

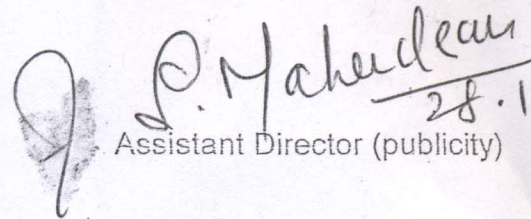
Central Water Commission
Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

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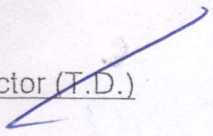
Subject: Submission of News Clippings.

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. Mahadevan
28.12.16
Assistant Director (publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Editor, Bhagirath (English) & Publicity


Director (T.D.)



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

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

Punjab left out in cold

A water disaster waiting to happen

CENTRAL discrimination" and "a package for Punjab" are no longer the code words in Parkash Singh Badal's pronouncements. Before a change of government at the Centre in May 2014, the issue dominated almost each of his political discourse. Initially, as coalition partners, the Badals did raise the issue of package for the cash-strapped, debt-stressed state in their meetings with Modi and Jaitley. Apparently, a Central rebuff has forced an Akali rethink. While distributing special assistance of Rs 1,082 crore to four states — Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha and Tamil Nadu — on the recommendations of Niti Aayog, the Centre has left Punjab in the cold and the Akalis have not uttered a word.

The aid distribution looks arbitrary and it is difficult to delink politics from the Central largess to select states. Centre-state financial relations are governed by certain principles. There is also a provision for special aid to specific categories such as the hill, north-eastern and insurgency-hit states like Jammu and Kashmir. Chief Minister Badal and his deputy used to plead for a waiver of Punjab's outstanding militancy-related debt of Rs 1.02 lakh crore and seek a refund of Rs 2,694 crore already paid. They also asked for concessions extended to Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir. During UPA rule the Finance Ministry under Pranab Mukherjee had constituted a committee to ease the debt stress of Kerala, West Bengal and Punjab. A conditional package was stitched together but it got lost in the political warfare between two Badal cousins. The Modi dispensation, however, has persistently cold-shouldered the Badals' financial demands. Together they have buried the Rs 12,000 crore grain "scam" the RBI had hinted at. The Badal government has been allowed to borrow Rs 31,000 crore more to settle the "procurement loan".

Whatever the Badals' political compulsions, Punjab urgently needs Central help to avert a disaster waiting to happen. The state's water resources are drying up, getting polluted or both. Farmer earnings end up in fighting diseases, particularly cancer, or installing submersible pumps. In its preoccupation with SYL, the political class has ignored the obvious threats to human health and agriculture. Since the state cannot fund a rescue plan, a Central bailout alone can ward off the catastrophe-in-the-making.

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Children enjoy ice skating in Shimla on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO BY MIT KANWAR

Set Shimla date, time to skate

BHANU P LOHUMI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 27

Ice skating, a major winter attraction of Shimla, kick-started today bringing cheer for local enthusiasts and a large number of tourists who have gathered here to usher in the new year.

The skating season got delayed this year as the temperatures were much above the normal. Trial sessions were held on December 23 and 24 but due to inclement weather, snowfall and rain, skating was interrupted after which the first regular session started today.

The skating season has been shrinking, perhaps due to global warming. The season, which normally starts in the third or last

National meet from Jan 3

- The skating season got delayed this year as the temperatures remained above normal
- The Shimla Ice Skating Rink, the oldest in Asia, will host the national ice skating championships in figure and speed skating from January 3 to January 6

week of November, started on December 22 last year too. "We were waiting for ice skating to start for the past one month and today, when we saw the balloon indicating that the session is on, there was no limit to our happiness," said Anjali, an ice skater.

The skating carnival which used to be held on December 25 was not held this year as the weather was not conducive. Besides, uncertainty looms large over the "Gymkhana" which is a major entertainment for tourists and is nor-

mally organised on the New Year's Eve.

The Shimla Ice Skating, the oldest natural ice skating rink of Asia, will host the national ice skating championships in figure and speed skating from January 3 to January 6. "Plans are on to convert it into a semi-artificial rink to increase its scope," said Secretary, Ice Skating Club, Bhuvnesh Banga. He added that the "Gymkhana" would be organised after January 15.

As the ice skating season has been shrinking, the

state Tourism Department has sent a Rs 8-crore project to the Union Government under the AMRUT mission, envisaging the laying of underground pipes for chilling, concreting of sprawling of the ice skating rink with a total area equivalent to five tennis courts (58 mX30 m).

With clear weather and low temperatures during the night, morning and evening sessions are held but of late, the number of evening sessions has reduced as day temperatures are staying much above normal. Last week, the day temperatures in Shimla were five to eight degrees Celsius above normal. The minimum session of ice skating (12) were witnessed in 1972 while the maximum 118 sessions were held in 1997-98.

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Slight respite as mercury rises

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 27

Cold wave conditions continued in the Kashmir division even as there was a slight respite as the mercury went up at most places with the Meteorological Department (MeT) predicting isolated rains or snowfall over the higher reaches of the Valley tomorrow.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of - 4.5 °C, slightly higher than the previous night's -5.1 °C, an official of the MeT Department

said. He said the state capital was the coldest recorded place in the Valley along with the north Kashmir town of Kupwara where the night temperature went up by a degree to settle at a low of - 4.5 °C.

The night temperature in Qazigund - the gateway town to Kashmir Valley - went up from yesterday's - 4.3 °C to settle at a low of - 3.8 °C. The official said Kokernag, in south Kashmir, recorded a low of - 2.7 °C. The famous ski-resort

of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir, registered a low of -1.6 °C - an increase of three degrees from the previous night's - 4.6 °C.

The Pahalgam hill resort in south Kashmir witnessed a low of - 4.3 °C over two degrees up from - 6.4 °C 24 hours earlier, the official said. Leh, in the Ladakh region, was the coldest recorded place in the state as the night temperature there went at a low of - 13.2 °C, the official said. — PTI

MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY ROHTAK

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Vishwa.Mohan
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More nods for Ken-Betwa link must: Greens

New Delhi: Environmentalists on Tuesday challenged Union water resources minister Uma Bharati's remark on clearance to the Centre's ambitious Ken-Betwa river link project, pointing out that there are more nods required before the government can launch the project.

Bharati on Monday said that the project is set for take-off as soon as the funding pattern was decided now

that the "last hurdle" too had been cleared with the green signal from the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).

It is learnt that the water resources ministry is keen to start work in January itself, in an effort to showcase the work as a 'new year gift' to the people of Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The move has the potential of sending a positive

signal to the electorate of UP ahead of the state assembly polls likely in February.

Taking objection to Bharati's remark, water and river

WILDLIFE CLEARANCE

conservationists led by Himanshu Thakkar of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers & People (SANDRP) said, "The NBWL recom-

mendation does not mean the final wildlife clearance as all recommendations for de-notification of protected areas are scheduled to go to the Central Empowered Committee appointed by the Supreme Court and the CEC has to decide if they would like to refer the recommendation to the Supreme Court or not. That step is yet to be taken".

In a letter written to the

minister, they said, "The NBWL recommendation is based on a number of conditions, which will actually require a fresh environmental impact assessment".

Officials in the water resources ministry, however, disagree. "The wildlife clearance was a major obstacle. This was indeed the last hurdle. Required environment and forest clearances

will now be given to the Ken-Betwa project quickly. It is expected that the environment clearance will come in a meeting on Friday while the forest clearance may follow soon."

The Ken-Betwa ILR project is meant to transfer surplus water from Ken river to Betwa basin through a 221km canal. Environmentalists, including Manoj Misra of the Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan, flagged other issues as well before the project work could actually start.

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राजसमंद में भूकम्प के हल्के झटके

राजसमंद @ पत्रिका. जिले के भीम, देवगढ़, चारभुजा व आमेट तहसील क्षेत्र में सोमवार रात करीब 9.47 बजे से करीब एक मिनट के अंतराल में दो बार भूकम्प के हल्के झटके महसूस किए गए। देवगढ़ व भीम क्षेत्र में तो भूकम्प के झटके भांप कर लोग घरों से बाहर निकल आए। लोगों ने इस दौरान घरों में रखे बर्तन और अलमारी में कंपन महसूस की। साथ ही बर्तनों के आपस में टकराने की हल्की आवाजें भी सुनीं। भू वैज्ञानिक डॉ. गोविंद सिंह भारद्वाज ने बताया कि उत्तर-पूर्व के किशनगढ़ से दक्षिण पश्चिम के छीतरी गांव तक 750 किलोमीटर लंबी लूनी सूकड़ी लिनियामेंट भूकंप का असर रहा। बनास लिनियामेंट में इस प्रभाव होने के कारण राजसमंद भी भूकंप के झटके महसूस किए गए।

पत्रिका-28-12-16

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पहाड़ों पर बर्फबारी से बढ़ेगा कोहरा

लखनऊ @ पत्रिका. पहाड़ों में हुई बर्फबारी फिर शहर में कोहरा बढ़ाएगी। सुबह इसका नजारा भी दिखाए हालांकि दोपहर होते-होते तेज हवाओं और धूप से कोहरा छंट गया। मौसम विभाग का अनुमान है कि एक हफ्ते तक मौसम ऐसा ही रहेगा। कोहरा बढ़ेगा, धूप न निकलने से रात के तापमान में गिरावट आएगी। मौसम विभाग की मानें तो 24 घंटे में न्यूनतम तापमान 7 डिग्री सेल्सियस से नीचे जा सकता है।

11/12/16 - 140 K/11
28-12-16
21-12-16

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भारत-पाक जल विवाद को लेकर पाकिस्तान के संपर्क में विश्व बैंक

इस्लामाबाद, (भाषा): विश्व बैंक के अध्यक्ष जिम योंग किम ने पाकिस्तान के वित्त मंत्री सीनेटर इसहाक डार के साथ फोन पर बातचीत के दौरान भारत-पाक जल विवाद पर चर्चा की। इससे कुछ ही दिन पहले पाकिस्तान ने विश्व बैंक से इस मुद्दे पर "उसकी जिम्मेदारियां निभाने" के लिए कहा था। डॉन अखबार ने आधिकारिक सूत्रों के हवाले से कहा कि फोन पर बातचीत कल की गई। डार ने दो पनबिजली संयंत्रों - किशनगंगा और रटले - को लेकर चल रहे विवाद के संदर्भ में 23 दिसंबर को किम को एक पत्र लिखा था।

पजाव-28-12-16