

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

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

Dated 28/3/2018

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.

Encl: As stated above.

on leave
SPA (Publicity)

Deputy Director (Publication)

28/3

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

2/3

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

Indian Express 28th March

In Gujarat's water crisis, key question: why is Narmada's level low this year?

SOWMIYA ASHOK

NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

SINCE MARCH 15, Gujarat farmers have not been given access to Narmada waters for agricultural purposes. Security personnel have been deployed along the main canal of the Sardar Sarovar Dam at Kevadia to ensure that farmers do not illegally draw water. From a high of 130.75 metres on September 25, 2017, the water level in the reservoir has dropped over 25 metres. Local farmers say the canals were full last year, and when the gates of the dam were lowered on June 17, 2017, to hold more water, large areas were submerged.

Gujarat is experiencing a severe water crisis. Depleting water level is not confined only to the Sardar Sarovar Dam, the waters of which helps irrigate 1.8 million hectares, and benefit one million farmers through a canal network that roughly runs 75,000 km. Dams and reservoirs across the state are also drying up. Data compiled by the Central Water Commission show that of the 27 reservoirs in Gujarat and Maharashtra that it monitors, "the storage in the current year is less than the storage of last year, and is also less than the average storage of last 10 years during the corresponding period."

With the onset of summer, water level at the Sardar Sarovar Dam has dipped below the minimum drawdown level of 110.64 m, and stretches of the canal network are lying parched. The state is now forced to use the 'dead storage' of the dam. But why is the water level low this year? The explanations vary.

Deficient rainfall

A substantial area of the Narmada basin lies in Madhya Pradesh. When this area experiences shortage of rainfall, it severely affects the dam's water level. This argument was put forth by Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel, who also holds the Narmada portfolio, while responding to the Congress's charge that the government misused Narmada waters. The latter has alleged that the release of water for events such as the seaplane sortie of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has led to this crisis situation.

Patel, however, said the allocation of water to the state is not linked to water available in the dam, but on the total water in the river basin. "In a normal year, 9 Million Acre Feet [MAF] water is being allocated [to Gujarat]. Last year, it was 9.34 MAF. If the dam is full, its live water storage will be 4.75 MAF, which means that to utilise this 9.34 MAF water, the dam's live water storage has to be used twice. This makes it clear that our share... depends on the storage of water by Madhya Pradesh," Patel explained.

Data show MP and Gujarat experienced deficit rainfall from August to November. According to Y K Alagh, the former executive vice-chairman of the Narmada Planning Group that developed the Sardar Sarovar Development Plan in the 1980s, Gujarat kept drawing water during Kharif, when it should have saved it for Rabi in the summer. "We should not have used any water for riverfront ceremonial occasions after August, by when the rainfall failure was known," he said.

Responding to *The Indian Express* in an email, an official of the state-run Sardar Sar-

mati riverfront. However, water is released in the Sabarmati river to cater to domestic and drinking water needs of Ahmedabad city, irrigation of command area in Ahmedabad district through Vasna barrage and industrial water requirements for Ahmedabad city."

Inefficient utilisation

The timing of the release of water by upstream dams on the Narmada is also being scrutinised by many. *The Indian Express* had earlier reported that an unusual surge of water was released between September 12 and 17, prior to the inauguration of the Sardar Sarovar Dam by Prime Minister Modi on September 17. Official records show that the high water level was achieved on the inauguration day primarily because BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh released an unusual amount of water from upstream dams over a five-day period. The water level of the reservoir consistently increased till it reached its highest point in late-September, and then it began to dip.

Himanshu Thakkar of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People claims that the release of water from the dam was done in a manner that was "non-optimal, wasteful and not in public interest". Prior to the assembly election in December 2017, the Gujarat government used the opportunity to "show people that they have the water".

Although such a situation is not unique, the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) stands out from the rest. According to the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal, power benefits from the project are to be shared among Madhya Pradesh (57%), Maharashtra (27%), and Gujarat

(16%). "If you look at electricity generated through the riverbed powerhouse at the SSP, it has produced zero units from July 2017," Thakkar said. "Why hasn't Madhya Pradesh objected to not receiving electricity that is due to them?"

Prior to issuance of the notification that informed farmers about the March 15 deadline, SSNNL chairman S S Rathore in a press conference said: "The Gujarat government usually supplies water for irrigation till June, before the onset of monsoon. This year, we will not be supplying Narmada water till monsoon." He added, quoting certain norms, that the government is "not bound to supply water for summer crops." The SSNNL has stated that the decision on how to fill the dam and the further utilisation of water was taken in meetings, the minutes of which are not available in the public domain.

Structure of the dam

Questions have often been raised about the structure of the Sardar Sarovar Dam. At a Dam Safety Conference organised in Kerala in January 2018, by the Ministry of Water Resources, a Narmada Control Authority (NCA) official was asked about the measures incorporated to curb water seepage from the lift joints of the SSP. He replied: "Regarding heavy seepage that is occurring, we have taken note of the observation and because the construction has been in stages, there are problems... we are in touch with the state government". The official added that the SSP enjoyed a "special position" and that the NCA was working with the state government to ensure that a special monitoring was carried out. "I have been working with the state governments, we

SIMPLY PUT

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

Higher temperature, lesser snow on Himalayas: SASE

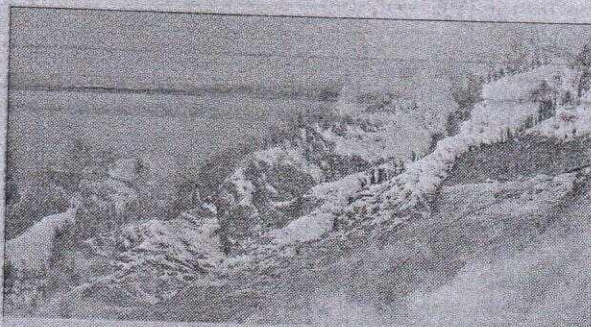
VIJAY MOHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 27

Affirming that the impact of global warming is evident over north-western Himalayas in the form of rising maximum and mean temperature across all zones, a study by the Snow and Avalanche Studies Establishment (SASE) has revealed that snowfall in the mountain ranges has decreased while rainfall has increased of the past 25 years.

"An overall warming signature was observed over north-western Himalayas since maximum, minimum and mean temperature followed rising trends with the increase being statistically significant for maximum and mean temperatures," the study states.

Published in February, the study is authored by HS Negi, Neha Kanda, MS Shekhar and Ashwagosh Ganju from SASE, a laboratory under the Defence Research and Development Organisation. Data generated from 16 observato-



FLOOD THREAT TO KASHMIR

- A study by the Snow and Avalanche Studies Establishment (SASE) has revealed that increase in mean temperature over Greater Himalayas has led to overall long-term glacier retreat
- It further states that increase in precipitation during winter has induced a flood situation in Kashmir. Besides, avalanches and landslides are expected to increase during late winter

ries located in three zones classified as Lower Himalayas, Greater Himalayas and the Karakoram Himalayas on the basis of latitude, was used.

While Karakoram and north-western Himalayas have experienced overall warming in the last 15 years (2001-2015), on the contrary, maximum and mean temperature trends during the last 15

years depict cooling in some zones of the lower and greater Himalayas. "This could have resulted from increased aerosol emissions by anthropogenic activities as aerosols by virtue of their absorbing nature do not allow much of incoming solar radiation to reach earth's surface thereby leading to cooling," the authors observe.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 28/3/2018 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

Cauvery: T.N. stands by board defined in tribunal final order

State government makes written submission to Centre

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government is learnt to have conveyed to the Centre that it would not agree to any mechanism other than the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulatory Committee, as defined in the tribunal final order, to ensure that the river's water was shared amicably among the riparian states.

Government sources told *The Hindu* that the State's position on this issue has been submitted to the Union

Ministry of Water Resources by officials in writing against the backdrop of reports that the Centre was considering forming a Supervisory Board and a scheme to resolve the Cauvery issue.

When asked about the government's stand, Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar, a senior member of the Cabinet, said, "We will not accept anything other than the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulatory Committee."

Asked if the State government would file a petition in

the Supreme Court seeking to punish the Centre for contempt of court if the Board was not set up before the deadline, he said: "The Deputy Chief Minister has already said that we will wait till March 29. So, filing of contempt petition cannot be done before March 29. We are hopeful that the Centre will constitute the Cauvery Management Board."

A senior official said that the State government was looking into all possible steps to be taken including filing a contempt plea.

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

रिकॉर्ड तोड़ने लगी गर्मी

मार्च-२८-३-१८

मंगलवार रहा मौसम का सबसे गर्म दिन बुधवार को अधिकतम तापमान पहुंच सकता है 40 डिग्री तक

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): राजधानी में मंगलवार को मार्च माह का सबसे गर्म दिन दर्ज किया गया। इससे पहले 13 फरवरी को अधिकतम तापमान 36.2 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहा था। यदि सिर्फ 27 मार्च की बात करें तो वर्ष 2011 से अभी तक सबसे अधिकतम तापमान मंगलवार को रहा है। मौसम विभाग का अनुमान है कि बुधवार को अधिकतम तापमान 40 डिग्री तक भी पहुंच सकता है। लिहाजा लोग गर्मी से बचाव के इंतजाम कर अपने घरों से निकलें। मंगलवार को अधिकतम और न्यूनतम तापमान 37.4 और 17.3 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहा। अधिकतम तापमान सामान्य से पांच डिग्री अधिक दर्ज किया गया। लिहाजा अभी से गर्मी अपने तेवर दिखाने लगी है। इस माह 13 मार्च को अधिकतम तापमान 36.2, जबकि 19-20 मार्च को 35 डिग्री तक पहुंचा था, लेकिन मंगलवार को इस मौसम का सबसे गर्म दिन दर्ज किया गया। माना जा रहा है कि अप्रैल माह से गर्मी अपने और तेवर दिखाने शुरू कर देगी। हालांकि अभी रात में चलने वाली हवाओं से थोड़ी राहत जरूर मिल रही है, लेकिन यह सिलसिला ज्यादा दिनों तक जारी नहीं रहेगा। प्रादेशिक मौसम पूर्वानुमान केन्द्र दिल्ली के प्रमुख डॉ. कुलदीप श्रीवास्तव ने बताया कि बुधवार को दिल्ली में कुछ स्थानों पर अधिकतम तापमान 40 तक पहुंच सकता है और गुरुवार को भी तापमान अधिक बना रहेगा। आगामी दिनों में अधिकतम तापमान क्रमानुसार गुरुवार को 37 और उसके बाद रविवार तक 35 डिग्री तक बना रहेगा और आसमान साफ रहेगा। दिल्ली के अन्य केन्द्रों में पालम में सबसे अधिक तापमान रहा। पालम में अधिकतम और न्यूनतम तापमान 38.8 व 17.8, लोधी रोड 37.1 व 15.8, रिज 38.6 व 19.8, आया नगर 38.2 व 17.9, जाफरपुर 37 व 15.9, मुंगेशपुर 36.2 व 15.1

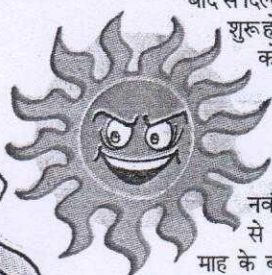
मिड अप्रैल से शुरू हो जाएगा लू का प्रकोप

राहुल शर्मा

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): इस साल गर्मी के तेवर मार्च माह से ही देखने लायक है। अप्रैल में पड़ने वाली गर्मी का अहसास अभी से होने लगा है। मौसम विभाग की माने तो 15 अप्रैल के बाद से दिल्ली में लू का प्रकोप शुरू हो जाएगा और लोगों को लू के प्रकोप का सामना करना पड़ेगा। मौसम विभाग के अनुसार नवंबर माह से फरवरी माह के बीच कम से कम दस बार पश्चिमी विक्षोभ सक्रिय होने से मौसम में परिवर्तन होता है और गर्मी सामान्य रहती है, लेकिन इस बार कुल चार बार ही पश्चिमी विक्षोभ सक्रिय होने से मौसम में ज्यादा परिवर्तन नहीं हो सका। इस कारण से पहाड़ी इलाकों में बर्फबारी और

मैदानी इलाकों में बरसात भी पहले के मुकाबले कम रही है। इससे पहाड़ी इलाकों में तापमान सामान्य से दो या ढाई डिग्री सेल्सियस तक तो मैदानी भागों में डेढ़ से दो डिग्री तक अधिक बना रहेगा। इसी कारण मौसम में गर्मी बनी रहेगी और तापमान दिन-प्रतिदिन बढ़त बनाएगा। इस लिहाज से माना जा रहा है कि मई माह के शुरू में चलने वाली लू, इस बार अप्रैल माह के मध्य से ही शुरू हो जाएगी। इस तरह से कहा जा सकता है कि गर्मी तय समय से पहले अपना असर दिखाना शुरू कर देगी। लू का प्रकोप मानसून जारी होने तक जारी रहेगा।

बताया जा रहा है कि लू के साथ ही अधिकतम तापमान 40 डिग्री तक पहुंच जाएगा। रोजाना उसी के आसपास स्थिति बनी रहेगी और रातें भी गर्म रहनी शुरू हो जाएंगी। दरअसल दिल्ली, हरियाणा, चंडीगढ़, पंजाब, राजस्थान और उत्तर प्रदेश में लगभग मौसम समान रहता है। ऐसे में मैदानी भागों की बात करें तो राजस्थान के फलौदी में मंगलवार को अधिकतम तापमान अभी से 41 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। यूपी भी मौसम विभाग अभी से जम्मू-कश्मीर, हिमाचल प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड और दक्षिणी-पश्चिमी राजस्थान में लू चलने की संभावना जता चुका है।



नवंबर से फरवरी माह के बीच पश्चिमी विक्षोभ कम सक्रिय होने की वजह से बदेगी गर्मी

धूप ने पहना दी बच्चों को टोपी...



फोटो: दीपक