

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

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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.

P. Maheshwari
28/11/2017
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

on leave

Director / TD

Sube
28/11

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
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28/11/17

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

Protect the rivers that enable farmers to feed us

Projections are that 25% of India's agricultural land will degrade to desert conditions in the next three to five years

JAGGI VASUDEV

Ecology is no longer the preserve of the environmentally oriented. It has become the business of everyone. It has become a fight for survival. In the last 10 to 12 years, I have seen the waters of the Kaveri, the Krishna and the Godavari, the most significant rivers of southern India, deplete rapidly. Scientific studies say that we currently have only 25% of the per capita water we had in 1947. By 2025, we will have 7% of that. By 2030, only 50% of the water necessary for the survival of 1.25 billion people will be available. This is not alarmist talk. This is based on scientific projections that show what our nation is heading towards. When water bodies deplete, soil conditions deteriorate drastically. The projections are that 25% of India's agricultural land will degrade to desert conditions in the next three to five years. Going by this, in another 20 years, 40% of India's agricultural land will be unusable for cultivation. The soil would have become sand. In another 40 years, 60% of India's land will be unusable for agriculture. There is a unique history of 12,000 years of year-round agriculture in this land. Nowhere else can you find such rich agricultural history. This has given our farmers a deep-rooted

knowledge of the land and of genuinely organic agriculture. This is the greatest feat in our country — our farmers have been providing food for 1.3 billion people with almost no technology or much infrastructure. With traditional wisdom and knowledge in soil that is rapidly depleting, they have managed to continuously supply vital produce. It is no small accomplishment.

It is a shame that those who do not understand their children or themselves, in the last 12 years, nearly three lakh farmers have committed suicide. But people try to explain this by citing the falling prices of tomatoes. We should understand that if any of us were to turn towards agricultural activity in a land which is not fertile and with inadequate water, we would also edge towards suicide.

We must focus on getting water bodies back in full flow, which will naturally lead to an improvement of soil quality. What is the solution? The simplest way is to create a green cover around our rivers. As a first step, we need to create forests in upper river sides and a buffer zone with a green cover on either side of the river. This will enhance the water retention capacity of the soil along the river.

It is important the nation stands up in one voice for our rivers. If all of us are determined, if we make a strong statement to the government that the people of this nation are with them, with enhanced green cover and proper management of water, we will definitely see an increase in river flow in the next 15 to 20 years. Let us make it happen.

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev is a spiritual leader and author. The views expressed are personal.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 28/11/17 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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नदी संरक्षण के लिए
ईशा फाउंडेशन से
आज होगा करार

रायपुर @ पत्रिका प्रदेश की
प्रमुख नदियों और जल स्रोतों के
संवर्धन और संरक्षण के लिए राज्य
सरकार और ईशा फाउंडेशन
संयुक्त अभियान चलाएंगे।
मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. रमन सिंह और ईशा
फाउंडेशन के संस्थापक जगदी
वासुदेव की उपस्थिति में मंगलवार
शाम एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर
हस्ताक्षर होगा। करार जल संसाधन
विभाग और ईशा फाउंडेशन के
बीच होना है। धर्मगुरु जगदी
वासुदेव आईएसएस एसोसिएशन
के कार्यक्रम में भी शामिल होंगे।