the petition on MCG. "Municipal solid waste management falls under the purview of the local municipal bodies. The concerned local municipal bodies are believed to be exercising their constitutional powers and functions to enforce the municipal lawsrules. The municipal bodies have since been made parties in the matter, they will explain their stand," reads the affidavit.



Central body wants Gurgaon municipal body to explain why

## **The Times of India**

**Title : Centre hands baton to states with Rs 12k cr aid**

**Author : Vishwa Mohan**

**Location :**

**New Delhi:**

**Article Date : 04/20/2016**

### **Disbursement Of Funds Key To Tackling Crisis Now**

The Centre has, so far, released over Rs 12,000 crore to 10 drought-affected states under different heads for the current financial year, but the key to extend relief to people on the ground lies with respective state governments.

Since the National Disaster Management (NDM) Act, 2005 does not confer the central authority any right to declare a drought, it is entirely the state's prerogative to take a call after assessing four broad parameters -rainfall, sowing, soil moisture and vegetative index.

Though states take the help of the National Agriculture Drought Assessment and Monitoring System (NADAMS), instituted by the National Remote Sensing System, to assess 'vegetation index' and the weather office to assess 'rain fall', they deploy their own method to arrive at 'sowing area' where local revenue officers (patwari in most states) play an important role.

“The disbursement of relief also depends on similar assessment on the ground, making the farmers completely dependent on the decision of patwaris,” said a senior official while pointing out how the ball is now in the states' court to extend relief when the Centre has already released over Rs 12,000 crore from its kitty .

Besides drought relief assistance, the Centre has also released Rs 19,551 crore under the MGNREGS and Rs 820 crore under the rural drinking water scheme to states.

The 10 states which have declared drought are: Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, MP , Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana and UP . All these have been facing drought since 2014 due to monsoon deficit. Maharashtra has got the highest Rs 2,548.73 crore from the National Disaster Relief Fund.

“Though the first instalment (50% of allocation) under the SDRF was due for release to states only in June, the Centre has released it on Monday (April 18), keeping in mind the gravity of the prevailing situation,” said the officer.

PM promises 'massive effort' via MGNREGS

With large areas hit hard by drought, PM Narendra Modi has said there will be a massive effort under MGNREGS for water conservation and storage in the next couple of months. The Budget had announced a target of five lakh farm ponds and dug wells by making “productive use” of the rural jobs scheme. Addressing representatives of youth organisations, the PM said they could contribute to the effort to enhance water security. TNN



GOVT OPENS TAP FOR DROUGHT RELIEF

Drought relief package from the Centre to states under NDRF & SDRF

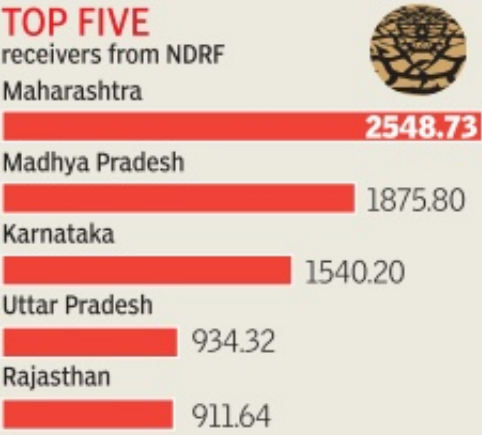
₹12,451cr was released to 15 state governments during 2015-16

₹10,275cr has been released to 9 out of 10 drought-affected states as on April 15 for the year 2016-17

Besides, ₹2551cr central share in the SDRF has been released in advance to 10 drought-affected states as on April 18 for the year 2016-17



A serpentine queue for water in Marathwada





# Train with 25L litre water reaches Latur

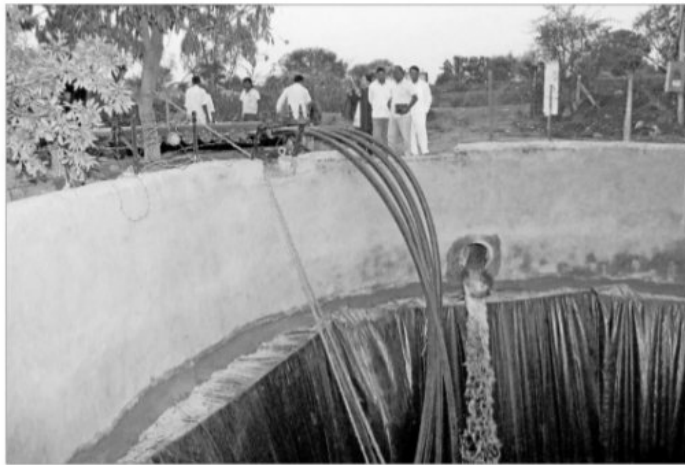
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

After nine trips by a 10-wagon water train, a 50-wagon water train carrying 25 lakh litre water reached the parched Latur today.

The train, christened 'Jaldoot', had left Miraj in western Maharashtra around 11 pm last night, for drought-hit Latur city, a distance of around 342 km. So far, 70 lakh litre water has been delivered by train to Latur, said Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis.

The train had previously made nine trips, each time carrying 5 lakh litre of water, to the city. The 50-wagon train received a grand welcome at the Latur Railway Station on its arrival.

Latur city mayor Akhtar Mistry welcomed the 'Jaldoot Express', which was specially commissioned from Kota in Rajasthan to transport water to the 5 lakh people of Latur. The train is a big relief for Latur citizens who have been



Water being stored in a well at drought-hit Latur district in Maharashtra on Wednesday. PTI

struggling to get drinking water, the mayor said.

The 'Jaldoot' first made its trial run on April 11. At Miraj, the water is first pumped through a 4 km closed pipeline

from the railway jackwell located on the banks of Krishna river to the water treatment plant at the railway station.

From the plant it goes to Haider Khan well, which is at a

distance of 2.5 km and from the well to yard, the water travels through a closed pipeline into the waiting wagons. Latur District Collector Pandurang Pole said they were re-filtering

## In Gujarat, 468 more villages scarcity-hit

■ After putting 526 villages in the red zone, the Gujarat Government has declared another 468 villages of parched Saurashtra and Kutch region as 'partially scarcity-hit'

■ The government action comes after it faced flak from the SC on late declaration of affected villages due to deficient rainfall

“You (states) should be ready for this kind of situation. Preparations can be made in advance. We should find long-term solution and not ad hoc.”

Uma Bharati, UNION MINISTER

## On way to fetch water, 12-yr-old dies of heatstroke

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, APRIL 20

A 12-year-old girl in Maharashtra's Beed district dropped dead from heatstroke on Tuesday after struggling to fetch water, state police officials said.

The police have confirmed that Yogita Ashok Desai, a Class V student, had died from dehydration caused by excessive heat. She was out since early Tuesday morning fetching water from a hand pump and collapsed on her fifth trip. The day temperature in Beed is 44°C. Officials said many people had been hospitalised after suffering from heat-related ailments. Most of them fell ill after trying to fetch water in Maharashtra's worst-affected region. The authorities have stopped distributing piped water and have resorted to supplying water by tankers. Supply is erratic and many villages are said to be receiving water once every fortnight.

the water before supplying it to the citizens through tankers. Krishnat Patil, operational manager, said they plan to run the train every day till the onset of monsoon. —PTI

# Just 3% water left in Marathwada dams

**DROUGHT TAKES TOLL** 8 of 11 major dams at dead storage level | 8,522 villages severely hit

MUMBAI, APRIL 19

In more bad news for the drought-hit Marathwada region, only 3 per cent water is left in dams in the parched region, officials said today.

Eight of the region's 11 major dams are at dead storage level, meaning water from these dams cannot flow out but has to be lifted.

This is a drastic decline in water storage as at this time last year, the level in Marathwada's dams was much higher at 11 per cent, Aurangabad Divisional Commissioner Umakant Dangat told PTI.

"We will also use the groundwater stock and as the IMD forecast is good, we hope that we will be able to carry on till the monsoon arrives," he said. This is the fourth year of drought in Marathwada in the past five years. Each of its 8,522 villages have been affected for two consecutive years.

## Ground situation

**4,356** tankers being supplied by the state government daily, maximum 3,032 for Aurangabad followed by 831 for Nashik

**₹750** crore has been sanctioned for water distribution; ₹500 crore already provided to district collectors

**19%** water left in the dams across the state as compared to 32% this time last year



## M'ashtra bans digging borewells below 200 ft

The Maharashtra Government on Tuesday banned digging of borewell below 200 ft in view of the acute water crisis, stressing the 'Maharashtra Groundwater Development and Management Act' will be strictly implemented

Water Supply and Sanitation Minister Babanrao Lonkar said all senior officials had been directed to implement the ban and violators would face fine or even imprisonment under the Act

<< Water being filled in the wagons of a train for drought-hit Latur near Sangli. PTI

"We have already cut water supply to (the) industry. The collectors and divisional commissioner have been instructed that the use of water for drinking is the top priority," Maharashtra Water

Resources Minister Girish Mahajan said.

As many as 2,745 water tankers are being used in the region compared to 939 this time last year. Latur in Marathwada has been get-

ting water by a special "water train" filled at Miraj in western Maharashtra.

The Aurangabad collector has already announced a 20 per cent water cut to local breweries and a 10 per cent

overall cut to local industry.

Dams across the state have only 19 per cent water left compared to 32 per cent this time last year, an official of Maharashtra Irrigation Department said. — PTI

## Rainwater harvesting way forward: ISRO ex-chief

HYDERABAD, APRIL 19

Former Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation G Madhavan Nair today said as India was facing drought conditions and water scarcity in several regions, conserving each rain drop and putting in place a resource management system were key to addressing the issues.

Nair also called for constructing check-dams on riverbeds to improve groundwater level and also prevent rainwater from flowing into the sea. Suggesting a survey of drought-affected areas based on aerial (space-based) pictures as well as

ground situation and then creating a master plan, he said the Department of Space and Water Resources Ministry should work together and generate a plan of action on a war-footing.

Speaking to PTI, Nair stressed that water management system has to be put in place and rainwater harvesting should be given prime importance.

"Whatever (rain) drop which falls on the soil or on the house roof toops has to be collected and stored in reservoirs and then maintain the reservoirs properly and avoid leakage of that," he said. — PTI

## MNREGA to be used for water conservation: PM

NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

With various parts of the country witnessing drought, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said a "massive effort" will be launched for water conservation and storage under MNREGA in the next couple of months and urged official youth organisations like NCC to contribute in this.

Modi, while reviewing the functioning of official youth organisations, including the NCC, NSS, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Indian Red Cross Society and NYKS



"A massive effort will be launched for water conservation and storage under MNREGA in the next couple of months. I urge official youth organisations like NCC to contribute in this." **Narendra Modi, PRIME MINISTER**

here, emphasised the need for better coordination and synergy among these groups.

"Discussing the immediate tasks ahead where these organisations could play an important role, the Prime Minister said that in the next couple of months, there would be a massive effort under MGNREGA for water conservation and storage mechanisms," a

PMO statement said.

His comment about effort for water conservation and storage mechanisms assumes significance as various parts of the country are reeling from drought. Modi urged these youth organisations to mobilise to the greatest extent possible, to dovetail and contribute to these efforts. — PTI



# Farmers suffered damage to kharif crops: HAU report

DEEPENDER DESWAL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, APRIL 19

Despite failure of crops during the kharif season, the state government has refused to admit that drought-like situation prevailed in the state and denied compensation to the affected farmers.

A report of the Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agriculture University (HAU) has brought out bajra and guar crops were damaged during the kharif season. The rainfall during the kharif season, too, was scanty.

The HAU report suggested that the farmers suffered an average loss of ₹1,793 per acre over the total cost in bajra crop in the state. Hisar farmers suffered the highest loss of ₹3,970 per acre, while Bhiwani, Mahendergarh and Jhajjar farmers suffered an

average loss of ₹2,382, ₹1,166 and ₹1,948 per acre, respectively.

Similarly in guar crop, farmers in Hisar suffered a loss of ₹3,970 per acre and faced a loss of ₹2,744 per acre in Fatehabad district, the report revealed. Calculating the economics of these crops, the report totalled the input costs and rental value, management charges and risk factor.

Harpal Singh, state secretary of the All-India Kisan Sabha (AIKA), said that the HAU report had corroborated what they had been saying for many days. "Even the state government's girdawari report, too, has shown heavy losses in bajra, guar and moong besides the cotton."

"The government kept bajra, guar and moong out of the compensation scheme with an argument that white-

fly does not harm these crops," he said, adding that there were reports of whitefly damaging these crops.

A government official, however, said that HAU scientists had recommended to the state government that whitefly did not affect crops other than cotton so they could not include these crops in the compensation scheme for whitefly affected crops. "Besides, there is no declaration of drought in the region and these crops cannot be compensated for drought too," he said on condition of anonymity.

The farmer leader said that bajra, guar and moong crops were grown on 4 lakh acres in Bhiwani, around 3 lakh acres in Hisar and around 45,000 acres in Fatehabad adding that the entire crops had failed during the kharif season.

## Rainfall (mm) in 2015

	Hisar	Hansi	Adampur
April	35	29	10
May	nil	nil	nil
June	87	43	29
July	51	17	26
August	36	48	36
Sept	27	3	7
October	nil	nil	nil

Kharif season from April to October

SOURCE - STATE REVENUE DEPARTMENT

## Cause for concern

HISAR DISTRICT 2015

Guar	Total cost	Gross return
	₹18,275	₹14,305
Bajra	₹17,392	₹13,422

STATE AVERAGE 2015

Guar	₹15,880	₹16,360
Bajra	₹15,398	₹13,605

SOURCE - HAU REPORT





# State had scanty rain last year, but no drought, SC told

**R SEDHURAMAN**

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI, APRIL 19**

The Haryana Government today filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court, maintaining that there was no "drought-like situation" in the state in 2015 despite a 28.8 per cent rain shortfall in June-September.

The state received just 36.3 cm of rains against the 10-year average of 51 cm but this did not affect farm output as 83 per cent of irrigation was being taken care of by canals and tubewells, the affidavit submitted by Additional Advocate-General Anil Grover said.

A Bench comprising Justices MB Lokur and NV Ramana had earlier questioned Haryana for its refusal to declare drought despite a deficient rainfall, a primary indicator for the purpose under the Centre's manual and guidelines meant for providing adequate and timely relief to the affected people.

"The case is about people's lives, not about any picnic in

Haryana," the SC had told the state counsel after noticing that the government had taken the issue casually and not even bothered to file its affidavit in response to the court notice on a PIL.

In today's affidavit, the state government acknowledged that the shortage of rainfall was more than 50 per cent in six districts – Rohtak (64 pc), Hisar (62 pc), Mahendragarh (61 pc), Fatehabad (60 pc), Panchkula (52 pc) and Sirsa (51 pc).

As on April 1, 2016, only 335 of 7,958 habitations in the state had faced deficient drinking water against the requirement of 40 litres per person a day. The state government was, however, meeting the requirement through tankers which carried water from canals and tubewells.

"It is humbly submitted that there was no drought-like situation in Haryana during 2015," the affidavit said. The Bench is hearing a PIL by NGO Swaraj Abhiyan, seeking a directive to 12 states to declare drought.

# An underwater voyage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, 20 April

Passengers will get the thrill of riding under the sea while travelling between Mumbai and Ahmedabad in the first bullet train of the country. The 508 km long Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail corridor will have a 21 km long tunnel under the sea, said a senior Railway Ministry official involved with the public transporter's ambitious bullet train project.

While most part of the corridor is proposed to be on the elevated track, there will be a stretch after Thane creek towards Virar which will go under the sea as per the detailed project report by JICA.

Estimated to cost about Rs 97,636 crore, 81 per

cent of the funding for the project will come by way of a loan from Japan. The project cost includes possible cost escalation, interest during construction and import duties.

It is a soft loan for 50 years at 0.1 per cent annual interest with 15 years moratorium, said the official. Rolling stock and other equipment like signaling and power system will be imported from Japan as per the loan agreement.

The official said the loan agreement with Japan is slated to be signed by the end of the year and construction work is likely to begin by the end of 2018.

According top priority to the first of its kind project, railways has formed National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), a special pur-

pose vehicle (SPV), with a paid-up capital of Rs 500 crore.

A search committee comprising senior government officials including Cabinet Secretary, Chairman Railway Board and Secretary DOPT among others is on the job currently to select the Managing Director and five directors for the NHSRCL.

Railways has already allotted Rs 200 crore for the SPV. Maharashtra and Gujarat will have equity of 25 per cent each, while the Railways will have 50 per cent in the SPV.

The bullet train is expected to cover 508 km between Mumbai and Ahmedabad in about two hours, running at a maximum speed of 350 kmph and operating speed of 320 kmph.



# Crop insurance scheme a sham, SC told

R SEDHURAMAN

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

The crop insurance scheme meant for farmers is nothing but a sham as the affected people are unable to claim compensation for farm losses under the terms and conditions of the policy, the PIL petitioner on drought has informed the Supreme Court.

Arguing for the petitioner—NGO Swaraj Abhiyan, counsel Prashant Bhushan pleaded before a Bench comprising Justices MB Lokur and NV Ramana that farmers opting for crop insurance had to pay Rs 2,500 as premium for every hectare under cultivation.

Bhushan said under the compensation clause of the insurance policy, the affected farmers were entitled to a compensation of ₹25,000 per hectare. But this would be paid only if the shortage of rainfall was to the extent of 75 per cent which was improbable.

Even in the unlikely event of such a miserable failure of the monsoon, the hapless farmers would be paid the compensation only if the

## Picking holes

■ Farmers opting for crop insurance have to pay ₹2,500 as premium for every hectare under cultivation

■ Under the compensation clause, the affected farmers are entitled to a relief of ₹25,000 per hectare. But this will be paid only if the shortage of rainfall is to the extent of 75 pc



entire bloc of villages was affected, not just one or two villages. Every farmer took crop policies only to hedge his losses and that being so how the insurance companies were being allowed to link the compensation to the level of rainfall and farm output in a bloc of villages, he asked.

In case the farmers qualified for compensation by meeting the unreasonable conditions, the amount they would get is just about 50 per cent of the input costs estimated by the government at ₹40,000-45,000 for most of the crops.

Bhushan acknowledged that the government also

paid a crop loss compensation of ₹13,500 for each hectare of irrigated land and ₹6,800 for un-irrigated land even if the farmers had no insurance. But the farmers stood to lose even if they got both compensations as the two together did not come close to the actual input cost, he said.

Farming had become an unprofitable proposition even in the best case scenario of monsoon bounty and bumper crop if one were to take into account the cost of labour. Almost all the family members of the community were engaged in the activity, the petitioner pointed out.

That was why farmers were doomed in the event of monsoon failure. This was borne out by the fact that 4,00,000 farmers had committed suicide in the past 15-20 years, Bhushan said yesterday.

In view of all this, the government should extend all welfare schemes such as employment under MNREGA, supply of foodgrains under the Food Security Act and other benefits under the National Disaster Management Act to the 12 states hit by drought in 2015. But the Centre had released just Rs 7,000 crore so far for implementing the employment guarantee scheme in 2016-17 against the lowest estimate of Rs 58,000 crore, half of which should have been made available by now under the MGNREGA Act, Bhushan said.

Arguing for the Centre, Additional Solicitor General PS Narasimha acknowledged that 33 crore people accounting for about 25 per cent of the country's population had been hit by drought in 254 districts.

The Bench has slated the next hearing for April 26.



# Behind Pankaja's 'oasis', an initiative to revive river

**MANOJ MORE**  
LATUR, APRIL 19

IN A selfie soup, Maharashtra Rural Development Minister Pankaja Munde on Monday claimed she took the picture as she was "really happy to see water in such a dry area". It appeared, according to Munde, "like an oasis in the desert".

That "oasis", at Sai village in Latur district, however has little to do with the government, its men or machinery. The oasis, Latur residents say, was created through a citizen's initiative, "Jalyukt Abhiyan", launched on April 12 by people of the district.

The work sounds simple, though on the ground it is back-breaking: increasing the storing capacity of Manjara river, the life-line of Latur, which has run dry. Fed up with government apathy, water-starved citizens — led by the Art of Living Foundation — joined hands to desilt the Manjara on an 18-km stretch: from Sai village barrage to Nagzari village to Karsapohre village. Once the silt is scooped out, the river, 30 metres wide at present, will be back to its original width of 80 metres.



Work in progress to desilt Manjara river. *Pradip Das*



## WATERLESS IN MARATHWADA

Working with a May 31 deadline, people involved say a 3-km stretch has already been desilted.

Once completed, it is expected to provide Latur drinking water through the year. "We expect 18,500 MLD (million litres per day) to be stored in the two barrages during monsoon," Mahadev Gomare of Art of Living Foun-

dation said. "Latur needs 50 million litres every day, or 18,250 MLD annually. We might even have more water than required."

"Before the Manjara dam went dry, Latur city used to get water every eight or 10 days. Once the two barrages are filled this monsoon, we expect supply every other day at the least," said P N Todkar, a retired Irrigation Department official monitoring the work voluntarily.

The project cost is estimated at Rs 7 crore, and the funding is entirely from public money.

Municipal Commissioner Sudhakar Telang conceded Latur Municipal Corporation has no role in the initiative: "The project will help augment our water supply (but) I can't say how much."

GOVERNMENT OF

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epaper editions

Wed, 20 April 2016

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## WATER TRAIN PULLS IN THIS MORNING

Women carry water near Harangul railway station, which falls on the way to Latur, Tuesday. The water train will arrive in Latur Wednesday. *Pradip Das*

**256 of 675**  
districts hit by drought

**33 crore**  
people affected

**130 talukas**  
suffering from water shortage

**₹19,500 cr**  
released as MNREGA wages

Information provided by the  
Centre to Supreme Court on  
the drought situation **P 9, 13**



# Since January, falling steadily

Cumulative storage in India's 91 biggest reservoirs is currently about half of their January levels. Maharashtra has drawn the most water the fastest, going from 30% of full capacity to 14% today

AMITABHSINHA  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

WATER FROM the already-depleted reservoirs in Maharashtra have been drawn at a faster pace than any other part of the country since the start of this year, one reason why the state is facing such a severe water crisis.

The 17 big reservoirs in the state are left with just about 2 billion cubic metres (bcm) of water now, which is barely 14% of their total capacity. At least three of these reservoirs have run dry, and there is no water in them that can be released by opening the gates. The minimal water they have, below the height of the gates, needs to be pumped out to be supplied.

Data from the Central Water Commission (CWC) show that water levels in Maharashtra's reservoirs was just over 30% of full capacity in the first week of January. Between then and now, water levels in all 91 big reservoirs in the country, including the ones in Maharashtra, almost halved from a cumulative 44% of capacity to 23%. The reservoirs now together hold about 36bcm out of their total capacity of about 158 bcm.

It is important to note that the reservoirs are not expected to be full at this time of the year. Normally, they should have been holding around 46 bcm of water at this time. Last year, unexpected rain in March had ensured that they had 53.5bcm water around this time. Thanks to that rain, and then a short burst in June, the reservoirs had above normal storage levels till

the first half of August 2015, before the bad monsoon started taking its toll.

This year has been different. Most of the country, especially north, east and central India, has had virtually no winter rain, leaving the reservoirs to meet demands for almost six months before Monsoon 2016 hopefully fills them up again. The water in the reservoirs is used for irrigation, hydro-electric power generation, for drinking, and industrial use.

Currently, in every state except Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Tripura, cumulative storage levels are below their normal levels. The situation is better in the reservoirs that produce significant hydropower of 60 MW and above. There are 37 of them, and 26 are at levels that are normal or just below normal.

Reservoirs of the west and south have the least water, compared to normal levels. The 31 big reservoirs in the five southern states have only 15% of their normal water, while the 27 in Maharashtra and Gujarat have 18%. Reservoirs in the east are the healthiest as of now.

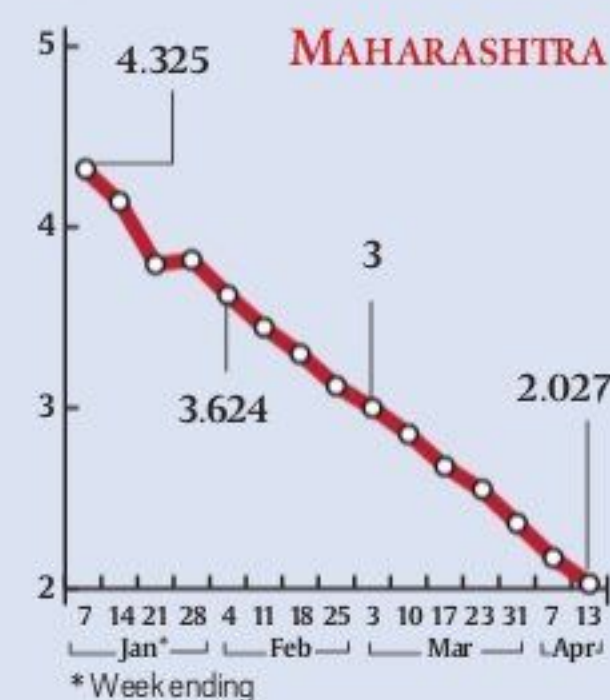
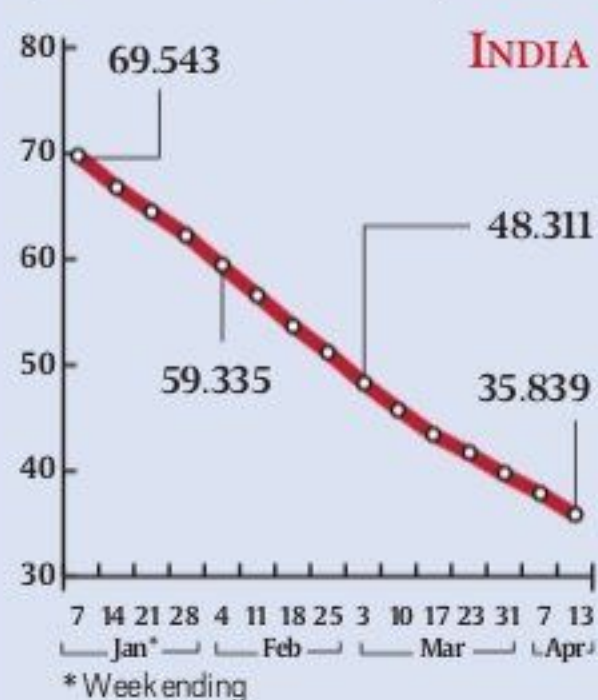
The basins of the Tapi, Krishna and Godavari, all of which lie partially in Maharashtra, have very little water compared to normal levels. Other river basins also have below normal water. Only the Ganga basin has water 17% above normal levels.

The India Meteorological Department has predicted 106% of normal rainfall. The 4-month monsoon season begins in June. Even if the season is off to a good start, current water levels will have to meet demands for at least a month and a half.

## STATE OF THE RESERVOIRS

### CUMULATIVE LIVE STORAGE IN 91 RESERVOIRS SINCE JANUARY, 2016

(In billion cubic metres)



### DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL STORAGE

#### NORTHERN REGION

6 reservoirs

Himachal Pradesh	-21%
Punjab	-48%
Rajasthan	-10%

#### EASTERN REGION

15 reservoirs

Jharkhand	-30%
Odisha	-3%
West Bengal	+4%
Tripura	+543%

#### WESTERN REGION

27 reservoirs

Gujarat	-51%
Maharashtra	-60%

#### CENTRAL REGION

12 reservoirs

Uttar Pradesh	-6%
Uttarakhand	-64%
Madhya Pradesh	+51%
Chhattisgarh	-23%

#### SOUTHERN REGION

31 reservoirs

Andhra & Telangana	-80%
Andhra Pradesh	-6%
Telangana	-52%
Karnataka	-29%
Kerala	-2%
Tamil Nadu	-53%

### CURRENT STATUS

Deviation from 10-year average\*

#### 5 OF THE FULLEST

Gumti, Tripura	+40
Gandhi Sagar, Madhya Pradesh	+26
Kallada (Parappur), Kerala	+24
Bargi, Madhya Pradesh	+16
Bansagar, Madhya Pradesh and Sholayar, Tamil Nadu	+10

#### 5 OF THE EMPTIEST

Karjan, Gujarat	-37
Aliyar, Tamil Nadu	-36
Panchet Hill, Jharkhand	-34
Dudhganga, Maharashtra	-32
Panam, Gujarat	-31

\*Storage as percentage of live capacity at FRL. All figures in per cent.

### BELOW AVERAGE

Total live storage in 91 major reservoirs as of April 13 was 35.839 billion cubic metres (BCM), or 23% of live storage capacity at full reservoir level (FRL).

The current year's storage is only 67% of last year's storage, and 77% of the average of the last 10 years.



## Generally down

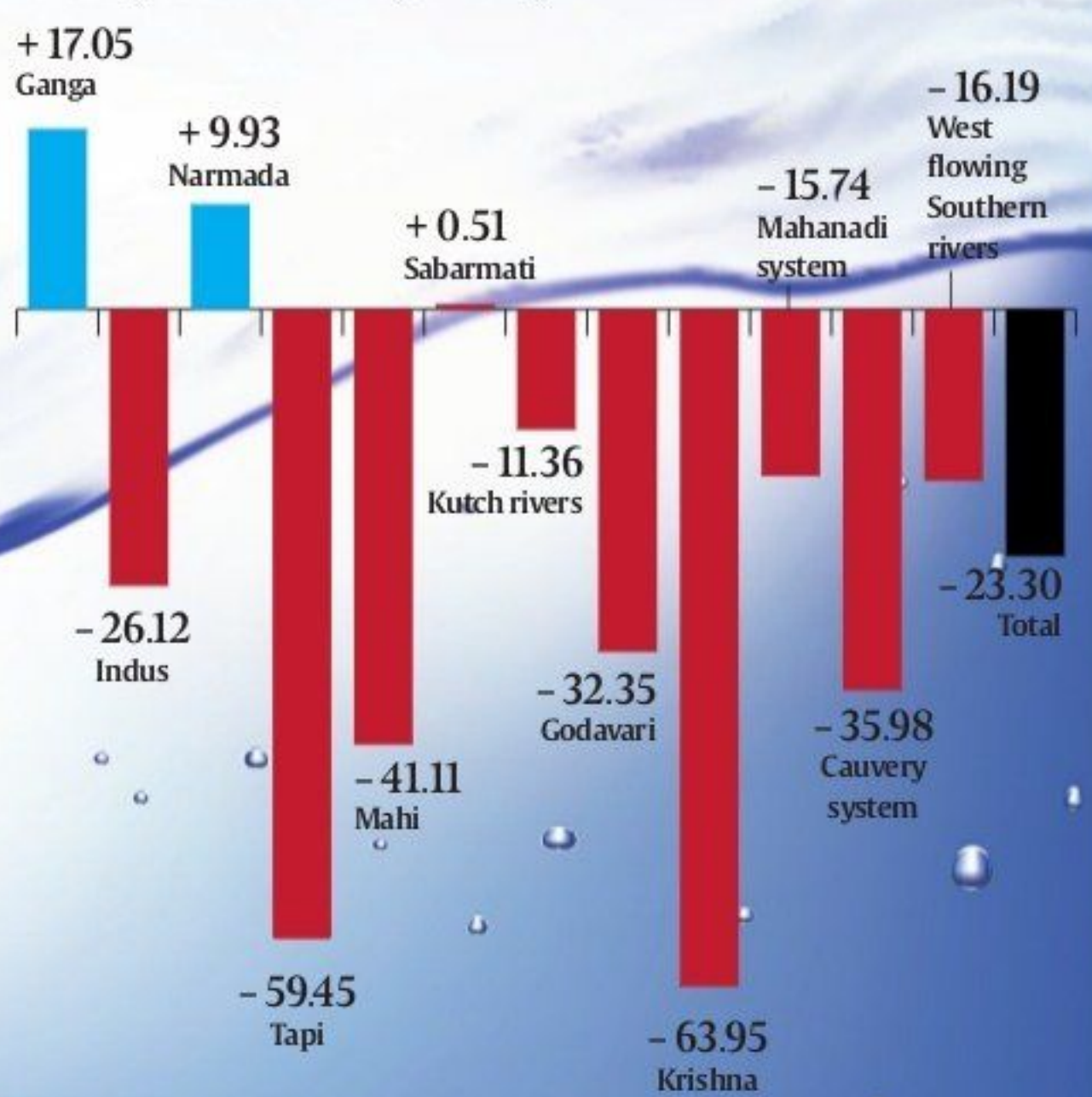
Storage levels at 30 prominent reservoirs are currently at 0 to 46% of live capacity at FRL. Among the 91 reservoirs monitored by Central Water Commission, storage is down in all except 15 in comparison to this time last year. All figures are for the week ending April 13.

Reservoir	2016	2015	10-yr avg
Gandhi Sagar, Madhya Pradesh	46	40	▲ 20
Bansagar, Madhya Pradesh	42	65	▼ 32
Somasila, Andhra	40	15	▲ 43
Hirakud, Odisha	38	35	▲ 41
Upper Vaitarna, Maharashtra	37	43	▼ 50
Rana Pratap Sagar, Rajasthan	32	26	▲ 34
Idukki, Kerala	31	47	▼ 34
Gobind Sagar (Bhakra), Himachal	30	33	▼ 26
Sardar Sarovar	29	71	▼ 50
Sabarmati (Dharoi), Gujarat	27	16	▲ 27
Koyana, Maharashtra	26	56	▼ 51
Mettur (Stanley), Tamil Nadu	23	36	▼ 44
Upper Tapi, Maharashtra	22	82	▼ 50
Tilaiya, Jharkhand	21	45	▼ 27
Rihand, Uttar Pradesh	21	21	— 19
Thein, Punjab	20	62	▼ 38
Maithon, Jharkhand	17	32	▼ 45
Ramganga, Uttarakhand	16	63	▼ 39
Pong, Himachal	15	32	▼ 31
Dudhganga, Maharashtra	15	53	▼ 47
Kabini (Sanherla), Karnataka	11	53	▼ 14
Lower Bhawani, Tamil Nadu	10	19	▼ 40
Periyar, Kerala	9	15	▼ 28
Srisailem, Andhra/Telangana	8	30	▼ 19
Almatti, Karnataka	7	9	▼ 10
Tehri, Uttarakhand	6	23	▼ 19
Tungabhadra, Karnataka	3	2	▲ 4
Bhima (Ujjaini), Maharashtra	0	16	▼ 27
Jayakawadi (Paithon), Maharashtra	0	11	▼ 27
Nagarjuna Sagar, Andhra/Telangana	0	4	▼ 23

### RIVER BASIN STORAGE

Almost all basins are emptier than normal

Percentage deviation from 10-year average



SOURCE: CENTRAL WATER COMMISSION  
FIGURES UPDATED  
TILL APRIL 13, 2016

Graphic: Mithun Chakraborty



» TODAY'S PAPER » NATIONAL

Published: April 21, 2016 00:00 IST | Updated: April 21, 2016 05:50 IST Tirupati, April 21, 2016

## A.P. hamlets look to the sun to save water



• [A.D. Rangarajan](#)

*Photovoltaic system helps pumps shut down automatically when tanks are full*



Water flows from a solar-powered hand pump (in the background) at Oteru near Tirupati on Wednesday.- Photo: K.V. Poornachandra Kumar

With the water crisis looming even in places normally endowed with enough surface water, cutting wastage using technology is a top priority in Andhra Pradesh. Enter solar power, to energise existing hand pumps in the countryside supplying potable drinking water to people in rural areas.

The photovoltaic-powered system enables a link to automation that ensures that the water level in overhead tanks is monitored and pumps switched on and off automatically.

Usually, the right to manage rural overhead tanks is vested with only a few, and a good deal of water is wasted due to overflow from tanks.

The proposal is therefore to install solar panels on an elevated platform on top of a 5,000 litre plastic tank to power the pump and fill the tank. When the water level recedes, the pump is automatically activated using solar power and the tank gets filled up again, taking care of requirements overnight. During non-sunny days or when the equipment develops a technical snag, the villages can rely on manual pumping.

“Chittoor district received sanction to install solar pumps in 54 habitations, of which close to 40 have been completed and work is in the final stages for the rest,” C.B. Jagadeeswara Reddy, District Manager of New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh told *The Hindu*.

“The water pressure is sufficient to meet the needs of our village as well as the SC colony,” said a jubilant Nuthalapati Suryanarayana, sarpanch of Kobaka village in Yerpedu mandal, a beneficiary habitation under the scheme.

The Union government has set a target of 1,000 such solar energy-based dual pump-piped water supply systems to be installed in Andhra Pradesh during 2015-16 to tackle the drinking water problem in the remote, non-electrified tribal hamlets and small habitations. The cost of a unit is fixed at Rs. 4.9 lakh, with partial funding provided by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and grants from National Rural Drinking Water Programme.

The scheme, however, has a limitation in that it can be applied only in locations where surface water is abundantly available. “As western Chittoor is known for acute shortage, the scheme is mainly concentrated in the water-rich eastern mandals”, explained G. Venu, Superintending Engineer (Rural Water Supply).

The State government is eager to ‘solar-power’ all the habitations by May 15.

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# Weddings can wait as water train rolls into parched Latur

Young and old turn up at railway station as Jaldoot Express carrying 25 lakh litres of water arrives

**MANOJ MORE**

LATUR, APRIL 20

MINUTES AFTER the 50-wagon Jaldoot Express pulled into Latur railway station carrying 25 lakh litres of drinking water — enough to take care of the city's daily needs — Kavita Kamble and her family became the first ones to receive a 200 litre barrel at their doorstep.

"I can't believe the water has come from Miraj straight to our residence. It's a lucky day for us — I was just stepping out to go for my daughter's wedding," said Kavita, 40, from Kranti Nagar.

The train had left Miraj in Sangli district, about 342 km away, at 10.55 pm Tuesday. After it reached Latur Wednesday morning, tankers made 450 trips to bring water to each household. Usually the tankers collect water from three nearby dams, which are also beginning to run dry. The train had previously made nine such trips with 10 wagons, carrying 5 lakh litres of water each time. *The Indian Express* was at Latur station Wednesday morning, when Jaldoot pulled in.

**7.52 AM:** As Jaldoot arrives at Latur railway station, railway workers gather, connecting pipes to collect water. Twenty minutes later, the decanting process starts. The train has reached later than expected "because of three express trains that run on the section during the night", ex-



Kavita was heading to her daughter's wedding when the water tanker arrived. Pradip Das

plains R K Sharma, senior divisional manager (operations), Solapur division of Central Railways. During the day, says Sharma, they have been running Jaldoot almost like a superfast train. "On one occasion last week, it reached in 6 hours-35 minutes, logging a speed of nearly 50 kmph — almost like superfast train. Today's delay was a one-off thing," says Sharma.

**8.10 AM:** The 'Jaldoot team' of driver S B Khot, assistant loco pilot B G Kolekar and guard Sikandar Nabais head for the changing room. Regarding the delay, they all say: "No, no, *kuch problem nahin hai*." Nabais says his family is excited he was on board the train carrying water to



## WATERLESS IN MARATHWADA

Latur. "It is a big moment for all of us in the railways," he says.

**8.30 AM:** Locals gather to catch a glimpse of the train. As Sohal Nagar resident Jainuddin Sayyed approaches the wagons, his four-year-old son Mujjamil tries to leap out of his arms to touch the train. "*Bahut achcha lag raha hai* (Feels great)," says

Mujjamil, as his father lets him stand on the side of the train. "For the last 10 days, TV channels and newspapers have been showing pictures of Jaldoot. Mujjamil has been insisting we go see the *paani ki gaadi*," says Jainuddin.

Shivraj Kasbe, 65, too woke up at 5 am. He first went to Harangul railway station, which falls on the way to Latur, and then took his two-wheeler to see Jaldoot. "I wanted to see the entire process. In such a short time, the railways and the government readied the infrastructure in Latur to decant and carry water in tankers," he says.

**9 AM:** The first tanker leaves the station, followed by two more. It reaches the civic water

treatment plant at Arvi, about 3 km away, ten minutes later.

**10.10 AM:** The first tanker leaves Arvi treatment plant. It heads through Shivaji Road in the heart of the city at a speed of 30 kmph. It stops at a kutcha road, in front of Kavita Kamble's home. "The tanker could have missed me today since I had to rush for my daughter's wedding at 12.30 pm. There was not a drop of water in the house," says Kavita. "Our family has nine people. We take a bath on alternate days because we could not afford to buy water every day," says Kavita. "I hope we now get water more frequently than eight-ten days."

When contacted, Municipal Commissioner Sudhakar Telang said that since the frequency of the 50-wagon train will go up, they are considering providing drinking water every four-five days instead of the current six-eight days.

Each tanker can carry about 6,000 litre water. As he leaves, Kavita says, "They should run the train every day."

Kranti Nagar, which has a population of about 10,000, gets water every eight-ten days, say residents. An official with the civic water planning department, visits the locality and tells residents that they can now expect water every four days.

The promise means everything to residents of Latur, where taps have been running dry since February.



Published: April 21, 2016 00:20 IST | Updated: April 21, 2016 00:22 IST April 21, 2016

## Hotter, longer, deadlier summers

• [Hem H. Dholakia](#)



Parched: “In areas where heat extremes coincide with water scarcity, the risk of heat-related illness remains highest.” Children looking for water near Rambha village, 90 km south of Bhubaneswar in Odisha.— Photo: AP



Hem H. Dholakia

*As climate change gathers pace, policy intervention is required across three sectors — health, water and power.*

India’s romance with seasons has been well known since the times of Kalidasa’s *Ritusamhara*. But it is now under strain because of global climate change.

Climate change is expected to cause an **increase in the frequency and intensity of heatwaves**. For India, 2015 was the third hottest year on record (since 1901) and the **heat claimed over 2,000 lives**. This year, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued warnings for northwest and central India (Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, eastern Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand) about heatwaves happening sooner than in previous years. Further, government schools have been shut down in Kolkata, parts of West Bengal, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh on account of heatwaves.

Adverse health outcomes (hospitalisations or death) are a complex interaction of frequency, duration and intensity of a heatwave and population-level factors, which include acclimatisation to the temperature profile of certain geography, poverty, lack of shelter, pre-existing disease, age (children or elderly) and access to health facilities. In addition to heat stroke, extreme temperatures can exacerbate pre-existing cardiovascular and respiratory illness.

### The days ahead

A joint study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad and Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar found that about 345 districts in India (700 million people) are following a trajectory where average

temperatures are likely to rise more than 2°C by the end of the century. The same study also finds that over the next three decades, India may experience increase in annual mean air temperatures of 1°C-1.5°C and substantial increases in night-time temperatures. Higher night-time temperatures are correlated with increased incidence of heat-related illness.

Findings from the first Global Climate Change Risk Assessment (a joint study by CEEW, Harvard University, Tsinghua University and the U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office) highlight that hotter summers make it extremely unsafe for citizens, especially labourers, to undertake heavy outdoor work. Of course, there remain associated impacts such as higher risks of crop failure. Concomitant consequences of farmer financial distress, poverty traps and, in extreme cases, suicides cannot be overstated.

### Adaptation measures

If hotter, longer and deadlier summers are to be the new normal under a changing climate, proactive adaptation measures are required. This implies policy intervention and coordination across three sectors — health, water and power.

First, scale up heat-health warning systems (HHWS). At their core, such warning systems include providing weather forecasts in advance, issuing warnings to people, providing readiness of emergency response systems, and preparing doctors and health facilities to handle a sudden influx of patients. Warnings facilitate people in taking appropriate actions against heat-related harm. Though the IMD does issue heat warnings, often the coordination with emergency response systems and health facilities is missing.

Globally, studies show that implementing HHWS results in fewer deaths. The most quoted example is that of France where 4,400 deaths were avoided due to HHWS during the 2006 heatwave. Closer home, Ahmedabad, Nagpur and Odisha have made pioneering efforts in this direction. These systems need to be expanded to other cities across the country.

Second, expedite the rollout of the National Action Plan on Climate Change and Health that was launched last year. Preventing temperature-related morbidity and mortality could be a key programme under this mission.

Third, ensure an adequate supply of water. Dehydration is a key outcome of heat exposure which can cascade into life-threatening conditions and ultimately death. Timely access to drinking water can help mitigate this escalation. In areas where heat extremes coincide with water scarcity, the risk of heat-related illness remains highest. Areas like Latur, Osmanabad and Beed, which are already experiencing acute water shortages, could face large casualties if hit by heatwaves. Water is also required for electricity production that helps provide access to cooler environments through use of fans and air conditioners. Therefore, strategic planning in the water sector is of paramount importance to protect human lives.

Fourth, provide reliable electricity for adequate duration. Access to cool environments remains the mainstay of preventing heat stress. Use of fans, air conditioners or functioning of medical centres is contingent upon electricity supply. Further, many communities depend on electricity to draw groundwater for drinking. This requires planning to meet peak loads in summer, when power outages are most common. In rural areas, where electricity access is a challenge, supplementing power supply of primary health centres with solar-based systems should be undertaken. Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Tripura have already deployed such systems.

Finding policy alignment and coordination across these sectors remains a daunting, yet much needed exercise. The romance of the seasons may be lost in the years to come. Lives need not be.

*Hem H. Dholakia is a Research Associate at CEEW, a not-for-profit policy research institution in New Delhi. Email: [hem.dholakia@ceew.in](mailto:hem.dholakia@ceew.in)*

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Printable version | Apr 21, 2016 4:44:23 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/how-to-tackle-hotter-longer-deadlier-summers/article8500083.ece>

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## NATIONAL

Published: April 21, 2016 01:02 IST | Updated: April 21, 2016 09:37 IST BEED, April 21, 2016

### In barren Beed, requiem must wait for water tankers



• [Sharad Vyas](#)



The Hindu

Bhimrao Agarkar offers prayers on the banks of the dried-up Godavari in Beed. —Photo: Vivek Bendre

*Many come to perform funeral rites at the ghats of the ancient Shani temple along a dry Godavari*

Bhimrao Agarkar stood on the banks of the Godavari, calculating the cost of the just-concluded rituals for his cousin Vitthal Sakhre, who died 10 days ago. The ghats of the ancient Rakshbuvan (Shani) temple at Georai taluka in Maharashtra's Beed district are a spiritual destination for many who come to perform funeral rites.

Agarkar paid Rs. 1,600 for a 3,000-litre water tanker that he had to arrange, along with the lunch for 300 relatives and friends near the parched riverbed. The temperature is a painful 42 degrees. Three years ago, Agarkar performed a similar ceremony for his uncle here, but there was enough water in the river.

"We arranged mineral water for relatives, but for bathing and rituals, this time we needed the tanker." He rues that even in death people do not get access to water.

A deficient monsoon over the last three years has resulted in the holy site going dry, affecting businesses connected with the ceremonies.

"Last year, I was conducting 25 mundans [tonsuring] daily, but it is down to five now," says saloon owner Ashok Waghmare.

At a distance, a family tries to scour the last remaining drops from 10 taps of the temple trust.

"These ran dry long ago, why don't you try the tanker supply. I could arrange it," a priest shouts out. The offer is bluntly turned down. With the holy river drying up, the tanker business has been thriving. The ghats are full of posters offering 'cheap' tanker water. But not everyone can afford it.

The temple trust has sought the Chief Minister's help for a comprehensive plan to revive the river. "Neither nature nor the administration has helped us," says former temple trust head Abhay Pathak.

Several taluks in Beed are completely dependent on tankers. The administration is providing 803 tankers for 1,169 villages, but the number is expected to go up to 956 by the end of June. The State would be spending Rs. 28.84 crore only on tankers by then.

"This crisis at the temple has been developing after we decided to divert the Godavari water to Georai, to meet the needs of 60,000 people," says District Collector Vikas Suryawanshi.

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Printable version | Apr 21, 2016 4:46:31 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/in-barren-beed-requiem-must-wait-for-water-tankers/article8500244.ece>



Published: April 20, 2016 00:00 IST | Updated: April 20, 2016 05:44 IST NEW DELHI, April 20, 2016

## Only States can declare drought: Centre to SC

- [Legal Correspondent](#)

Reiterating that the onus is entirely on the States to declare a drought, the Centre on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that it has released over Rs. 19,000 crore to States under the MNREGA scheme to handle the crisis.

In a hearing before a Bench of Justices Madan B. Lokur and N.V. Ramana, Additional Solicitor General P.S. Narasimha said the duty of the Centre was to provide immediate relief to the States once the latter exercises its authority to declare drought.

Mr. Narasimha said it was for the States concerned to explain the delay in declaring drought and not on the Centre to shoulder that burden in the Supreme Court.

The Centre centred his response to this on the federal structure of governance in which a democratically elected State government should take on the responsibility of analysing the ground situation in its drought-hit areas, sounding the alarm and implementing relief works if necessary.

He said that the provisions of the Disaster Management Act cannot be applied to all events of tragedy or loss.

On the issue of restructuring of crop loans to farmers, Mr. Narasimha said farmers suffering from the drought are entitled to get their loans restructured in order to reschedule their payments.

He submitted that to prevent leakages in the MGNREGA scheme, the government has introduced a system for electronic transfer of wages directly to the beneficiaries in their bank account in 11 States.

The hearing also saw The court express its dissatisfaction at the reply filed by Gujarat government and directed it to file a detailed affidavit containing rainfall data.

In the previous hearing on the PIL filed by NGO Swaraj Abhiyan to declare drought as a national emergency, the court had slammed the Gujarat and Haryana governments for “hazy” presentation of facts and outdated charts on rainfall data. Recently, the desert State of Rajasthan and 256 villages in Gujarat had declared drought.

The PIL had listed Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Haryana and Chhattisgarh as drought-hit.

It had requested the court to examine the rainfall data in these States for the purpose of declaring drought-affected areas, districts and taluks. It asked the court to intervene to find out about the implementation of the National Food Security Act of 2013 and the availability of food grains, rice, dal, edible oil, eggs and milk for children, etc, in these areas.

***‘Centre to provide immediate relief to the States once the latter exercises its authority to declare drought’***

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Printable version | Apr 21, 2016 4:43:46 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/only-states-can-declare-drought-centre-to-sc/article8496035.ece>

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News item/letter/article/editorial published on April 20.04.2016 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  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)  
Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle  
A & J (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Blitz

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

Page-5 T/20/4

# 1,000 villages, 8 dists face water scarcity, says Rupani

## 'Local Water Sources Have Dried Up'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Gandhinagar:** Vijay Rupani, state water resources minister and Gujarat BJP president said the eight districts and around 1,000 villages in the state are facing an acute water crisis.



While addressing the media over the ongoing water crisis in state, Rupani said: "Due to insufficient rains for the last two years, eight districts — Jamnagar, Devbhumi Dwarka, Porbandar, Rajkot, Surendranagar, Dahod, Panchmahal and Amreli — are facing a drinking water shortage. Around 1,000 villages are in crisis due to drying up of local water sources. We have already started supplying water to around 500 villages by tankers and will increase the number with demand. We are reviewing all districts weekly and have started helplines. The chief minister is also reviewing the situation regularly. A committee of ministers



Jamnagar, Devbhumi Dwarka, Porbandar, Rajkot, Surendranagar, Dahod, Panchmahal and Amreli are facing drinking water shortage

is also monitoring the situation."

"We have increased supply by tankers from 30 litres to 50 litres per day per person. Daily supply to Jamnagar, Porbandar, Dahod, Amreli, Junagadh and other cities has been increased. For two months, people may have to face some inconvenience. We are supplying Narmada water wherever possible. We are also deploying the state reserve police to prevent water theft from Narmada canals," he added.

In Surendranagar alone, 268 villages are facing a severe water crisis. Residents there have given the local administration memoranda for the last



## 'Won't seek Centre's help'

About what help was received from the Government of India, like the special water train for Maharashtra's drought-hit areas, Rupani declined to elaborate. He said: "We have not sought any assistance from the government of India." TNN

## No water to Maharashtra

About Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to states to supply water to Maharashtra, he said: "There is no plan to supply water to Maharashtra from the Narmada." TNN

three days, demanding adequate water arrangements. However, according to officials, the villages in Chotila, and remote areas of Thangadh are badly affected. Jamnagar district is also witnessing a major crisis. At Chur village in Kalyanpur taluka, residents are getting water once in 15 days. According to the village sarpanch Bhikhu Paniya, water is being released from Sani dam but this is not enough. We store water as supply comes just once in a fortnight. Villages are supplied water in rotation, as there is not enough water in the Sani dam.

News Item/letter/article/editorial published on 18/07/2016 in the

Hindustan Times	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	M.P. Chronicle
Statestarian	Punjab Keshari (Hindi)	Aaj (Hindi)
The Times of India (N.D.)	The Hindu	Indian Nation
Indian Express	Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)	Nai Duniya (Hindi)
Tribune	Deccan Chronicle	The Times of India (A)
Bladesian (Hindi)	Deccan Herald	Elite

and deposited at Charitath(English) & Publicity Section, CWC,

# Over 25% of India's population hit by drought, Centre tells SC

33cr People In  
2.55L Villages  
Short Of Water

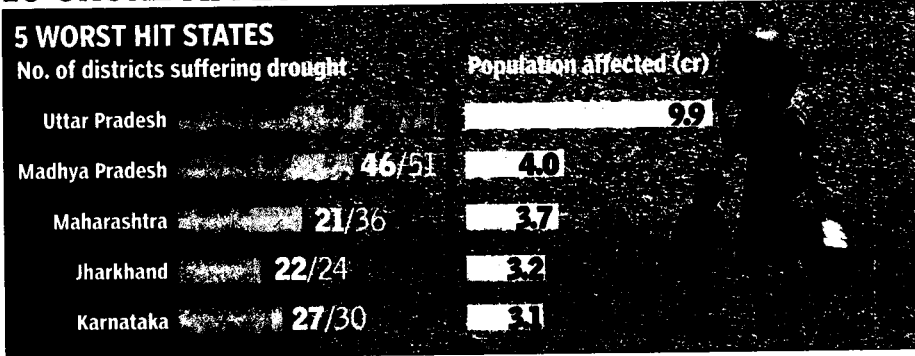
AmitAnand.Choudhary  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A staggering 33 crore people, or more than a quarter of the country's population, are in the grip of drought and consequently fa-

**PARCHED LAND: P 11 & 22**

ce drinking water shortage and agricultural distress, the Centre informed the Supreme Court on Tuesday.  
The government said it was releasing money to the affected states from its disaster fund to tackle the crisis. Additional solicitor general P S Narasimha, who submitted the

## 10 CRORE AFFECTED IN UTTAR PRADESH ALONE



data before the court on the basis of figures furnished by 10 states, said Rs 7,321 crore was released on Monday under MGNREGS in addition to Rs 12,230 crore disbursed earlier this month. He said more than 21 lakh households were granted more than 100 days of employment under the rural

job scheme in these states.  
But the number of people hit by the drought could be higher as Bihar and Haryana haven't declared such a condition despite shortfall in rain. The report stating that 2.55 lakh villages living in 254 districts are drought-affected was placed before Justices Madan

B Lokur and N V Ramana.  
Interestingly, the Centre did not mention the crisis prevailing in Gujarat despite the state itself admitting on the last date of hearing that more than 637 villages were facing severe water shortage.  
**► 254 districts hit, P 11**



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 14.4.2016 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  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)  
Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle  
Aaj (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Kai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Eklz

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

# Measly rains leave top reservoirs high & dry

## Fingers Crossed As Met Predicts Good Monsoon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** With the mercury soaring across the country, the water storage availability of India's 91 major reservoirs has dipped to 37.92 billion cubic metre which is just 24% of total storage capacity of these reservoirs.



The central water commission (CWC) in its latest bulletin noted that the storage status of these reservoirs as on April 7 was less than the corresponding period last year.

The reservoirs usually get their share of the water during the June-September monsoon period. The decline of water availability this year is attributed to less rainfall in 2014 and 2015. Since water from these reservoirs is used for irrigation purposes, the status of availability indi-

LINE OF NO CONTROL

SANDEEP ADHWARYU

BOMBAY HC: NO IPL MATCHES IN MAHARASHTRA AFTER APRIL 30



cates the position of supply during Rabi (winter) crop season. With the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) predicting abundant rainfall this year, it is expected these reservoirs will get enough water during the June-September period.

At present, states having lesser storage than last year for corresponding period are: Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pra-

desh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.

Only two states, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura, have reported better storage vis-a-vis last year.

The total storage capacity of these 91 reservoirs is nearly 157 BCM or nearly 62% of the total storage capacity of 253 BCM estimated to have been created in the entire country. Thirty-seven reservoirs out of these 91, have hydro-power benefit with installed capacity of more than 60 MW.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on April 20.4.2016 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (K.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 Bhadrachal(English) & Publicity Section, CWC.

# Decade on, Upper Bari Doab canal project's third stage terminated

**AMANINDER PAL**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, APRIL 19**

After remaining on paper for over a decade, the agreement to execute the ambitious 85 MW hydel project over Upper Bari Doab Canal (UBDC) system has been finally terminated by the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL).

The corporation had signed an agreement with Bhilwara Energy Limited, which was to start work in 2007. Conceived as Upper Bari Doab Canal (UBDC) - Stage -III project, five units were envisaged under the project. However, the project was never initiated.

The PSPCL claimed that the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) submitted by the firm was not as per the implemen-

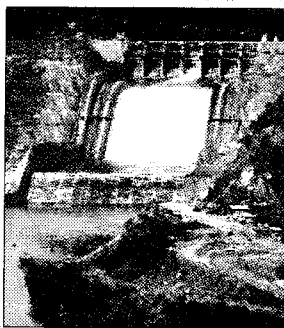
## Ranjit Sagar Dam to be put on tourist map

The state government will develop Ranjit Sagar Dam and lake as an international tourist destination which is ideally suited for water sports activities and eco-tourism. The state has already established Shivalik (Dhauladhar) Tourism Development Board (SDTDB) in this regard. This was announced by Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal at Pathankot on Tuesday.

tation agreement and the firm had never rectified the PPA.

Now, the PSPCL's Board of Directors (BoD) has terminated the agreement with the firm and sent it to the state government for its concurrence. The approval of termination is pending with the state power department.

Once the government



gives its nod, PEDDA is likely to execute the project", confirmed PSPCL Chairman-cum-Managing Director KD Chaudhuri.

According to PSPCL's website, the estimated cost of the project was Rs 1,088 crore (as per 2009 prices). It was to generate 510 million units of power annually at the rate of Rs 2.49 per unit.

A Venuprasad, secretary,

power, said, "We have received the copy of PSPCL's BoD's decision recently. The government will soon take decision."

Originally conceived as "run-off the river" project, a major portion of the project was to be developed by constructing an artificial canal parallel to the main UBDC channel. Now the PEDDA has envisaged constructing 18 hydel plants at five different sites over the UBDC itself.

Representatives of Bhilwara Energy Limited couldn't be contacted.

However, the annual report (2012-13) of the company maintained that after signing the Implementation Agreement, detailed project report for the project was approved by the state for the 85 MW project.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on April 21-04-2016 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

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M.P.Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

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

## With water turning scarce, 'swachhta' becomes casualty

Villagers of Deshnur in Belagavi have gone back to open defecation in adjoining forest areas, fields or hills

VIJAYKUMAR PATIL

**DESHNUR (BELAGAVI DISTRICT):** With the scorching sun drying up all sources of water, the Prime Minister's ambitious Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is going for a toss in Belagavi. Many villages in the district, like Deshnur, are bearing the brunt of water scarcity.

"When we do not have water to drink, how can we find water to keep our toilets clean," asked Peerzada, a petty shop owner in the village.

His family has abandoned the toilet in his house, which stinks badly. The family members, he says, go to the fields to answer nature's call. "We trudge long distances to fetch a pot of drinking

water. Do you want me to walk more to fetch water for toilets too" asked a woman, who did not wish to be named.

Except for a handful, who have their own sources of water, a majority of the villagers here have gone back to open defecation in the adjoining forest areas, fields or hills, while children use open drainage lines within the localities.

Taking a bath too is a luxury.

According to the Deshnur Gram Panchayat president, Deepakgouda Veerpakshappa Patil, and Panchayat Development Officer, A.M. Lateef, of the 22 mini water supply schemes, seven are defunct.

At present, only three schemes are operating. The yield has come down considerably even in the operational ones.

The government sanctioned Rs. 96 lakh under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme seven months ago, under which two borewells were sunk, but failed to yield water.

Tendered work on an open well and a ground-level storage tank of one lakh litres capacity has been finalised recently, and villagers hope work will commence shortly.

The villagers have suggested construction of community toilets, maintained by the government, as a solution, said Mr. Lateef.



DAILY ORDEAL: People have to fetch water from far-off places in Deshnur of Belagavi district. — PHOTO: P.K. BADIGER



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  
Kai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (V)  
ETN

and documented at Chapra (English) & Publicity Section, OWC,



बांदा जिले के गुरेड़ी गांव की महिलाओं को 4-4 किमी की दूर से पानी लाना पड़ रहा है।

## बुंदेलखंड में पुलिस बंटवा रही पानी

यूपी का बुंदेलखंड क्षेत्र सूखे की समस्या से भी जूझ रहा है। हालात ये हैं कि पानी की कमी के कारण लोगों की शक्तियां रोकी जा रही हैं। साथ ही टैंकों से पानी भरने के लिए मारपीट हो रही है। कई जगहों पर लूटमार की घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए पुलिस पानी बंटवा रही है। बांदा में कुल 24,628 हैंडपंप हैं, जिसमें से 60 फीसद हैंडपंपों से पानी निकलना बंद हो चुका है।

### दौरे से पहले पानी छिड़कने का विरोध

कर्नाटक के सीएम सिद्धरमैया राज्य के बगलकोट जिले में सूखे की मार झेल रहे इलाकों को दौरा करने गए थे। इसी दौरान बड़ागंडी गांव की धूल भरी सड़क में उनके खाफिले के आने से पहले दो टैंकर पानी छिड़क दिया गया। प्रशासन की ओर से पानी की इस बर्बादी का स्थानीय लोगों ने विरोध किया। सीएम ने इस मामले में जांच के आदेश दिए हैं।

### चीन का उदाहरण

वॉटर रिसोर्स ऐंड रिवर डिवेलपमेंट सेक्रेटरी शशि शेखर का कहना है कि 15 साल पहले हर आदमी को सालाना 1500 क्यूबिक मीटर पानी मिलता था। अब यह घटकर 1100 क्यूबिक मीटर रह गया है। हालात और न खराब हो जाएं इसलिए एक मॉडल

अगले कुछ महीनों में मनरेगा के तहत जल संरक्षण और भंडारण के लिए बड़े पैमाने पर कोशिश शुरू की जाएगी। इन काम में एनसीसी जैसे युवा संगठन अहम भूमिका निभा सकते हैं।

- नरेंद्र मोदी, पीएम

वॉटर लॉ बनाया जाएगा। चीन ने 1500 क्यूबिक मीटर के आंकड़े पर क्राइसिस का ऐलान कर दिया था।

### अक्षय कुमार ने दिए

50 लाख

महाराष्ट्र के सूखा पीड़ितों के लिए बॉलिवुड ऐक्टर अक्षय कुमार ने 50 लाख रुपये दान दिए हैं। राज्य के मराठवाड़ा में भयानक सूखा है। लोग पानी के लिए मीलों पैदल चल रहे हैं और घंटों लाइन लगा रहे हैं। इससे पहले भी अक्षय ने महाराष्ट्र में कर्ज के कारण आत्महत्या कर रहे किसानों को बचाने की कोशिश में 90 लाख रुपये दिए थे।

बांदा में कुल 24,628 हैंडपंप में से 60% हैंडपंपों से पानी निकलना बंद हो चुका है।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on April 20, 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  
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 Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CV/C.

केंद्र सरकार ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट को दी जानकारी, बारिश का डेटा न देने पर गुजरात सरकार को फटकार

# 33 करोड़ लोग सूखे से प्रभावित

2011 NB7 P-17

■ विशेष संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सूखा मामले की सुनवाई के दौरान गुजरात सरकार को फटकार लगाई है। कोर्ट ने गुजरात सरकार के हलफनामे पर सवाल उठाया। इससे पहले केंद्र सरकार ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट को बताया कि देश में 25 फीसद आबादी सूखा प्रभावित है और इस तरह यह आंकड़ा 33 करोड़ बैठता है। वहीं देश भर में 256 जिले सूखे से प्रभावित हैं।

**हल्के में न लें मामला**

मामले की सुनवाई के दौरान गुजरात सरकार कोर्ट में उसी तरीके से आंकड़ा पेश नहीं पाई, जिससे कोर्ट ने नाराजगी जताई। कोर्ट ने कहा कि गुजरात सरकार के डेटा में बारिश का डेटा नहीं है। गुजरात में ऐसा क्या खास है, हम आपको अलग से अनेक राज्य की तरह ट्रीट नहीं कर सकते। अदालत ने कहा कि गुजरात सरकार चीजों को हल्के में न ले। अदालत ने गुरुवार तक गुजरात सरकार को मामले में हलफनामा पेश करने को कहा है। अदालत ने गुजरात सरकार के हलफनामे पर सवाल उठाते हुए कहा कि आपने कोर्ट के सामने 35 पेज का हलफनामा दिया और याचिकाकर्ता को दी गई कॉपी 58 पेज की है। अदालत ने कहा कि जो हम बता रहे हैं वह आप सुनने को तैयार नहीं हैं। कोर्ट ने हलफनामा पेश करने के लिए गुरुवार तक का समय दिया।



बांदा के अछरोड़ गांव में किसान बैलगाड़ी लेकर जाते हैं और केन की बीच धारा से पीने का पानी लेकर आते हैं।

25  
फीसद आबादी  
पर पड़ा असर  
256  
जिलों में फसलों  
को नुकसान

**केंद्र सरकार को भी घेरा**

मामले की सुनवाई के दौरान केंद्र सरकार ने बताया कि इस साल अब तक 19 हजार 500 करोड़ रुपये रिलीज किए जा चुके हैं। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र सरकार से पूछा कि वह बताए कि सूखा प्रभावित इलाके में मनरेगा के तहत 150 दिन से ज्यादा कितने लोगों को रोजगार मिला है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार फंड रिलीज करने के बाद बाकी जिम्मेदारी से प्रल्ला नहीं झाड़ सकती है। ~~मामले की सुनवाई के दौरान~~ समय-समय पर होने के बीच पंचायतों में जारी करें और बताएं कि अमुक हिस्से में सूखा पड़ने वाला है। अगर किसी इलाके में 95 फीसद फसल बोई गई हो तो वहां पहले पता चलना चाहिए कि इलाके में सूखा पड़ने वाला है या नहीं। सरकार को एडवाइजरी अगस्त से ही शुरू करना चाहिए और यह दिसंबर, जनवरी और फरवरी तक चलना चाहिए। केंद्र को राज्य को बताना होगा कि हमें सेटेलाइट के माध्यम से जानकारी मिली है कि राज्य में बरसात कम होगी। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने हरियाणा का उदाहरण देते हुए कहा कि राज्य कह रहा है कि उसके पास सिंचाई की पर्याप्त व्यवस्था है लेकिन केंद्र को पता चलता है कि वहां बारिश कम होगी तो आपको ये बात हरियाणा को बतानी पड़ेगी। कोर्ट ने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार का कहना है कि उसने 12 हजार 230 करोड़ रुपये जारी किए और हाल में 7321 करोड़ रुपये और दिए, तो इस तरह से कुल 19 हजार 557 करोड़ रुपये जारी हुए। लेकिन इस साल का हिस्सा तो 7321 करोड़ ही है क्योंकि बाकी रकम तो पिछले साल की बकाया है। इस पर केंद्र ने कहा कि वह जल्दी ही और रकम जारी करेगा।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 20.4.2016 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  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)  
Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle  
Aaj (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Bharat

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

# लखवार परियोजना को मंत्रालय की हरी झंडी

RF: 20 April. P. 19

चार हजार करोड़ की  
आएगी लागत  
दिल्ली व राजस्थान  
समेत कई राज्यों को  
मिलेगा पानी

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केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्रालय से लखवार -व्यासी परियोजना के निर्माण को हरी झंडी मिलने से अब राजस्थान दिल्ली व हरियाणा को पानी मिलने का रास्ता साफ हो गया है। हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री मनोहर लाल के आग्रह पर केंद्रीय जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण मंत्री उमा भारती ने चार हजार करोड़ रुपए की लखवार व्यासी बहु उद्देशीय परियोजना के निर्माण को हरी झंडी दे दी है। मंत्रालय की ओर से शीघ्र ही इस परियोजना को केंद्रीय कैबिनेट के पास भेजा जाएगा।

मुख्यमंत्री ने मंगलवार की देर शाम हरियाणा से संबंधित विभिन्न जल परियोजनाओं व नए प्रस्तावों को लेकर केंद्रीय जल संसाधन उमा भारती से उनके कार्यालय में मुलाकात की। जल संसाधन मंत्रालय के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों की उपस्थिति में केंद्रीय मंत्री ने मुख्यमंत्री को आश्वस्त करते हुए लखवार परियोजना के निर्माण शीघ्र शुरू कराने व इस परियोजना के महत्व को देखते हुए इसकी आधारशिला



नई दिल्ली में केंद्रीय जलसंसाधन मंत्री उमा भारती से मुलाकात करते हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री मनोहरलाल

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी से रखवाने की बात कही।

**पानी में हरियाणा को  
मिलेगी 48 फीसदी  
हिस्सेदारी**

उत्तराखंड स्थित इस परियोजना के पूरा होने से हरियाणा, उत्तराखंड, उत्तर प्रदेश, हिमाचल प्रदेश, दिल्ली और राजस्थान को पानी मिलेगा लेकिन इस परियोजना के कुल जल संसाधन में सबसे अधिक 48 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी हरियाणा की रहेगी। इस अतिरिक्त पानी से यमुना नदी के प्राकृतिक प्रवाह को बनाए

रखने में भी मदद मिलेगी। मुख्यमंत्री ने बैठक के दौरान लखवार के साथ-साथ रेणुका व किसान से संबंधित परियोजनाओं के अलावा साहबी पर बने मसानी बैराज तक पानी लाने आदि मामलों को केंद्रीय मंत्री के समक्ष रखा।

मसानी बैराज में पानी आने से राज्य के दक्षिणी हिस्से विशेषकर मेवात-गुडगांव-महेंद्रगढ़ आदि को पानी मिल सकेगा। जिस पर जल संसाधन मंत्री ने सकारात्मक रवैया दिखाते हुए शीघ्र ही इन मामलों को लेकर संबंधित राज्यों के अधिकारियों की उच्च स्तरीय बैठक बुलाने की बात कही।

**पौधरोपण की योजना**

मनोहरलाल ने हरियाणा में यमुना नदी के साथ-साथ हरियाली का तंत्र विकसित करने का प्रस्ताव भी रखा। हरियाणा में करीब 300 किमी में यमुना का प्रवाह है। राज्य के वन एवं पर्यावरण विभाग की ओर से तैयार प्रस्ताव में यमुना नदी के किनारे पौधरोपण व वाटर रिजवायर बनाने की योजना तैयार की गई है। इस पर 110 करोड़ रुपए का खर्च आने का अनुमान है। मुख्यमंत्री के इस प्रस्ताव पर भी केंद्रीय मंत्री ने सहमति जताते हुए शीघ्र ही अधिकारिक स्तर पर इसका अध्ययन कराने की बात कही।



News item/letter/article/editorial published on April 20, 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  
Rejasithan Patrika (Hindi)  
Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle  
A. a. j. (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Blitz

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

# केंद्र ने माना, 33 करोड़ लोगों पर सूखे की मार

20-H.P-1

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

केंद्र सरकार ने मंगलवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में माना कि दस राज्यों के 256 जिलों में करीब 33 करोड़ लोग सूखे की मार झेल रहे हैं। पहली बार सरकार ने कोर्ट में सूखे के आधिकारिक आंकड़े पेश किए हैं।

केंद्र ने बताया कि सूखाग्रस्त राज्यों की स्थिति के मद्देनजर उसने मनरेगा के तहत निर्धारित 38,500 करोड़ रुपये में से करीब 19,545 करोड़ रुपये जारी कर दिए हैं। केंद्र ने स्पष्ट किया कि गुजरात ने व्यापक आंकड़ा फिलहाल उपलब्ध नहीं कराया है। गुजरात से जुड़ी विस्तृत जानकारी बाद में उपलब्ध कराई जाएगी, लेकिन अदालत ने इसे लेकर गहरी नाराजगी जताई।

पिछली सुनवाई में कोर्ट ने सरकार से सूखा प्रभावित राज्यों के आंकड़े उपलब्ध कराने को कहा था। किसानों को राहत देने के मुद्दे पर केंद्र ने शीर्ष अदालत



‘सूखे के लिए राज्यों पर सारी जिम्मेदारी डालकर केंद्र अपने दायित्व से पीछे नहीं हट सकता। केंद्र को कम बारिश की संभावना की जानकारी उस राज्य को पहले बतानी होगी।’  
-सुप्रीम कोर्ट

को अवगत कराया कि सूखा प्रभावित इलाकों में बैंक किसानों पर नरमी बरतेंगे। सुप्रीम कोर्ट एनजीओ स्वराज अभियान की याचिका पर सुनवाई कर रहा है।  
➤ केंद्र सरकार को फटकार पेज 12

News item/letter/article/editorial published on April-21-04-2016 in the

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  
Aaj (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Blitz

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सबसे बड़ी अदालत बोली | सूखे का प्रभाव कम करने का पूरा जिम्मा केंद्र का

# सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सूखे पर केन्द्र को नहीं झाड़ने दिया पल्ला

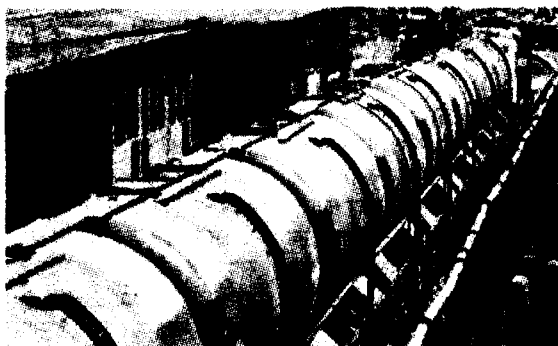
सरकार का तर्क :  
राज्यों को फंड देने  
तक भूमिका सीमित

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सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मंगलवार को केंद्र सरकार का यह दावा खारिज कर दिया कि अपने इलाकों में सूखे की हालत से निपटना राज्य सरकारों की जिम्मेदारी है और केंद्र सरकार की भूमिका किसी भी समस्या से पार पाने के लिए उन्हें पर्याप्त फंड देने तक सीमित है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि सूखे की स्थिति का अनुमान लगाने, सूखे से निपटने के प्रयासों का प्रबंधन करना करने और सूखे का असर कम करने की पूरी जिम्मेदारी केंद्र सरकार की है। योगेंद्र यादव के एनजीओ स्वराज अभियान की याचिका पर सुनवाई कर रही जस्टिस मदन बी लोकुर और जस्टिस एनवी रमण की पीठ इस दलील से सहमत नहीं हुई कि केंद्र ने अपनी हर जिम्मेदारी पूरी की है। याचिका में आरोप लगाया गया है कि केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों ने सूखे के मामले में कदम उठाने में देरी की, जिससे तमाम लोगों को परेशानी में फंसना पड़ा है।



मुंबई @ पत्रिका . 50 वैगनों की ट्रेन 25 लाख लीटर पानी लेकर बुधवार को लातूर पहुंची। पश्चिमी महाराष्ट्र के मिराज से खाना हुई ट्रेन को जलदूत का नाम दिया गया।

मोदी पर निशाना

नई दिल्ली . सूखे के मुद्दे को लेकर कांग्रेस ने बुधवार को मोदी सरकार पर हमला बोलते हुए प्रधानमंत्री को राजधर्म की याद दिलाई। कांग्रेस प्रवक्ता रणदीप सुरजेवाला ने आरोप लगाया कि मोदी सरकार ने कांग्रेस की योजनाओं के पैसे कटौती कर सूखे के संकट को और बढ़ा दिया है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट के चेताने के बाद केंद्र सरकार सक्रियता की बात कर रही है।

केंद्र सरकार की दलीलें

■ 'केंद्र सरकार की भूमिका इस समस्या से निपटने के लिए राज्यों को फंड देने तक सीमित है।'

■ 'बारिश में कमी, रकबे में गिरावट, हरे-भरे इलाकों के आकार में कमी जैसे संकेतों के आधार पर सूखा घोषित करने की जिम्मेदार राज्यों की है।'

■ 'प्रभावित लोगों के लिए रोजगार और पर्याप्त खाद्य

सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने जैसे कदम भी राज्यों की जिम्मेदारी है।'

■ 'केंद्र सरकार ने सूखा प्रभावित इलाकों में न्यूनतम 100 दिन रोजगार की गारंटी के लिए पर्याप्त फंड मंजूर किए हैं।'

■ 'हम अब इस पर रोज बैठकें कर रहे हैं। हम अडवाइजरी भी जारी कर रहे हैं।'

अदालत के तीखे बोल

■ 'केंद्र सरकार के पास टेक्नोलॉजी (सैटलाइट इमेजरी जैसी) है। क्या आप उस सूचना के आधार पर यह नहीं बता सकते हैं कि आप (कोई भी राज्य) मुश्किल में धरने वाले हैं? यह केवल पैसे का मामला नहीं है।'

■ 'सबकुछ ठीक नहीं है, कृपया स्थिति सुधारने के कदम उठाएं। अगर राज्य वैसा न करे तो आपके पास संविधान के तहत

कदम उठाने का विकल्प है।'

■ 'क्या आपने ऐसा बिहार, हरियाणा और गुजरात के मामले में किया था?'

■ 'क्या आपने इन राज्यों को कोई अडवाइजरी जारी की है?'

■ 'सूखे का असर घटाने के उपाय को जुलाई-अगस्त में शुरू हो जाने चाहिए। बाद में करने का कोई मतलब नहीं बनता।'

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 07.02.2015 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

A. & J. (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

BNBz

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

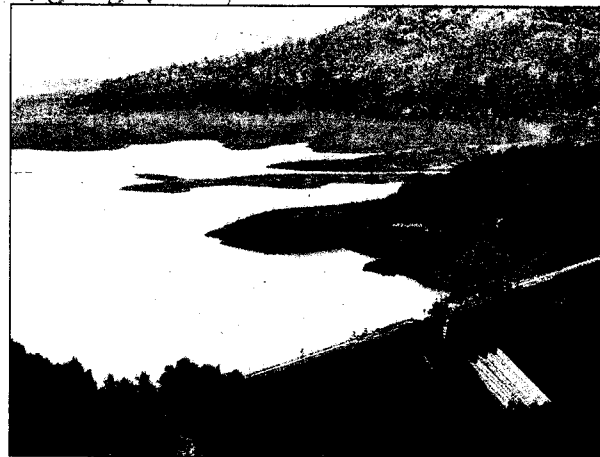
# जलाशयों में एक तिहाई से भी कम पानी

■ प्रमुख संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

बढ़ती गर्मी से देश के तमाम प्रमुख जलाशयों के जल स्तर में लगातार कमी आ रही है, जबकि पानी की मांग बढ़ रही है। इसका असर सिंचाई और अन्य कामों के लिए पानी की उपलब्धता पर पड़ने के संकेत हैं। इस साल बर्फ कम पड़ने से सभी प्रमुख नदियों का जल स्तर कम हो रहा है और इसके कारण बांधों में पानी कम हो गया है।

जल संसाधन मंत्रालय का कहना है कि देश के 91 प्रमुख बांधों में इस समय 77 प्रतिशत तक पानी कम हो गया है। इन बांधों की कुल क्षमता 157.59 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर (बीसीएम) है। इसके विपरीत इनमें इस समय महज 35.83 बीसीएम पानी है।

मंत्रालय का कहना है कि उत्तरी क्षेत्र के राज्यों- हिमाचल प्रदेश, राजस्थान और पंजाब के छह प्रमुख जलाशयों की कुल क्षमता 18.01 बीसीएम है और इनमें महज 4.15 बीसीएम पानी बचा है। देश के पूर्वी इलाके के राज्यों- झारखंड, ओडिशा, वेस्ट बंगाल और त्रिपुरा के 15 जलाशयों की कुल क्षमता 18.83 बीसीएम है, मगर इनमें



अब सिर्फ 6.40 बीसीएम पानी ही उपलब्ध है। इसी तरह पश्चिमी क्षेत्र के राज्यों- गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र के 27 जलाशयों में 4.79 बीसीएम पानी है, जबकि इनकी क्षमता 27.07 बीसीएम है।

सेंट्रल रीजन के राज्यों- यूपी, उत्तराखंड, मध्य प्रदेश और छत्तीसगढ़ के 12 प्रमुख जलाशयों की कुल क्षमता 42.43 बीसीएम है। इनमें फिलहाल 12.95 बीसीएम पानी

बचा है। दक्षिण के राज्यों- आंध्र प्रदेश, केरल, तेलंगाना, कर्नाटक और तमिलनाडु के 31 जलाशयों में फिलहाल 7.55 बीसीएम पानी है। इनकी कुल क्षमता 51.59 बीसीएम है। सूत्रों का कहना है कि मॉनसून जून में आया और तब तक पानी की और कमी हो सकती है। जून में भी अगर मॉनसून ठीक रहा तो इसका फायदा पहले दक्षिण के राज्यों को होगा। अन्य

91  
बांधों में  
घट गया  
पानी

77  
फीसद तक  
की हुई पानी  
की कमी

मराठवाड़ा के बांधों में  
बचा सिर्फ 3% पानी

सूखाग्रस्त मराठवाड़ा क्षेत्र के बांधों में केवल तीन फीसदी पानी ही बचा है। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि क्षेत्र के 11 बड़े बांधों में से आठ में पानी बहुत कम हो गया है। पिछले साल इस समय में बांधों में 11 फीसदी पानी था, जबकि इस साल पानी में भारी गिरावट आई है। इसे देखते हुए महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने 200 फीट से नीचे पानी के लिए बोरिंग करने पर तत्काल प्रभाव से रोक लगा दी है।

राज्यों को मॉनसून के आने का फायदा बाद में मिलेगा। इस दौरान होने वाली पानी की कमी का असर खरीफ फसलों की बुआई पर पड़ सकता है।



Published: April 20, 2016 01:29 IST | Updated: April 20, 2016 01:29 IST NEW DELHI, April 20, 2016

## Union govt. allots Rs. 800 crore to clean up polluted lakes in garden city

- Special Correspondent

The Union government has earmarked Rs. 800 crore to clean up Bengaluru's polluted lakes.

Last year, Bellandur lake saw frothing that rose to nearly six feet and, in some instances, caught fire.

"The city's lakes were once the model of water conservation...the basic problem is that untreated sewage is flowing unchecked into the lakes," said Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar at a press conference in New Delhi.

### Sewage treatment plant

Of the allotted funds, Rs. 500 crore is for laying down a 74-km trunk sewage pipeline, and Rs. 162 crore is to set up four sewage treatment plants (STPs) in Bellandur lake. The remaining is for the Urban Development Ministry for local water conservation activities.

Detergents were touted to be the primary reason for the frothing in the 927-acre Bellandur lake. Phosphates form a major component in household detergents, and they make their way into the lake through the estimated 480 million litres of sewage that flows into Bellandur and Vathur lakes.

Of this, 250 mld (million litres per day) of sewage is untreated, while another 230 mld is let into the lake after treatment. They do not disintegrate, and percolate in the water and make their way downstream with the water used in agriculture.

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Printable version | Apr 21, 2016 4:43:09 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/union-govt-allots-rs-800-crore-to-clean-up-polluted-lakes-in-garden-city/article8495555.ece>

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