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Encl: As stated above.

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23.12.2016
Assistant Director (publicity)
for

Editor, Bhagirath (English) & Publicity

Director (T.D.)

Ansari

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
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IMPACT LIKELY ON HINDUKUSH-HIMALAYA WATER SUPPLY

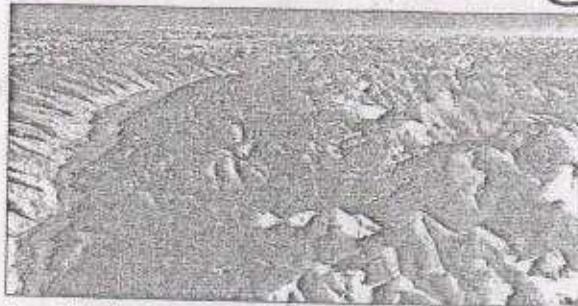
Climate change!

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Washington, 20 Dec

Shifts in rain and snow patterns due to climate change may have a greater impact on the water supply of about 1.5 billion people in Hindu Kush Himalayan region than retreating glaciers, according to a new report.

The Hindu Kush Himalayan region hosts several of Asia's great river systems, which provide water for drinking, irrigation and other uses for about 1.5 billion people.

A committee of experts, including those



from NASA, found that at lower elevations, glacial retreat is unlikely to cause significant changes in water availability, but other factors, including groundwater depletion and increasing human water use may have a greater impact.

Higher elevation areas

could experience altered water flow in some river basins if current rates of glacial retreat continue, but shifts in the location, intensity and variability of rain and snow due to climate change will likely have a greater impact on regional water supplies.

The meltwater from

glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region supplements several great river systems such as the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra.

Scientific evidence shows that most glaciers in the Himalayan region are retreating, leading to concerns that over time normal glacier melt will not be able to contribute to the region's water supply each year.

There is uncertainty in projections of future changes in precipitation, but shifts in the location and intensity of snow and rain could also impact the rate of glacial retreat.

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Create Special Purpose Vehicle to clean Yamuna: govt to Board

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government on Tuesday proposed setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), in association with the Centre and on similar lines as the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), to clean and rejuvenate the Yamuna.

The proposal was made during a meeting of the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB), which was chaired by Union Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu.

Peripheral expressways

The government also requested the Centre to expedite the construction of the eastern and western peripheral expressways in addition to making it clear that it needed time to prepare for the implementation of the third phase of the odd-even scheme, Delhi Urban Development Minister Satyendar Jain told reporters.

Referring to it as "the only solution" to rejuvenate the pollution-stricken river, Mr. Jain said that the government proposed a 50-50 Centre-State partnership in setting up an SPV to oversee cleaning of the river and other de-

AAP govt. tells Centre it needs time to prepare before implementing phase three of odd-even

velopment activities.

"This is the only solution to clean the Yamuna. We can clean the river in the next two or three years if an SPV is set up on the line of the DMRC," the Minister said, adding that there were multiple agencies currently involved in the cleaning up of the Yamuna, which was proving a hindrance.

"I have suggested to Mr. Naidu to set up an SPV so that the role of multiple agencies involved in cleaning up of the river will come to an end and the Yamuna will be cleaned," Mr. Jain said.

In March this year, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had met Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti. The leaders had agreed to the proposed SPV.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jain said that the Delhi government told Mr. Naidu that the third phase of the odd-even scheme could only be implemented following adequate

preparations and awareness of citizens.

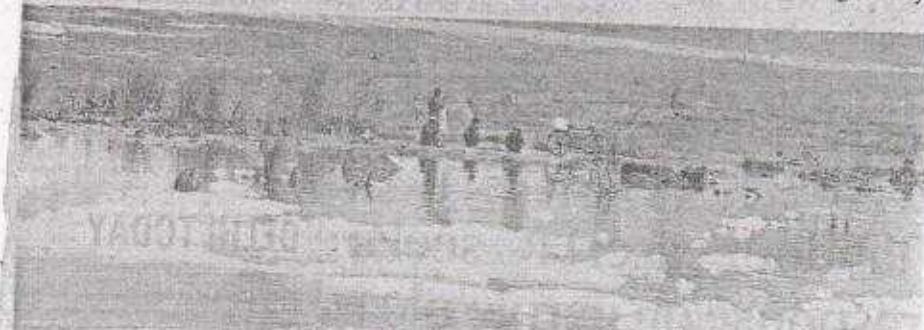
"I have no objection to another round of odd-even, but it cannot happen just tomorrow," Mr. Jain said.

Earlier this month, the Centre had submitted to the Supreme Court its action plan to tackle air pollution and recommended a slew of measures, including a ban on construction activities and implementation of the odd-even scheme in the Capital.

'Need to rethink'

Mr. Jain, however, urged the Centre to think about the livelihood of lakhs of labourers before banning construction activity. "When construction activities were recently banned in Delhi, most of the labourers went back to their villages. In view of this, I have requested Mr. Naidu to reconsider the move," said the Minister.

Mr. Jain said he also recommended controlling dust pollution through vacuum cleaning of roads and highlighted the delay in completion of three urban extension roads being constructed by the Delhi Development Authority, which will stop vehicles not destined for Delhi from entering the city.



BIG JOB: The government has proposed a Centre-State partnership in setting up an agency to oversee cleaning of the Yamuna. *File photo*

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DECCAN Chronicle

DECEMBER 20 | 2016

New tribunal unlikely to end all water wars

The Centre has decided to set up a single, permanent tribunal to adjudicate all inter-state river water disputes. The tribunals on Narmada, Cauvery, Ravi, Beas, Godavari, Krishna, Mahadayi and Vansadhara waters will be disbanded once the single tribunal is created after Parliament enacts a law in the next session. While it may appear this would speed up resolving states' grievances, a single tribunal could also lead to enormous delays in resolving disputes even if it is supported by individual benches on different disputes. The Supreme Court has anyway made it clear it will assert its right to hear cases of differences between states over tribunal orders. It did so last week while hearing appeals in the three-decade-old Cauvery dispute among Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

While it may appear this would speed up resolving states' grievances, a single tribunal could also enormously delay resolving disputes even if it is supported by individual benches on different disputes

The timeframe fixed for dispute resolution is said to be three years, that is extremely optimistic given how long states, whether upper or lower riparian, have trudged to the tribunals and the Supreme Court for a just share of the river waters. The problem is essentially political as we have come to know from several disputes that have played out over the years. In times of normal monsoons, when the rivers swell with water, there is never a problem of sharing, but the

moment the flows come down, the states go up in arms. The legal and judicial processes are so convoluted that states simply go by interim awards given by the courts to put off having to pass final orders. For instance, Tamil Nadu nurses the grievance that the Cauvery Management Board is not being set up despite an order having been passed by the SC.

It is questionable if the inclusion of all existing disputes in the new scheme of a single authority is fair in law. This is a point that could form the basis of a dispute straightaway. The three-year timeframe may become meaningless if cases are heard from scratch. There may be much to commend an idea under which water and agriculture experts, water management engineers and technocrats, operating under a single retired Supreme Court judge, will decide how river waters are to be shared. Such an idea could ideally be used to arbitrate fresh disputes arising out of sharing waters rather than drag cases out of eight rivers that have already caused heartaches in several states. If the solution lies in accepting a technical award of experts by all states, dispute resolution should be simple enough. However, water is a sensitive subject that is surrounded by fierce emotions and the politics of it ensures there is no silver bullet solution.

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PLUS POINTS



Evidence of water

A dwarf planet in our own solar system might once have supported life, scientists have said.

Ceres, a mysterious rocky planet in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, has a rich body of ice beneath its dark surface, according to scientists. The discoveries were reported in a pair of studies published in the journals, *Science* and *Nature Astronomy*. The scientists behind them hope that they could help commercial endeavours to mine water and other resources from asteroids, and to send humans out beyond the moon. The water could even be a hint that there was once life on the dwarf planet's briny surface, according to the researchers.

The studies show that Ceres is about 10 percent water, now frozen into ice, according to physicist Thomas Prettyman of the Planetary Science Institute in Tucson, Arizona, one of the researchers. Scientists are debating if Ceres hides a briny liquid ocean, a prospect that may put the dwarf planet on the growing list of worlds beyond the solar system that may be suitable for life, said deputy lead scientist Carol Raymond of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

"By finding bodies that were water-rich in the distant past, we can discover clues as to where life may have existed in the early solar system," Raymond said in a statement. The finding strengthens the case for the presence of near-surface water ice on other bodies in the main asteroid belt, Prettyman said.

Information collected by the researchers showed that Ceres, unlike Vesta, has been using water to create minerals. Scientists combine mineralogical data with computer models to learn about its interior.

"Liquid water had to be in the interior of Ceres in order for us to see what's on the surface," Prettyman said.

ANDREW GRIFFIN/THE INDEPENDENT

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Playing wait-and-see

EXPERTS HAVE WARNED THAT IGNORING CLIMATE SCIENTISTS' FORECASTS ABOUT SEA LEVEL RISE COULD PROVE 'DISASTROUS'. IAN JOHNSTON REPORTS

Igoring climate models, which predict sea levels could rise by an average of more than two metres by 2100, could prove "disastrous", two leading US scientists have warned.

Writing in the prestigious journal *Science*, Professor Michael Oppenheimer of Princeton University and Professor Richard Alley of Pennsylvania State University said building flood defences could take decades so there was a need to prepare. For example, the Thames Barrier was first proposed following a storm which killed more than 2,000 people in countries around the North Sea in 1953, but the project wasn't completed until 30 years later.

The scientists wrote that improvements in modelling techniques had led to predictions of greater sea level rise than previously thought. A recent study estimated that the melting of some of the ice on Greenland, the Antarctic and mountain glaciers, combined with the expansion of the oceans due to their warmer temperature, would result in an estimated sea level rise of about 1.84m by the end of this century.

However the upper end of the uncertainty range was above two metres. "Taking an engineering approach and

larger rise still to come."

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to sea level rise. An increase of just 1.5m would flood 22,000sq km of the country, forcing some 17 million people to leave their homes. Islands have already started disappearing in the Pacific Ocean.

Professors Oppenheimer and Alley wrote there were "better options for policy-makers than to play wait-and-see". Measures specifically designed with an eye toward evolving predictions include building defences such as those in the Netherlands, which can be augmented over time; building structures resilient to periodic flooding; and retreat from exposed areas combined with enhancement of natural defences such as wetlands," they suggested.

"In flood-prone areas, perverse incentives, such as sub-market insurance premiums, should be eliminated while substituting reduced premiums and other incentives contingent on property owners taking adaptive measures before disaster occurs."

"These measures would reduce the large expense now incurred for disaster relief and rebuilding."

Research into warming events in the



A fisherman passes near dead trees standing in flood waters from rising sea levels in Bedono, Indonesia.

defending against the highest projections available at a given time, plus a margin of error, can be prohibitively expensive. But ignoring such estimates could prove disastrous," the professors said. "Furthermore, flood defences take a lot of time and political will to implement.

"Waiting another few decades to decide on specific adaptations in the hope that scientific predictions will become firmer may put completion off until the last quarter of this century. At that time, actual sea level rise could be approaching two metres, with a much

past suggests sea levels would eventually rise much further than two metres if the current rate of warming is allowed to continue. Improved analyses of paleoclimate proxies (such as ice cores) indicate strongly that the sea surface was six to nine metres higher than today during the Last Interglacial (about 130,000 to 116,000 years ago)," the professors said.

However they said that while the rise had been "geologically rapid", present thinking suggested it could not happen within the current century.

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4 स्थानीय

पंजाब

► 21 दिसम्बर, 2016 ► बुधवार

प्रादेशिक, आखण्ण एवं अन्य गतिविधियां

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'मेट्रो की तर्ज पर हो यमुना की सफाई'

■ यमुना के लिए अलग से बने स्पेशल पर्पज छीकल ■ आईआईटी कानपुर ने कहा, बंद हो पॉवर प्लांट

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब के सरी): दिल्ली में यमुना की सफाई को लेकर दिल्ली के शहरी विकास और लोक निर्माण मंत्री सत्येन्द्र जैन ने यमुना की सफाई का मुद्दा जोरशोर से उठाया। उन्होंने कहा, 15-20 मालों से यमुना की सफाई का मुद्दा चल रहा है, लेकिन अभी तक

सफाई नहीं हो पाई है।

300 किलोमीटर तक बंद हो पॉवर प्लांट

सत्येन्द्र जैन ने बताया कि बैठक में आईआईटी कानपुर ने सुझाव दिया है कि दिल्ली में पॉल्यूशन से निपटने के लिए दिल्ली-एनसीआर के तीन सौ किलोमीटर दायरे में पॉवर प्लांट बंद करना होगा।

जिसमें दादरी और झांझर एलांट बंद करने की सिफारिश आईआईटी कानपुर ने दी है।

इसलिए केन्द्र सरकार को चाहिए कि यमुना की सफाई के लिए दिल्ली मेट्रो रेल को पर्योग्यता की तर्ज पर स्पेशल पर्पज छीकल का गठन होना चाहिए, ताकि समय रहते दिल्ली में यमुना की सफाई हो सके।

जैन एनसीआर प्लानिंग बोर्ड की बैठक में दिल्ली सरकार का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे थे।

डीमट्स में भी जांच के आदेश

दिल्ली परिवहन निगम में पांच सौ और हजार के नोट की घण्टे बाजी डीमट्स में भी सामने आई है। यही बजह है कि दिल्ली सरकार ने डीमट्स की भी जांच के एसीबी की आदेश दे दिये हैं। मालूम हो कि दिल्ली परिवहन निगम में बड़े पैमाने पर 500-1000 के नाट ज्या किए गए थे। दिल्ली सरकार की प्रारंभिक जांच में भी यह घोटाला सामने आया था। जिसकी बजह से दिल्ली के परिवहन भवीती सत्येन्द्र जैन ने एसीबी को पत्र लिखकर जांच की मांग की है।

बैठक में जैन ने कहा कि यमुना को सफाई के लिए बहुत सारी एजेंसियां काम करती हैं, बाल-जट इसके यमुना की सफाई अभी तक नहीं हो पाई है। इसलिए दिल्ली मेट्रो की तर्ज पर एक एजेंसी का गठन करके इसकी सफाई को जाए। केन्द्र सरकार सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देश पर पॉल्यूशन के लिए प्लान लागू करने की

बात कह रही थी, जिसपर उन्होंने कहा, दिल्ली सरकार सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देशों का समर्थन करती है। लेकिन जब भी दिल्ली सरकार को किसी पक्षान्तर प्लान को लागू करने के निर्देश जारी हो तो उसके लिए दिल्ली सरकार को समर्थन दें। उन्होंने कहा कि पॉल्यूशन पर अक्सर दिल्ली में निर्माण कार्य बंद होने की सिफारिश की जाती है। लेकिन देखने में आया है कि निर्माण कार्यों पर पांचवटी लगाने से सारे मजदूर पलायन कर देते हैं। ऐसे कई प्रोजेक्ट हैं जिन वर्ष निर्माण कार्य बंद होने से मजदूर अपने घर चले गए। इसलिए आगे से निर्माण कार्यों पर पांचवटी को लेकर भी विचार होना चाहिए। जैन ने कहा कि हमने वेस्टन कॉरिंघोर के मुद्दे को भी उठाया। जिसमें हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री मनोहर लाल खट्टू ने तीन-चार माह में पूरा होने का दावा किया है। पहले भी उन्होंने ऐसी ही डेलाइन दी थी।

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कश्मीर, लेह में कड़ाके की ठंड, जलाशयों में बर्फ जमी

श्रीनगर, (बाटी). कश्मीर धाटी और लेह में लगातार कड़ाक की ठंड पढ़ रही है और शीत लहर की चेष्ट से जलाशयों में जमां जम गया है। धाटी में मध्य रात्रि से सर्दी में सबसे अधिक ठंड बाले 40 दिनों की अवधि चिल्लाई कला को शुरूआत हो जाकेरी। कश्मीर धाटी में मौसम सुहावना होने के बावजूद ठंडी हवाएं बदलतूर जारी हैं जहां श्रीनगर सहित अधिकतर इलाकों में अब तक की सबसे सर्द रात रिकॉर्ड की गयी है। अगले 72 घंटों के दौरान मौसम के युष्म रहने और सर्द रहने से अभी तुरंत राहत मिलने के कोई आसार नहीं है जबकि न्यूनतम तापमान आगे और नीचे गिर सकता है। हालांकि दिन का तापमान सामान्य से अधिक या उसके आसपास रह सकता है।

मौसम विभाग के प्रबन्धकों ने बताया कि जम्पू कश्मीर में अगले 72 घंटों के दौरान मौसम शुष्क बना रहेगा। प्रबन्धकों ने बताया

कि पश्चिमी विश्वभूमि के अभाव में आने वाले दिनों में गर तापमान और गिर सकता है। मौसम की सबसे सर्द रात रिकॉर्ड करने के बाद न्यूनतम तापमान में और विरावट आ सकती है। न्यूनतम तापमान सामान्य से 4.5 डिग्री नीचे गिरने के बाद शून्य से नीचे (-) 5.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। दिन में धूप बिल्लने के बावजूद भी ठंडी हवाओं के बलने से मौसम में गर्भी नदारद दर्दी। 17 दिसंबर को न्यूनतम तापमान शून्य से नीचे (-) 4.9 डिग्री सेल्सियस होने पर मौसम की सबसे सर्द रात रही थी। यह कहा जाता है कि 40 दिनों तक बले बाले चिल्लाई कलों के दौरान पृथ्वी निजात हो जाती है और पानी अन्यधिक ठंडा हो जाता है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप किसान खेती नहीं कर पाते। सर्दियों वीं इस अवधि के दौरान 20 दिन तक चिल्लाई खुर्द और दस दिन तक चिल्लाई बचा होता है।