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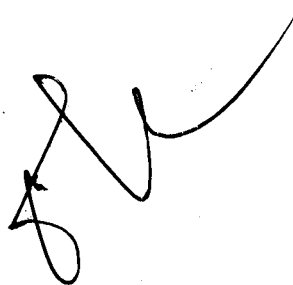
Subject: Submission of News Clippings.

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.


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For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned.
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News item/letter/article/editorial published on 28/9/17 in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (M)
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
Kal Buniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Elite

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

Now, states can identify & manage their own wetlands

New Rules May Expand List of Legal Activities

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New Delhi: Seeking to protect over 2 lakh wetlands across the country, the Centre has come out with rules to identify and manage these ecologically fragile areas which play an important role in flood control, groundwater recharge, preserving plant varieties, supporting migratory birds and protecting coastlines.

The new rules, notified by the environment ministry on Tuesday, decentralise wetlands management by giving states powers to not only identify and notify wetlands within their jurisdictions but also keep a watch on prohibited activities.

It also indirectly widens the ambit of permitted activities by inserting the 'wise use' principle, giving powers to state-level wetland authorities to decide what can be allowed in larger interest.

The notification says, "The wetlands shall be conserved and managed in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' as determined by the Wetlands Authority."

Though it lists prohibited



THE SPREAD

Isro prepared a national wetlands atlas based on satellite images and in 2011 mapped 201,503 wetlands

It's around 4.63% of India's geographic area

Area under inland wetlands is 10.56 million hectares (Mha)

Area under coastal wetlands is 4.14 Mha

States & UTs now have to notify all wetlands within one year

► Land area covered by water, either seasonally or permanently, and having characteristics of a distinct ecosystem is called a wetland

► Wetlands play a key role in hydrological cycle and flood control, water supply, providing food, fibre and raw materials

► They support lakhs of migratory birds from colder regions of the world in summers, apart from mangroves that protect coastlines and filter pollutants

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Any kind of encroachment | Setting up of any industry | Expansion of existing industries | Solid waste dumping | Discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements | Poaching | Any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within 50 metres from the mean high flood level observed in the past 10 years

activities, the 'wise use' principle may invite criticism from environmentalists who had earlier objected to it when the ministry put out the draft rules in public domain in March last year.

Many conservationists had pointed out then that the 'wise use' principle would lead to arbitrary decisions on the basis of selective understanding of critical issues around the ecologically fragile areas. The ministry, in its gazette notification, noted that the "suggestions and objections" received in response to the draft rules were considered in consulta-

tion with state governments and UT administrations.

The Centre's role under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, will be restricted to monitoring its implementation by states/UTs, recommending trans-boundary wetlands for notification and reviewing integrated management of selected wetlands under the Ramsar Convention — an international arrangement to preserve identified wetlands.

Decentralisation of wetlands management is seen as the ministry's effort to sync environmental policies with

the government's ease of doing business norms which are aimed at cutting delays in green clearances for development activities and supporting livelihood issues.

The new rules replace the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, which had a provision for a super body to decide on all activities relating to wetlands.

The new rules make the provision of respective state-level wetland authorities with the Centre having a limited role through a national wetlands committee, headed by the Union environment secretary as its chairperson.