

Central Water Commission
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Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

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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
29.9.17
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
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6/11

Indian Times
 Indian Express
 Indian Times of India (N.E.)
 Indian Express
 Tribune
 Hindustan (Hindi)

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

11 P. Cantonment
 Aaj, India
 Indian Nation
 Nat. Daily (Hindi)
 The Times of India (A)
 Blitz

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

Rajnath urges free flow of river data to mitigate floods

China Didn't Ahead Of Aug Deluge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Union home minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday called for diplomatic efforts to build a consensus among countries on sharing river data.

His statement comes a month after the ministry of external affairs pointed out that China had not shared hydrological data on Sutlej and Brahmaputra, as it was expected under two MoUs, amid major flooding in eastern India.



Rajnath

Dussehra on China border for minister

Home minister Rajnath Singh, on a four-day visit to Uttarakhand primarily to boost the morale of soldiers on the Sino-Indian border, will celebrate Dussehra with the jawans in Joshimath. Sources said Singh would also perform 'shashtra puja' (a ritual to worship arms) with the jawans. Singh is expected to visit at least three border outposts (BoPs) on the border with China, including the one at Rimkhim, which is close to Bahhoti, where Chinese troops had transgressed on July 25 this year. This is the first high-level visit to the Sino-Indian border after the resolution of the Doklam stand-off. TNN

Inaugurating the 13th formation day of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) here, Singh said hydrological data on rivers should be shared by neighbouring countries for flood mitigation, and a consensus needed to be developed.

The home minister said India was hit by floods every year, and called for dip-

lomatic initiatives to deal with the problem. "Some may ask, what kind of diplomatic efforts should be taken to solve the flood problem? Hydrological data of some rivers that come from another country should be shared..."

"As of now, I think, there is no such arrangement. I think there should be diplomatic initiatives in this regard. We must try to enhance cooperation and conser-

with our neighbouring countries," he said.

On August 18, the external affairs ministry had said there was an existing expert-level mechanism, established in 2006. There were two MoUs, it had added, under which China was expected to share hydrological data on the rivers Sutlej and Brahmaputra with India during the flood season of May 15 to June 15.

"For this year, we have not received hydrological data from the Chinese side," MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar had said. However, Kumar added it was "premature" to link it with the floods in Assam as there could be "technical reasons" behind China not sharing the data.

At the time, the two countries were engaged in the border stand-off at the India-China-Bhutan trijunction.

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

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

M.P. Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nalanda (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Elite

and documented at: Bhuprath/English/ & Publicity Section, QWL

Centre alerts state over decline in water table

Suggests micro-irrigation, crop diversification

RUCHIKA M KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 28

The Union Government has red-flagged a sharp decline in the groundwater level in Punjab. As per a study conducted in May, 94 per cent of the state has shown a decline in the water level when compared to the average level from 2007-16.

Despite that, the Punjab Government is adamant on keeping the "politically sensitive" free power to agriculture consumers going — a major reason for excessive tubewell connections that drain the groundwater. There is also no action plan to wean away farmers from water guzzling paddy crop.

The results of the study, which the Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, had commissioned to the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), and now shared with the state government, have shown a decline in water in 89 per cent of the observation



State of affairs

26% of the area has seen its water table fall by 2-4 m

60% of the area has seen a fall of up to 2 m

wells. These cover 94 per cent area of the state.

The findings of the study that mapped aquifers (up to 300 metres) has shown an alarming fall of over 4 metres in 10 per cent of the observation wells (a total of 704 wells were studied), covering 8 per cent of the state's area.

It also reveals that 26 per cent area in the state has seen its water table fell by 2-4 metres, while 60 per cent of the area has seen a fall of up to 2 metres. This, however, may still not deter the government to restrict the use of subsoil water, as three-fourth

of the state is dependent on sub-soil water for irrigation.

Though the Centre has asked Punjab to invest in strengthening ground water monitoring; implement a water security plan; promote micro-irrigation and crop diversification, besides having separate feeder lines for agriculture and non-agricultural uses, it remains to be seen if the state will have any affirmative action plan soon.

Unfit for drinking: Study

The study has also brought to light another major concern — higher value of electrical conductivity (reflection of chemical constituents in groundwater which may have deleterious effect on human health). The study has brought to light much higher levels of fluoride, arsenic, and nitrate (beyond permissible limits), while asking the Punjab Government to act immediately to ensure safe drinking water is provided to all. The higher levels of these chemicals are related to the growing incidence of cancer.