

Central Water Commission  
Technical Documentation Directorate  
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section  
\*\*\*\*\*

West Block II, Wing No-5  
R K Puram, New Delhi - 66

Dated 23.3.18

Subject: Submission of News Clippings.

The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

*P. Maheshwari*  
23.3.18  
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

*SKG*  
23/3

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/RM.), CWC and all concerned,  
uploaded at [www.cwc.nic.in](http://www.cwc.nic.in)

*OK*



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, CWC

## IN BRIEF



### National Highways in A.P. blocked in protest

VIJAYAWADA

The protests against the denial of the Special Category Status gained momentum with the blockade of the National Highways under the aegis of the Pratyeka Hoda Sadhana Samiti on Thursday. The Opposition parties turned the Chennai-Kolkata highway at Ongole into a playground resulting in traffic pileup.

### Police widen search for missing Latvian national

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Thiruvananthapuram city police have widened efforts to trace the whereabouts of Liga Skromane, a Latvian national, who went missing from Kovalam over a week ago. The 33-year-old woman, missing since March 14, was suffering from post-traumatic depression and had come to Kerala in February along with her sister Ilze Skromane.

# Cauvery row: Karnataka not to file review petition

Decides to impress on the Centre need to establish a dispute resolution forum

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

With an additional allocation of 14.75 tmcft of Cauvery water to Karnataka, the all-party meeting – convened by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah here on Thursday to discuss the fallout of the Supreme Court's verdict on the issue – has unanimously decided against filing a review petition challenging the final verdict of the court.

It was decided to impress upon the Centre to establish a dispute resolution forum in consultation with Karnataka and other riparian States in the Cauvery basin.

Both decisions were taken based on suggestions by a legal team, led by Fali S. Nariman, Water Resources Minister M.B. Patil told presspersons after the meet-



All together: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others at the all-party meet in Bengaluru on Thursday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ing. The Supreme Court had pronounced its verdict on February 16, increasing Karnataka's share of the Cauvery water from 270 tmcft to 284.75 tmcft.

Of the additional 14.75 tmcft, the apex court had awarded 4.75 tmcft for the drinking water requirements of Bengaluru, and the remaining for handling the State's irrigation needs.

Union Minister for Chemi-

cals and Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs Ananth Kumar said that the Centre would establish the forum after consultations with the all riparian States in the Cauvery basin. Mr. Patil said the concerns of MPs and Ministers from Karnataka had been heard.

The legal team did not favour filing a review petition in the Supreme Court, he said.

## Kerala moves SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Kerala government on Thursday moved the Supreme Court for a review of its February 16 judgment in the Cauvery dispute. It has asked the apex court to modify the verdict to allow the State to divert five tmcft from its total share for drinking water requirements of Kozhikode Corporation and 13 panchayats.

Kerala urged the Supreme Court that this diversion would not affect the legitimate interests of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 23.3.2018 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)

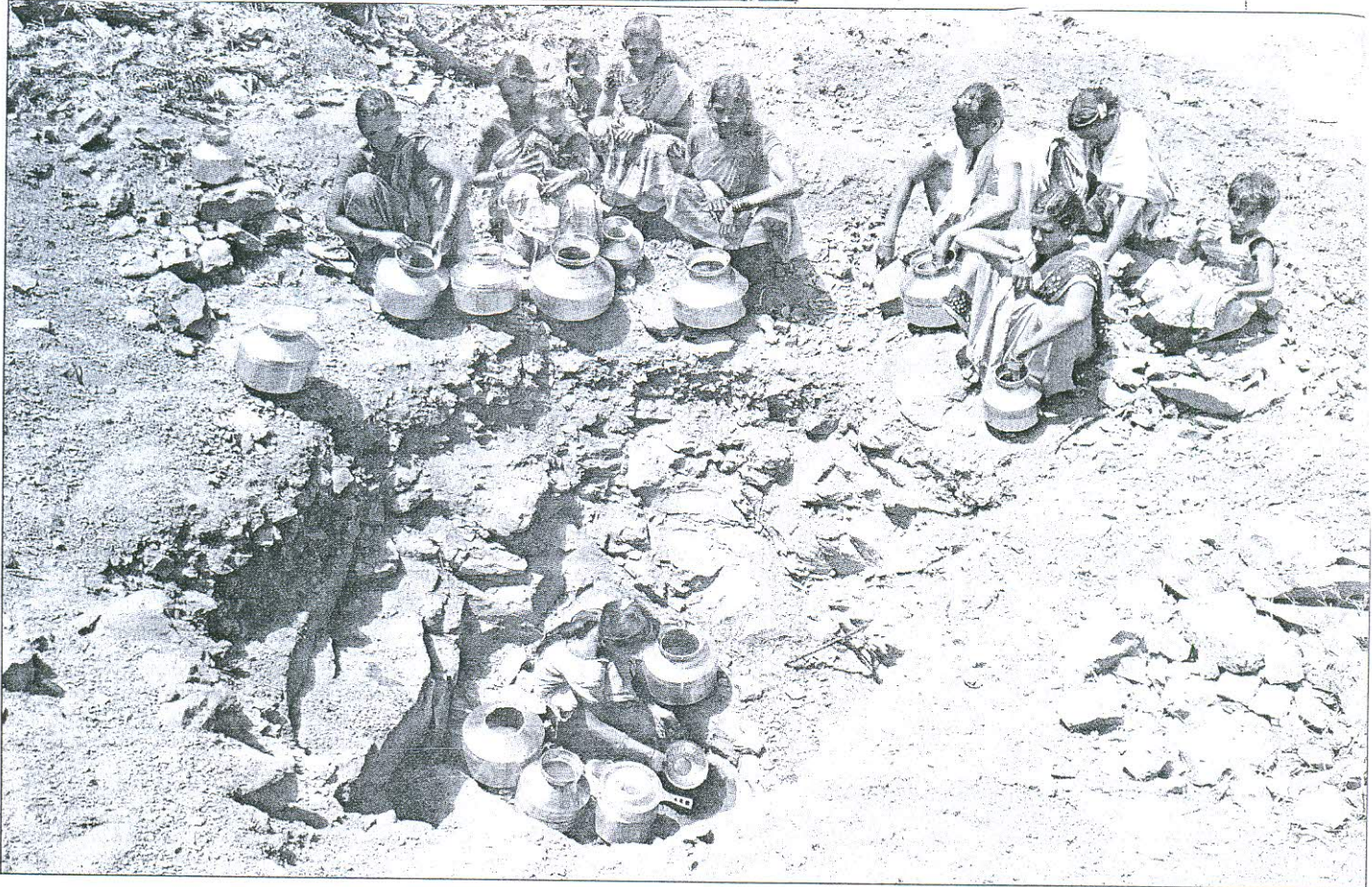
Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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



## ON WORLD WATER DAY

Villagers dig for water at Khardi Rajpuri in Thane. They often have to go up to 5 feet, while the river Tansa near the village supplies water to Mumbai. Deepak Joshi



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, CWC

# As TN MPs hold House, Karnataka opposes their demand: Cauvery Board

**SOWMIYAASHOK**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

As the AIADMK stalled both houses of Parliament Thursday pressing for the immediate setting up of a Cauvery river management board (CMB), the Congress government in Karnataka chose to ignore the CMB and instead proposed a two-layer "scheme" to the Centre for the implementation of the Supreme Court verdict.

The proposed scheme comprises a six-member Cauvery Decision Implementation Committee (CDIC) headed by the Union Water Resources Minister, and an 11-member monitoring agency under it, headed by the Union Water Resources Secretary.

Conceptualised as a "dispute resolution" mechanism, the scheme proposed by Karnataka seeks to restrain states from approaching the Supreme Court and has suggested that the CDIC

approach the apex court for any clarification when states differ.

After decades of conflict between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over sharing of Cauvery water, the Supreme Court in February this year underlined the drinking water requirement and increased Karnataka's share of Cauvery waters by 14.75 thousand million cubic feet (tmc).

In its judgement, it noted that a scheme should be framed "exclusively for the implementation of the Award or as the same gets modified by this Court." It also noted that "it needs no special emphasis to state that the purpose of Sec.6A (of the Inter-State River Water Dispute Act, 1956) is to act in the manner in which the Award determines the allocation and decides the dispute with regard to allocation of sharing of water."

The Karnataka government's alternative proposal is likely to draw objections from the other riparian states since it means they

have to approach the monitoring agency before appeals can be made to the CDIC. "If the state is dissatisfied with the directions of the monitoring agency, it may file a review petition before the committee," the draft scheme proposes. "If a question of interpretation of the decision of the Supreme Court arises for consideration in the implementation, the Committee may file an application before the Supreme Court seeking necessary classifications."

Karnataka's scheme proposes that the CDIC will comprise the Union secretary of Water Resources, water resources ministers of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry. The monitoring agency will comprise the chief secretaries of the four riparian states, chairman of the Central Water Commission, chief engineer of the CWC, and one officer each not below the rank of a chief engineer to represent the four states.

In a letter to Union water re-

sources secretary U P Singh, Karnataka Chief Secretary K Ratna Prabha said that under the suggested scheme, the CDIC would "resolve the dispute" raised by the aggrieved state.

"The contention of the Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu that Cauvery Management Board (CMB) as formulated by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal should be a part of the Scheme is wholly contrary to the mandate of the judgment and law," stated the letter.

"First, Section 6A has vested powers in the Central Government to frame a scheme. Secondly, the Tribunal, itself being conscious of the legal position arising from Section 6A, had not directed but only made "recommendation" on the CMB. Thirdly, the Scheme contemplated in the judgment is a dispute resolution body as distinct from the Management or Regulation recommended by the Tribunal and therefore, the question of asking

Karnataka to submit indent (as was recommended by Tribunal) does not and should not arise for consideration," it stated.

The letter also pointed out that forming of the CMB was "clearly ultra vires of the federal structure on the division of powers envisaged in the Constitution" and the "Supreme Court has not endorsed or approved the Cauvery Management Board in its judgement."

"The larger powers as a management, such as regulation of the reservoirs or power to seek indent, (as was wrongly recommended by the Tribunal) cannot be part of the dispute resolution body," Prabha said in the letter.

Specifically, in relation to Tamil Nadu, the letter states: "The State of Tamil Nadu has no other right or interest much less the manner in which the State of Karnataka stores or utilises its share of water."



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 23.03.2018 in the

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

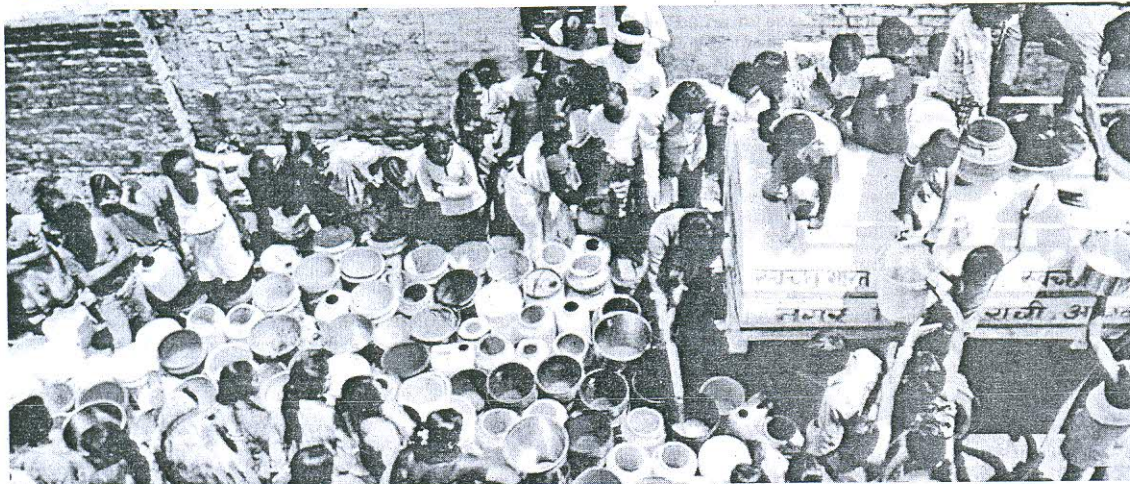
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)  
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
The Hindu  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)  
Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald

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

and documented at Bhadrirath(English)& Publicity Section,CWC

# Alternate solutions to our water woes

87-23



S K SARKAR

**Y**esterday, 22 March, the world including India celebrated World Water Day 2018, the theme of which was Nature for Water. Its aim is to generate awareness of the fact that nature-based solutions should be explored to meet water challenges of the 21st century.

Nature-based solutions cover a wide range of approaches and technologies which use natural process to address a variety of environmental, social and economic challenges in sustainable ways. Such solutions relevant in the field of water management are water resources management, river protection, waste water treatment, pollution prevention, etc.

The sustainable development goals (to be achieved by 2030) on water and sanitation, aim to echo the above concept by stressing on protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and

lakes. They also target improvement of water quality by reducing pollution, minimising release of hazardous chemicals, and reducing the proportion of untreated waste water substantially by increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

The 21st century challenges in the water sector, inter alia, centre around water availability and its access. Over the world, about 2.1 billion people are without access to safe water. In India, over 76 million people lack access to safe water, the population living in peri-urban areas, etc. The available water is not always safe and is contaminated. To augment the safe water availability, not only should the water be of potable quality, but the sources of supply have to be enhanced. Unlike conventional water supply through piped water, use of drinking water ponds in some rural coastal areas, or developing integrated tanks including revival of surface water ponds are examples of natural measures for augmenting the

sources. Further, the rainwater harvesting tool would help in this direction, being a natural process of augmenting safe water availability. Many states/cities have mandated these measures. This option also helps in recharging of ground water resources. The water can also be collected on rooftops by residents and stored in private tanks to be used for various purposes such as toilet flushing, gardening etc.

Second, waste water in a circular economy is a resource and if recycled and treated, augments water availability. Globally, 10 per cent waste water is treated. In India, capacity to treat waste water is about 37 per cent. Treating waste water on site rather than using conventional methods through sewage treatment plants is one example of nature-based solutions being tried in many cities. Further, wetland ecosystem helps treatment of waste water in a natural way. Wetlands have important ecological functions such as maintaining

ground water table and preventing excessive soil erosion. They also capture run off and clean water. For instance, the East Kolkata Wetland, a Ramsar site since 2002, acts as a kidney to Kolkata for its wastewater treatment, and has 254 sewage-fed fisheries, garbage farming fields, and agricultural land. And it also produces 11,000 metric tonnes of fish annually and helps fish farmers save Rs 60 million annually through the reduced need for fish feed.

Third, river rejuvenation and cleaning the river are potential areas where nature-based solutions can be very effective. Today Indian rivers are under threat due to flow alteration, water extraction, degradation of flood plains and drainage basins, over-exploitation of fish and of course, climate change. Further, there is not enough vegetation on land; when land is covered by rain forest, precipitation gathers in the soil and feeds the streams and rivers. There is a need to treat the river as a 'living entity',

thereby focusing on its health and life. To meet these challenges, the environmental flow in a river should be ensured, which will enhance the biodiversity in the river ecosystem.

Unfortunately, there is no comprehensive policy today on the subject. Many rivers dry up in India during the post monsoon season. In some cases, the river water does not even travel to the sea. The drying up of rivers has high linkage with ground water depletion and drying up of riverside tanks/ponds. Tree plantation on the river side augments river flow. The forests have beneficial impact on control of soil erosion; control of floods, improvement of water quality and increase in base flow in a river.

Fourth, water pollution occurs when there is physical, chemical or biological change to quality of water bodies – rivers, lakes, oceans, etc – that has harmful effects on any living things that use or live in it. Such pollution is caused by untreated sewage, waste from domestic households, industrial and agricultural activities. Like surface water, the groundwater and especially underground aquifers are also contaminated. Such contamination results due to excessive drawal of ground water, resulting in inland salinity, presence of fluoride materials in both igneous and sedimentary rocks, existence of arsenic and its compounds, etc. The nature-based solutions to minimise pollution include various measures such as denitrification, use of septic tanks, having wet lands, etc. For example, denitrification is an ecological process that converts nitrates into nitrogen gas, and prevents leaching of nitrate into soil to contaminate ground water. It avoids over-fertilization as a result of fertilizer run off which increases the nitrogen content of water and causes excess growth of algae, etc. Septic tanks treat sewage by separating solids from liquids, relying on biological processes to degrade the solids into liquids. Wetlands also serve as a buffer zone to filter rain run-off and help remove pollutants from water.

In addition to conventional water solutions, nature-based solutions to India's water problems should be undertaken for more comprehensively addressing the 21st century's water woes.

The writer is a Distinguished Fellow and Senior Director, Natural Resources and Climate, TERI, New Delhi and a former Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Govt. of India.



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 23.03.2018 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 Bhadrirath(English) & Publicity Section, CWC

# 26 साल से झिरिया और जलाशय का पानी पी रहे ग्रामीण

कांकेर @ पत्रिका. शहर से मात्र 10 किमी दूर ग्राम पंचायत पांडरवाही में 26 साल से ग्रामीण झिरिया और जलाशय का पानी पीने को मजबूर हैं। बांधापारा के लोगों ने बोरपंप से पानी उपलब्ध कराने के लिए कलक्टर से फरियाद की तो आनन-फानन में ग्राम पंचायत ने खानापूर्ति के लिए बोर करा दिया। बोर से पानी नहीं आया तो बांधापारा के लोगों से यह कहते हुए सरपंच ने छोड़ दिया कि यहां किसने कहा था बसने के लिए, अब झिरिया के पानी का सेवन करो या तो पारा छोड़कर दूसरे स्थान पर डेरा डालो, अभी ग्राम पंचायत की ओर से पानी नहीं मिल पाएगा। वैसे यह ग्राम भाजपा नेत्री जिला पंचायत उपाध्यक्ष कृष्णा देवी सिन्हा का गृहग्राम है। गांव से कुछ ही दूरी पर बांधापारा में 11 परिवार के करीब 30 लोग निवास करते हैं। 26 साल से बांधापारा के लोग यहां निवासरत हैं।



पत्रिका  
फोटो  
स्टोरी

विधायक शंकर धुवा का भी तो विधानसभा क्षेत्र है। उन्हें भी इसके बारे में बता चुकी हूँ। पारा के लोगों को पानी उपलब्ध कराने के लिए बोर खनन कराया गया है। पानी नहीं आ रहा तो क्या करें? नलजल योजना के तहत पानी पहुंचाया जाएगा। कुछ दूरी होने के कारण वहां तक पानी नहीं पहुंच पा रहा है। मैं जनसेवा करती हूँ।

कृष्णा देवी सिन्हा, जिला उपाध्यक्ष, भाजपा

पांडरवाही ग्राम पंचायत में दो तीन बार जा चुका हूँ। हमें तो किसी ने नहीं बताया कि यहां 26 साल से किसी पारा के लोग झिरिया का पानी पी रहे हैं। वैसे यह गांव भाजपा नेत्री कृष्णा देवी सिन्हा का गृहग्राम है। यदि गांव में इस तरह की समस्या वर्षों से है तो निराकरण होना चाहिए था।

शंकर धुवा, कांग्रेस विधायक.



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 23.3.2018 in the

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

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

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

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

# छत्तीसगढ़ के तांदुला नदी का हाल, दम घोंट रही जलकुंभी

भिलाई @ पत्रिका. तांदुला नदी के पानी से एशिया के सबसे बड़े लोहा कारखाना बीएसपी की प्यास बुझती है। अविभाजित दुर्ग जिले के 1.50 लाख हेक्टेयर खेतों की सिंचाई होती है। उस तांदुला नदी की हालत बेहद दयनीय हो गई है। नदी जलकुंभी से पट चुकी है। कई गंदे नालों को पानी समाहित हो रहा है। नदी को गंदी और प्रदूषण से बचाने के लिए अब तक कोई योजना नहीं बनी है। दुर्ग, बालोद व बेमेतरा जिले की लाइफ लाइन तांदुला बांध इसी नदी पर बना हुआ है।



पत्रिका-23-3-18  
फोटो  
स्टोरी





News item/letter/article/editorial published on 23.3.2018 in the

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

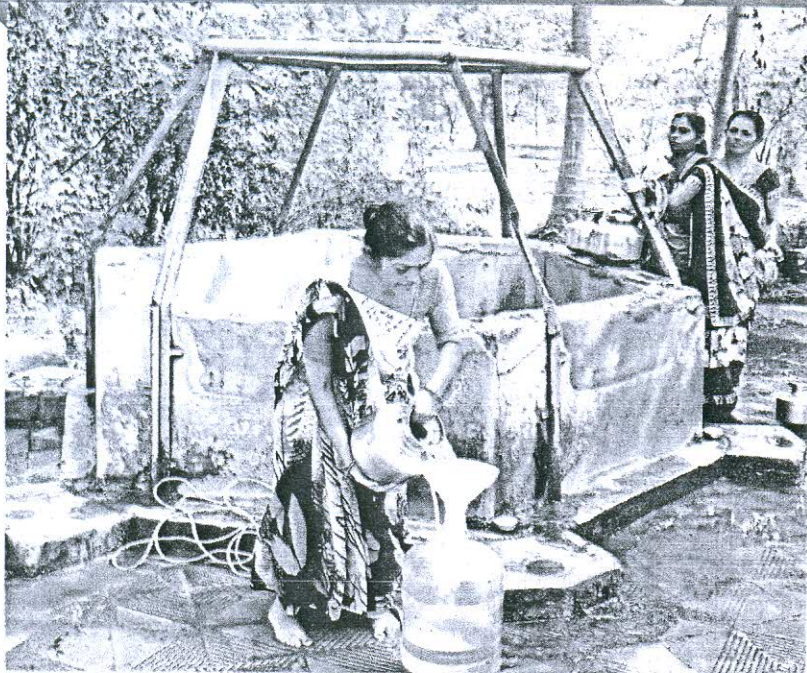
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)  
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
The Hindu  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi) ✓  
Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald

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

South (English) & Publicity Section, CWC

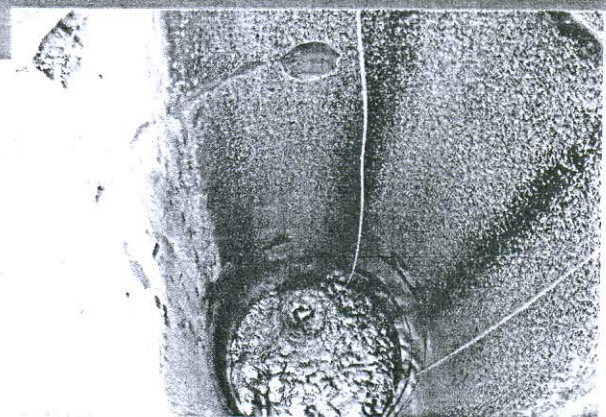
राजस्थान पत्रिका . नई दिल्ली. शुक्रवार. 23.03.2018

## सैकड़ों परिवारों के लिए दरिया है यह कुंआ



कैसर-उल-जाफरी का शेर है- 'कितने दिनों के प्यासे होंगे यारो सोचो तो/ शबनम का कतरा भी जिनको दरिया लगता है।' प्यास में पानी की यही महत्ता है कि तब शबनम यानी ओस की एक बूंद भी दरिया समान लगती है। सूरत में इमस लंगर के पास एकमात्र कुंआ भी आसपास के गांवों के लोगों के लिए दरिया से कम नहीं है। पिछले कई साल से यह इमस और आसपास के गांवों के सैकड़ों परिवारों की प्यास बुझा रहा है। जानकार बताते हैं कि यह इलाका समुद्र से सटा होने के कारण यहां भूमिगत जल खारा है। मीठे पानी के खोज में कुएं तो कई खोदे गए, लेकिन आश्चर्यजनक रूप से मीठा पानी सिर्फ लंगर के पास इस एकमात्र कुंए में मिला। ब्रिटिश काल में इस कुंए पर छत भी बनाई गई थी, लेकिन बाद में कुंए में गंदगी होने पर इसके बगल में दूसरा कुंआ खोदा गया, जो इमस, भीमपूर, सुलतानाबाद समेत आसपास के इलाकों के लिए पेयजल का एक मात्र स्रोत है।

पत्रिका





News item/letter/article/editorial published on 23.3.2018 in the

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

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

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

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

## देश के जल स्रोतों पर डाटाबेस बनेगा

नई दिल्ली @ पत्रिका. देश के विभिन्न जल स्रोतों की मरम्मत, नवीनीकरण और पुनरुद्धार करने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार डाटा जुटाएगी। जल संसाधन संबंधी संसदीय समिति की 10वीं रिपोर्ट के अनुसार देश के जल निकायों

और उसकी स्थिति के मूल्यांकन के लिए सूचना मांगी गई है। मंत्रालय के अनुसार केन्द्र की सिंचाई गणना योजना के अंतर्गत 2017-18 से 2020-21 की अवधि के दौरान जल निकायों की पहली गणना होगी।

पत्रिका-23-3-18



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, CWC

## ‘डे जीरो’ पर रिपोर्ट पत्रिका-23.3.18 बेंगलूरु समेत 200 शहरों में सूख जाएंगे नल

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क  
rajasthanpatrika.com

बेंगलूरु. क्या आप जानते हैं पानी के मामले में बेंगलूरु शहर केपटाउन बनने की राह पर है। केपटाउन 100 साल के गंभीर जल संकट से गुजर रहा है। सेंटर फॉर साइंस एंड एनवायरमेंट (सीएसई) ने एक रिपोर्ट जारी की है।

विश्व जल दिवस के अवसर पर जारी रिपोर्ट के अनुसार दुनियाभर के 200 शहर और 10 महानगर ‘डे जीरो’ की तरीफ बढ़ रहे हैं। ‘डे जीरो’ से आशय है कि वह दिन जब नलों से पानी आना बंद हो जाएगा। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि अफ्रीकी शहर केपटाउन जैसे

### और कौन सूची में

पेइचिंग (चीन), मेक्सिको सिटी (मेक्सिको), सना (यमन), नैरोबी (केन्या), इस्तांबुल (टर्की), साउ पाउलो (ब्राजील), कराची (पाकिस्तान), काबुल (अफगानिस्तान) और बुएनस आइरस (अर्जेंटीना)।

ही बेंगलूरु में भी तेजी से जलस्तर घट रहा है। कुछ ही सालों में यहां भयंकर जलसंकट पैदा होने की आशंका है। 30 सालों में बेंगलूरु कुओं की संख्या 5 हजार से से 4.5 लाख पहुंच गई है।



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

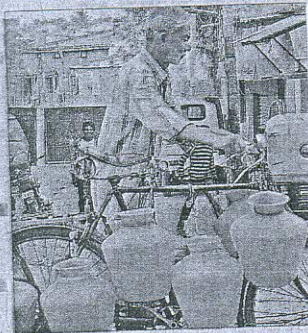
M.P. Chronicle  
Aaj (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Blitz

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

नवभारत टाइम्स । नई दिल्ली । शुक्रवार, 23 मार्च 2018

## मर रहा है पानी

यह एक कड़ी चेतावनी है, जिसे गंभीरता से लेने के अलावा और कोई चारा ही नहीं है। यूनेस्को की एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक 2050 तक भारत में भारी जल संकट आने वाला है। अनुमान है कि तीसके सालों में देश के जल संसाधनों में 40 फीसदी की कमी आएगी। देश की बढ़ती आबादी को ध्यान में रखें तो प्रति व्यक्ति जल उपलब्धता बड़ी तेजी से घटेगी। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि उत्तर भारत में स्थिति पहले से ही बेहद खराब है। अब देश के और हिस्से भी इस संकट की चपेट में आ जाएंगे।



मिलकर कुछ करें सरकार और समाज

गुरुवार को विश्व जल दिवस के मौके पर देश-दुनिया में पानी को लेकर कई जरूरी बातें हुईं, कई तथ्य सामने आए। सचाई यह है कि भारत में हालात इतने खराब हो गए हैं कि युद्धस्तरीय प्रयास के बिना कुछ हो ही नहीं सकता। जल संकट से निपटने को लेकर हमारे यहां जुबानी जमाखर्च ज्यादा होता है, ठोस प्रयास कम ही देखे जा रहे हैं। भारत में प्रति

व्यक्ति के हिसाब से सालाना पानी की उपलब्धता तेजी से नीचे जा रही है। 2001 में यह 1,820 घन मीटर था, जो 2011 में 1,545 घन मीटर हो रहा गया। 2025 में इसके घटकर 1,341 घन मीटर और 2050 तक 1,140 घन मीटर हो जाने की आशंका जताई गई है। आज भी करीब 7.5 करोड़ हिंदुस्तानी शुद्ध पेयजल से वंचित हैं। हर साल देश के कोई 1.4 लाख बच्चे गंदे पानी से होनेवाली बीमारियों से मारे जाते हैं। इस संकट की बड़ी वजह है भूमिगत जल का लगातार दोहन, जिसमें भारत दुनिया में अग्रणी है। पानी की अस्सी फीसद से ज्यादा जरूरत हम भूजल से पूरी करते हैं, लेकिन इसे दोबारा भरने की बात नहीं सोचते। भारत में ताल-तलैयाँ के जरिये जल संचय की पुरानी परंपरा रही है। बारिश का पानी बचाने के कई तरीके लोगों ने विकसित किए थे। दक्षिण में मंदिरों के पास तालाब बनवाने का रिवाज था। पश्चिमी भारत में इसके लिए बावड़ियों की और पूरब में आहर-पईन की व्यवस्था थी। लेकिन समय बीतने के साथ ऐसे प्रयास कमजोर पड़ते गए। बावड़ियों की कोई देखरेख नहीं होती और तालाबों पर कब्जे हो गए हैं। संकट का दूसरा पहलू यह है कि भूमिगत जल लगातार प्रदूषित होता जा रहा है। औद्योगिक इलाकों में घुलनशील कचरा जमीन में डाल दिया जाता है। हाल में गांव-गांव में जिस तरह के शौचालय बन रहे हैं, उनसे गड्डों में मल जमा होता है, जिसमें मौजूद बैक्टीरिया भूजल में पहुंच रहे हैं। जल संकट लाइलाज नहीं है। हाल में पैराग्वे जैसे छोटे, गरीब देश ने सफलता पूर्वक इसका इलाज कर लिया है। दक्षिण अफ्रीका के केपटाउन शहर ने इस संकट से निपटने के रास्ते खोजे हैं। हमारे लिए भी यह असंभव नहीं है, बशर्ते सरकार और समाज दोनों मिलकर इसके लिए प्रयास करें।