

भारत सरकार
Government of India
केन्द्रीय जल आयोग
Central Water Commission
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विषय : दिनांक 30.08.2018 की समाचार की कतरन (News Clippings) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचारों की कतरन (News Clippings) अवलोकन हेतु प्रस्तुत हैं :

संलग्न : उपरोक्तानुसार

30/08/18
(सहायक निदेशक)

30/08/18

उपनिदेशक

निदेशक (बा.प.प्र.)

210 चन्द
30/08/18

कृपया केन्द्रीय जल आयोग की वेब साईट पर अपलोड करने की व्यवस्था करें ।

निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रलेखन)

विलेन
30/8/18

30/8

✓ Hindustan Times (Delhi)
नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)
The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)
The Times of India (Mumbai)
The Telegraph (Kolkata)
हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

UNSTOPPABLE FORCE



■ Rescue workers evacuate people from flooded areas after the opening of the Mullaperiyar dam shutters following heavy rains, on the outskirts of Kochi, August 15, 2018

REUTERS

Why dams cannot control such devastating floods

Dams subsume low and medium-level floods, but during high to very high ones, their safety cushions fall short

MANOJ MISRA



Devastating floods in Odisha (2011), Uttarakhand (2013), Tamil Nadu (2015), Bihar (2016) and now in Kerala prove that reservoir dams on rivers, contrary to claims, cannot prevent floods. In fact, they create devastating floods.

Here's why: Often dams are claimed to be multi-purpose projects, and prevention of floods is cited as one of the purposes of dams because they have something called a flood cushion, which gets filled only when a river is in spate. But floods don't have any uniform dimension. There are low floods, medium floods, high and very high floods. Many of these are cyclical in nature with high floods taking place in 25, 50 or 100 years. But in this era of climate change, these cycles have gone awry: high to very high floods visit us far more often than before.

Thanks to their flood cushions, dams subsume low and medium-level floods. But these harmless floods should not be controlled because they replenish floodplains with fresh nutrient-rich soil, boost fisheries and rejuvenate

the riparian flora and fauna. Such floods also recharge aquifers. Farmers, too, welcome floods for these reasons. The prevention of low and medium-scale floods also provides a false sense of security to the State and people, leading to occupation of flood plains for raising housing colonies, highways, schools, colleges, commercial establishments and even airports as has been done in many cities in India.

But when high to very high floods come, the flood cushion proves ineffective and counter-productive, necessitating the dam manager to release as much water as possible in as little time as possible to save the structure from damage. Such emergency releases from the dam result in mayhem downstream, since the real flood cushion — the flood plains — are occupied. Unfortunately, rainfall, river and nature are blamed for the mess.

The pro-dam lobby often cites the example of Tehri dam in Uttarakhand. They claim it successfully controlled the very high flow in the river Bhagirathi in 2013. Yes, that's a fact. But it is also a fact that the event took place in June, when the dam reservoir did not have much water, and so could accommodate the sudden high inflows. What if the extreme event had taken place during the monsoon months of July-September when the reservoir would have been full? I am yet to get a convincing answer to this question.

Manoj Misra is convener, Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan
The views expressed are personal

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

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

Dated 30. 8. 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.

P. Malhotra
30. 8. 18

SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director TD Dte, & Publication Division

Xu
30/8/18

Director TD Dte

Singh
30/8

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

d/c

30.08.2018

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)

Business standard

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

DMK did nothing to resolve Cauvery row: Palaniswami ST -30

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHIDAMBARAM (TN), 29
AUGUST

Tamil Nadu chief minister K Palaniswami today lashed out at Opposition DMK over the Cauvery issue, saying it had done nothing on the matter despite being part of various central governments for 14 years. He also said if the DMK wanted, the Cauvery Management Board (CMB) could have been constituted in 2007.

"In the past, the DMK was at the Centre for 14 years. What schemes did they bring? They could not even solve the Cauvery issue. They were at the

Centre and in power state in 2007 when the final award of the Cauvery Disputes Tribunal was given," he said.

"If it (DMK) had wanted, the CMB could have been constituted in 2007 itself following the final award of the tribunal," he told reporters here in Cuddalore district.

Palaniswami, also the joint coordinator of the ruling AIADMK, DMK's arch rival, said late chief minister J Jayalalithaa later moved the Supreme Court over the matter.

Palaniswami said the rights of Tamil Nadu farmers' on Cauvery was assured only fol-

lowing Jayalalithaa's efforts.

"DMK did not make the tiniest of efforts to resolve the Cauvery issue. If the CMB and the Cauvery Water Regulatory Committee had been constituted then itself (in 2007), we would have got our due share of water then," Palaniswami said. "They (DMK) did not approach the issue properly and were keen on holding on to power at the Centre. They were not concerned about the people of Tamil Nadu and did not take any efforts."

"So, we had to move the court and Amma (Jayalalithaa) ensured farmers' rights," he added.

Hindustan Times ✓

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

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Hindustan (Hindi)

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

Gurugram's only weather station is not functioning

Sonali Verma

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GURUGRAM: The city received 128mm rainfall on Tuesday – the highest in a day since 2010 – but the city's only weather station could not record it as it has not been working for more than 20 days now.

The Indian Meteorological Department's (IMD) automatic weather station (AWS), located at the National Institute of Solar Energy on the Gurugram-Faridabad Road, has been set up to supply daily weather data, such as temperature, rainfall and humidity, and is managed remotely by the department.

Tuesday's rain was measured by a rain gauge at the district revenue office in the Mini Secretariat, from where the data was sent to the deputy commissioner's office and further relayed to the department of revenue and disaster management, said Vijay Yadav, the district revenue officer of Gurugram.

"The AWS that gives updates on the weather has been out of order for the last few weeks. As the station is managed remotely, the data from the AWS is meant to go to the IMD office in Pune and is then relayed to the observatory at

AN IMD OFFICIAL SAID THE STATION IS NOT WORKING FOR THE PAST 20 DAYS DUE TO LACK OF MAINTENANCE

Safdarjung. But the Safdarjung office hasn't been receiving the data for almost 20-25 days," said Sanjiv Kumar Tyagi, a meteorologist with IMD, New Delhi.

Tyagi said that there are problems with the network that is used to send the recorded data. He said that the battery of the device needs to be replaced frequently and it must be recalibrated for it to function properly. "Lack of maintenance is the reason the AWS being non-functional," he said, adding that the task of maintenance has been assigned to a third party.

An AWS typically consists of a weatherproof enclosure, which contains solar panels that provide the energy to run the station, a battery that stores the energy generated by the panels and sensors – thermometer rain gauge and a telemetry equipment – to send the recorded data to desired locations.

The IMD has a network of 2,000

AWS setups across the country, and according to experts, many of them aren't relaying the weather data properly.

"Many of the department's AWS stop working from time to time. The equipment is maintained by a contracted third party, due to which there is no sense of urgency to fix them. It doesn't take much time to repair them," said an IMD official familiar with the matter. Since the IMD has installed the AWS, the department should also be its custodian, he added.

Data from these instruments are important for the IMD's fortnightly and weekly rainfall outlook and other weather predictions.

This data is used for climate research and is shared with the agriculture department as well.

Gaurav Wahi, a pearl farmer in the city, said that he relies on weather predictions for his work and the lack of data impacts him adversely. "If we are unprepared when it rains too much or becomes too hot, the mortality rate of mussels (livestock) increases," he said, adding that they rely on the IMD for weather updates, and in the absence of continuous and uniform data, their business suffers.

He
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then

News item/letter/article/editorial published on

30.08.2018

in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

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The Times of India (A)

Business standard

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

More rain over 2 days to keep weather pleasant

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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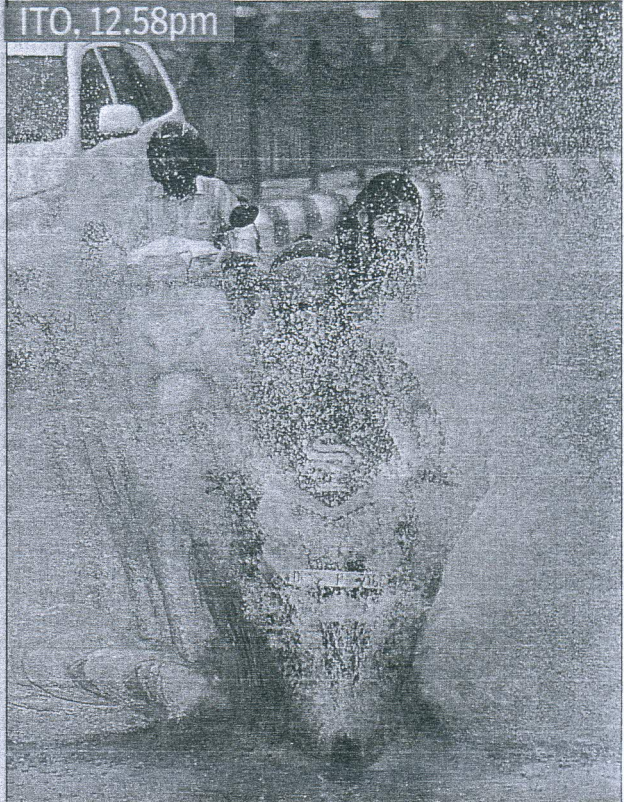
Anindya Chattopadhyay

ITO, 12.58pm

New Delhi: The capital witnessed strong showers for a second straight day on Wednesday, with waterlogging and traffic snarls recorded on a number of stretches in the afternoon. The maximum temperature was recorded at 31.9 degrees — three notches below normal for the season. Officials said mercury is likely to hover in a similar range over the next two days, with more rain expected.

The Safdarjung observatory recorded 12mm of rainfall till 8.30 am on Wednesday, while another 0.4mm of rain was recorded in the next nine hours. The Ridge observatory received the highest rainfall with 41.8mm of rainfall recorded between 8.30am to 5.30 pm, officials said. Other locations like Palam, Lodhi road and Ridge received 17.7, 0.5 and 0.4mm of rainfall respectively during the same period.

"Light rain could take place on Thursday. You can expect sultry conditions during the day," said a met official.



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 30.08.2018 in the

Hindustan Times

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Cabinet clears ₹1,600 cr. mission to map coasts

O-SMART to include warning systems, desalination plants

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India is set to get more disaster warning systems along its coasts. While it already has a tsunami warning system in place, the new systems will keep an eye out for "tsunamis and storm surges," according to an official release.

The system is part of a programme called O-SMART (Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science) that is being piloted by the Union earth sciences ministry. It was cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday, at an outlay of ₹1,623 crore.

O-SMART will provide



Coastal communities will benefit from the project.

economic benefits to a number of user communities in the coastal and ocean sectors, namely, fisheries, offshore industry, coastal States, defence, shipping, ports, etc.

Other key missions under O-SMART include, according to the press release, strengthening of Ocean Observations and Modelling, strengthening of Ocean Services for fishermen, setting up marine observatories for monitoring marine pollution, setting up Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant (OTEC) in Kavaratti, acquiring two coastal research vessels, continuation of ocean survey and exploration of minerals and living resources, technology development for Deep Ocean Mining and manned submersibles and the setting up of six desalination plants in Lakshadweep.

Hindustan Times

Statesman

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The Times of India (A)

Business standard

and documented at E



Spot study: Rahul Gandhi at Cheruthoni, where water released from the Idukki dam caused heavy damage. **PTI**

Rahul demands more Central aid

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi has demanded more Central assistance to the flood-hit Kerala as it is the 'right of the people of the State.'

Interacting with presspersons here on Wednesday before leaving for the flood-ravaged areas in Idukki, Mr. Gandhi said the funds sanctioned by the Centre so far were insufficient. The Centre should give more support to the State, he said.

Asked about the Centre's stance that no external aid was required for the rehabilitation of the victims and reconstruction of the facilities, Mr. Gandhi said that funds could be received if they came without any conditions attached. "If asked personally, I would say that external aid could be sought," he said.

Fixing responsibility

The Congress president declined to comment on fixing the responsibility for the floods and the recommendations of the Madhav Gadgil panel report on the Western Ghats.

"I don't want to politicise the issue. I came here to see for myself the flood situation and to offer my support to the victims," he said.

Mr. Gandhi said he had

Nilackal to be Sabarimala base camp

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Nilackal will become the base camp of Sabarimala and private vehicles will not be permitted to proceed to Pampa from the next Sabarimala pilgrimage season, which begins on November 15.

Pilgrims will have to take the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation buses from Nilackal to reach Pampa. A decision in this regard was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan here on Wednesday.

instructed Congress workers to work for the affected persons.

On the trauma suffered by the victims, Mr. Gandhi said they needed counselling support. There was tension in relief camps. There were complaints regarding the distribution of the initial compensation of ₹10,000 to the victims, he said.

He said he had discussed the issue with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Hindustan Times
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The Times of India (A)
Business Standard

A people's campaign to rebuild Kerala

A new approach is needed that enhances the sum total of man-made, natural, human and social capital



MADHAV GADGIL

The material loss due to the Kerala floods has been estimated at ₹26,000 crore, but beyond this there has been an immense loss of natural, human, and social capital for which no estimates are available. There is no doubt that the short-sighted attempts in building man-made capital (buildings in hilly forests, encroachments on wetlands and rivers, and stone quarries) while ignoring the attendant degradation of natural, human and social capital have played a significant role in exacerbating the problem. The immediate task in the State is relief and rehabilitation, but it is crucial to simultaneously identify the root causes of the havoc.

The root causes

These root causes prevail throughout the Western Ghats and, indeed, the rest of the country. The first is the flouting of laws that have been established to safeguard natural capital. The Shah Commission inquiring into illegal mining in Goa observes that mining beyond permissible limits has caused serious damage to water resources, agriculture and biodiversity. *Second, we have been ignoring* serious degradation of human capital in terms of health and employment. In the case of the Plachimada panchayat in Palakkad district, overuse and pollution of water resources by the Coca Cola factory has resulted in losses to the tune of ₹160 crore. Third, scientific knowledge and advice has been continually disregarded. In the case of the proposed Athirappilly hydroelectric project, an analysis by the River Research Centre showed that the project document had seriously overestimated the availability of water. The data examined showed that the likely power production in no way justified the costs of construction and running of the project. And fourth, there has been serious erosion of social capital. For instance, Anoop Velloppillai, a staunch anti-quarry activist engaging in a peaceful demonstration, was killed when he was pelted with



"The Kerala government must reassure its people that it will respect the right of local communities to decide what kind of development they want." People stranded at Thuruath, Aluva, being rescued during the floods. ■ VIKIN CHANDRAN

stones by those allegedly employed by quarry owners at Kaiveli in Vada-ara Taluk of Kozhikkode district on December 16, 2014.

The right of local communities

Therefore, it is imperative that we abandon business as usual. We cannot just focus on man-made capital; we must enhance the sum total of man-made, natural, human and social capital. The new regime that we must usher in while keeping this in mind must acknowledge that it is local communities that have a genuine stake in the health of their ecosystems and an understanding of the working of the same. The current system of protecting natural resources through negative incentives in the hands of a coercive and corrupt bureaucracy must give way to positive incentives that can be monitored in a transparent fashion by all concerned citizens. Our Western Ghats panel proposes several such incentives – for example, payment of conservation service charges for protecting important elements of biodiversity such as sacred groves (called Sarpas Kavus in Kerala), and payment towards soil carbon enrichment by switching to organic farming.

Turning over a new leaf then, the Kerala government must reassure its people that it will no longer continue the policies of development and conservation by exclusion, and that it will respect the right of local com-

munities to decide what kind of development they want and what kind of conservation measures they would like to see put in place.

To accomplish this, the government must implement the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments in letter and in spirit. It must empower local bodies at the ward, gram panchayat, and town and city levels to prepare reports on the status of the environment and to decide on how a substantial portion of the budget should be spent on the basis of these reports. *It must set up Biodiversity Management Committees* of citizens and empower them to document the status of the local ecosystems and biodiversity resources, and regulate their use. They must be given powers to levy collection charges for access to biodiversity as well as to intellectual property relating to community knowledge. In particular, it must accord the Biodiversity Management Committees a central place in the preparation of environmental impact assessments and ensure that these assessments begin to reflect the true state of affairs instead of being the uniformly fraudulent documents that are being submitted today. It must fully implement the Forest Rights Act and empower not only tribals, but all traditional forest dwellers to control, manage and market non-timber forest produce. It must stop distortion and suppression of all environment and development-

related information and begin uploading information suo moto on websites, as the Right to Information Act demands. It must initiate building a public and transparent database on environmental parameters drawing on the environment status reports, People's Biodiversity Registers, community forest management working schemes, and environmental education projects undertaken by students.

Equipped with this information and all pertinent documents such as from the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, the Kasturirangan Committee, and the Oommen V. Oommen Committee, the State government should ask local bodies about the levels of ecological sensitivity in different parts of the landscape on the basis of topography, hydrology, land use and vegetation, regardless of ownership of the land. The local bodies should provide suggestions on appropriate management regimes for regions of different levels of sensitivity. The government should begin to proactively use modern technologies, including smartphones, in a user-friendly manner so that all the inputs from the various local bodies are transparently available to all citizens. Citizens can then assist in the task of integrating all this information and come up with appropriate conservation and development plans that are properly fine-tuned to locality- and time-specific ecological and social conditions.

A sustainable and safe future

This will be a broad-based inclusive approach to conservation and development, and will be in the spirit of the People's Plan Campaign of the 1990s in Kerala, which was spearheaded by the State Finance Minister, Thomas Isaac. I urge Mr. Isaac to renew the spirit of the People's Plan Campaign rather than seek to bury it. Only then can the people of Kerala rebuild nature and society and assure for themselves a sustainable and safe future. I fervently hope that the Kerala government embraces such a progressive approach, so that we will be much better equipped in the years to come to moderate, if not fully prevent, the kind of havoc that visited Kerala recently.

Madhav Gadgil is Chairman of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel.

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

NEW DUNIA Times (Hindi)

Punjab Kesari (Hindi)

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Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Business standard

Rain fury strikes Nagaland

HEAVY DOWNPOUR 12 die in state even as other parts of N-E register deficit rainfall

Sadiq Naqvi

• Syed.sadiq@htlive.com

GUWAHATI: Twelve people were killed and thousands displaced in Nagaland due to incessant rains in the last one month with chief minister Neiphiu Rio seeking Central help on Wednesday, even as several other northeastern states registered deficit rainfall this monsoon.

Rains have been wrecking havoc in the hilly state since late July, resulting in 12 deaths.

As many as 3,000 families have also been displaced across 400 villages, according to Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority. "The damage this year is unprecedented in history," said Temjen Toy, chief secretary. Nagaland had contributed ₹1 crore towards Kerala's flood relief, earlier this month.

"#Nagaland needs your #help. Incessant rain has caused floods & landslides in several parts of the state & have affected many," tweeted out the chief secretary. The state has requested the centre ₹219 crore as immediate help. According to officials, the demand is likely to go up to ₹400 crore. The damage is pegged at around ₹800 crore as of now.

Interestingly, Northeast received deficit rainfall this year. According to figures from the Regional Meteorological Centre, Guwahati, up to August 29, Nagaland has seen a 26% deficit this season, while Assam has 30%, Meghalaya 43%, Manipur 68%,

Arunachal Pradesh 46%, Tripura 17% and Mizoram 6%.

"It is the nature of the rainfall which is disruptive," said Johnny Asin, a disaster management official with the Nagaland government. "It pours 100 mm in one hour," he said.

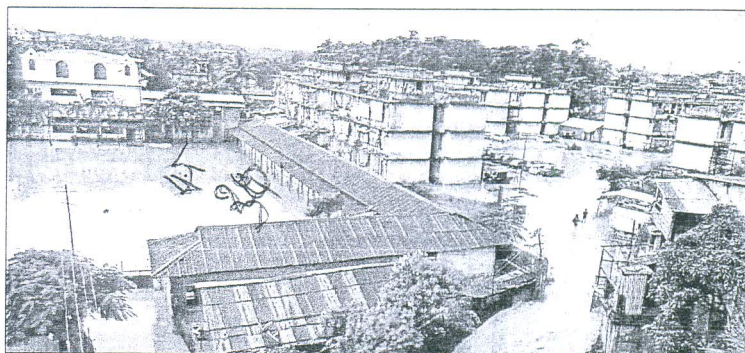
The primary cause of flooding has been attributed to the release of water, twice, from the Doyang Hydro electric project dam located in Nagaland's Wokha district. The water has flooded downstream areas including Golaghat district in Assam.

All the districts in Nagaland, including Kohima and Dimapur have been affected.

"The state of affairs is so sad that the main Dimapur to Kohima national highway is blocked," the chief secretary said. Asin, the disaster management official said arrangements have been made to divert traffic through rural roads.

"We are not allowing any truck with load of more than ten tonnes," he said. "Roads in as many as 359 locations have been cut-off, sending the state into an emergency situation."

Kiphre, a district in Nagaland that borders Myanmar is the worst affected. "We are hoping that the seven smaller trucks with 1,500 bags of rice which are on their way from Dimapur will get here by tomorrow morning," said MA Shihab the district deputy commissioner. "But that again will depend on the intensity of the rains," said Shihab.



• Floods in Nagaland have been attributed to the release of water from Doyang Hydro dam. HT PHOTO

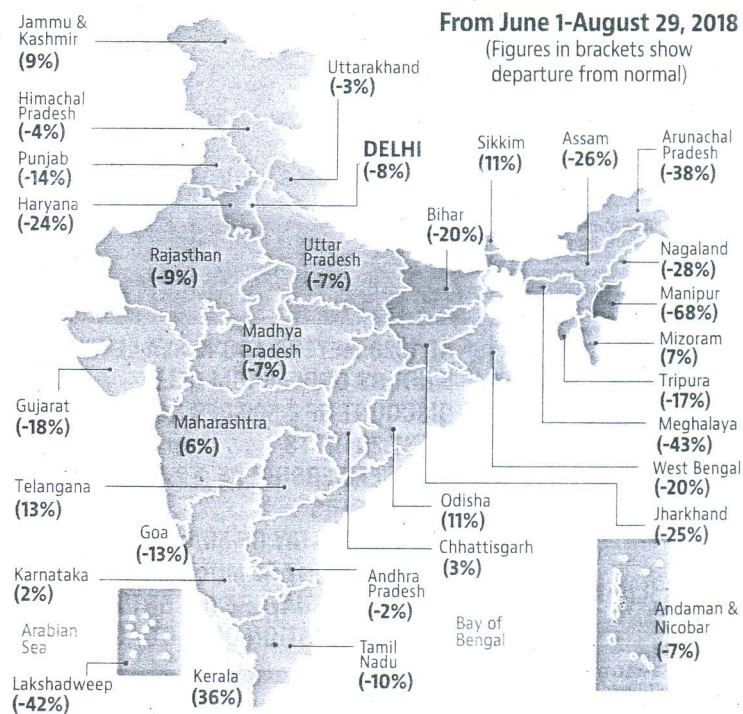
A low-down on monsoon rains

The current deficit is just 1% more than the IMD forecast. The second long-range forecast had predicted 95% rain across the country this monsoon season

-6% While the entire country registered an overall deficit of -6% rain fall, Manipur posted the maximum deficit at -68% followed by Meghalaya, Lakshadweep, Arunachal and Nagaland

STATUS CHECK

Large excess	Excess	Normal	Deficient	Large deficient
60% or more	20% to 59%	-19% to 19%	-59% to -20%	-99% to -60%



Source: IMD, Govt of India

6 killed, 1 hurt in U'khand as MeT issues Sept 1 alert

DEHRADUN: Six died, one injured and search for one more continued after a house was buried under landslide in Tehri of Uttarakhand. The Meteorological Department (MeT) has warned heavy to very heavy rainfall in eight districts on September 1 and 2 following which the government has issued the advisory.

A family of eight was buried in the landslide early Wednesday in Kot village near Budhakedar.

Governor Baby Rani Maurya

victims. Chief minister TS Rawat also expressed condolence to the family. He instructed the DM to make arrangements for the treatment of the injured persons and permissible financial assistance should be provided.

MeT department had warned heavy rainfall at isolated places in Nainital, Champawat, US Nagar, Chamoli, Rudrapur, Pauri and Dehradun. The Rishikesh-Kedarnath NH 107 was also blocked due to a landslide

Hindustan Times
Statesman
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Hav Bhairav Times (Hindi)
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Aaj (Hindi)
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Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Business standard

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

Listen to the deluge



MURALEE THUMMARUKUDY

Kerala was exemplary in its response to the floods.
The challenge lies in rebuilding for the future

29-SE

THERE HAVE BEEN many distinguishing facts — high literacy, deep penetration of grass roots democracy, high degree of women's empowerment — that set Kerala apart from other Indian states. In fact, economists often discuss the Kerala Model of Development, where an improved quality of life was achieved without a massive increase in per capita income.

All of the above qualities came in handy when Kerala was faced with the dual disaster early this month. As the biggest flood in a century marooned over a million people in their homes, it was not the official systems that managed to rescue them or arrange relief. People from all walks of life — fishermen to IT professionals, housewives and college students — came together to lend a helping hand. As the state administration was overwhelmed by a large number of rescue calls, many of them without complete information and often in duplicate, young professionals sitting around the world quickly established a 24x7 help-desk that received the calls, eliminated duplicates, found exact co-ordinates from Google Earth and relayed precise information to the rescue teams. Relief camps came up all around and there was no shortage of resources. While a few camps did have shortages of food or dress in the initial days, the bigger problem was that an excess of supplies came from near and far. Caste, religion, political ideology did not matter in the rescue and relief operations. It was Kerala at its best.

While Kerala did exceptionally well in post-disaster rescue and relief, its performance in the pre-disaster situation was not as exemplary. Since 2012, I have been warning that a flood similar in dimension to the one in 1924 (Flood of 99, as the old generation called it), will come. I had also said that land-use near the rivers has been modified on the false protection offered by the large number of dams built in the last 50 years. Based on my experience in Pakistan and Thailand, where dams extended the floods and exacerbated the misery, I had called for better attention to land-use planning and improved

coordination of reservoir management.

I was home for the holidays in May 2018 and my mother told me it had been raining since mid April. Normally, the monsoon begins only in late May or early June. So, incessant rain since April was an indication of the shape of things to come. In mid-June, as the monsoon intensified, I posted on my Facebook (which has over 70,000 followers) that it was customary for the media in Kerala to call me after a disaster and my preference was to be spoken to before a disaster happens. I will give you a clue, I told media personnel.

Sadly, this clue was also not followed up. Now when everybody, from Opposition leaders to laymen, is asking why were dam spillways not opened earlier so as to create holding capacity to absorb excess rainfall upstream, which could have reduced the intensity of the flood below the dams, the dam operators have no convincing answer except to blame the weather forecast. In fact, modelling of reservoirs only needs rainfall trends, and not precise long-term forecasts. While I am not privy to the exact background to various decisions, my assumption is the latest tools of reservoir management are not available to dam and reservoir managers.

But now is not the time to find fault with individuals or institutions. Kerala needs all the help it can get from every source, be it funds from the Centre or the best technical practices from the international community. But before rushing into rebuilding, we should understand that if we were to rebuild Kerala as before, we are recreating exactly the same vulnerabilities that existed before. That would be an irresponsible act.

In Japan, after every tsunami, people place a stone marking the extremities of the tsunami so that later generations can see a mark beyond which they should not build. No such effort was made either by the government or civil society after the 1924 floods. A good start for reconstruction by the current generation will be to mark the flood levels, in their homes and in every public

place (schools, government offices, temples etc), so that this information is handed down to the next generation.

But we should not focus our attention on just flooding, as we plan rebuilding. People often make the mistake of thinking about the last disaster and not the next one. Apartments were safe during this event as people took shelter in the higher floors. Already there are advertisements promising "flood-safe" apartments. But the next disaster in Kerala could well be a fire in a high-rise apartment. So moving people from riverside villas to apartments downtown is only transferring the risk, not reducing it. Only integrated land-use planning based on multiple risks can truly achieve sustainable disaster risk reduction.

It is also time Kerala took climate change seriously. Both sea-level rise and high intensity rainfall is going to make flooding more frequent in Kerala. Some low-lying parts of Kerala, such as Kuttanad and Ernakulam town, are particularly vulnerable to flooding. Cyclone Ockhi has demonstrated that Kerala is also susceptible to cyclonic winds. So, future Kerala also has to be designed keeping the changing climate in mind.

The United Nations Environment Programme has been promoting ecosystem-based approaches to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. In the context of floods, for example, what needs to be done is to reserve enough land for the river to expand at the time of flooding. That means disallowing the building of houses near rivers and reserving the land for agricultural purposes. Besides, it should be declared in advance that farmers will be compensated for losses due to floods. If there are cities near rivers, they will have to be protected by safety walls. However, the density of population should not be allowed to rise beyond a point, as is followed in Europe now.

The writer is operations manager at Post-conflict and Disaster Management branch of United Nations Environment Programme. Views are personal

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राष्ट्रीय गंगा स्वच्छता मिशन के लिए 150 करोड़ मंजूर H-30

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय गंगा स्वच्छता मिशन (एनएमसीजी) ने उत्तराखंड, उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार व पश्चिम बंगाल की विभिन्न गंगा सफाई व नदी घाटों के विकास के लिए 150 करोड़ रुपये की परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी है। इन परियोजनाओं के तहत नालों का

निर्माण, छोटी गंदगी वाली नदियों तथा नालों को सीवेज शोधन संयंत्रों की तरफ मोड़ने के साथ ही गंदे नालों को गंगा की तरफ जाने से रोकना शामिल हैं। साथ ही इन परियोजनाओं के तहत गंगा तट पर घाटों का निर्माण कार्य किया जाएगा। (वि.सं.)

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उत्तर कोयल परियोजना में और तेजी लाएं: गडकरी

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

निर्देश ५-१०

केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री नितिन गडकरी ने झारखंड में स्थित उत्तर कोयल परियोजना में तेजी से काम करने के लिए अधिकारियों से इसे समय पर पूरा करने का निर्देश दिए हैं। इससे बिहार एवं झारखंड में सिंचाई सुविधाओं को विस्तार मिलेगा। गडकरी ने परियोजना के लंबित मुद्दों पर केंद्र व दोनों राज्यों के अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक कर अभी तक की प्रगति की समीक्षा की है।

बैठक में जल संसाधन राज्यमंत्री अर्जुनराम मेघवाल और झारखंड

- गडकरी ने अधिकारियों से इसे समय पर पूरा करने को कहा
- परियोजना से बिहार-झारखंड में सिंचाई सुविधाएं दुरुस्त होंगी

सरकार के जल संसाधन मंत्री चन्द्र प्रकाश चौधरी भी मौजूद थे। सोन नदी की सहायक उत्तर कोयल नदी पर झारखंड के पलामू और गढ़वा जिले में स्थित इस परियोजना का निर्माण कार्य 1972 में शुरू हुआ था। बाद में 1993



में बिहार सरकार के वन विभाग ने इस पर रोक लगा दी थी। अगस्त 2017 में केंद्र सरकार ने उत्तर कोयल जलाशय परियोजना के शेष कार्य को 1622.27 करोड़ रुपये की अनुमानित लागत से पूरा करने की मंजूरी दी थी। इसका उद्देश्य

बिहार के औरंगाबाद और गया जिलों तथा झारखंड के पलामू और गढ़वा के सुखाग्रस्त एक लाख 11 हजार 521 हेक्टेयर भूमि पर सिंचाई मुहैया कराना है।

परियोजना के लिए भारत सरकार की ओर से दीर्घावधि सिंचाई कोष से अनुदान 1378.61 करोड़, बिहार सरकार से 212.43 करोड़ और झारखंड सरकार से 31.23 करोड़ रुपये उपलब्ध कराए जाएंगे। परियोजना को लागू करने का काम जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण मंत्रालय के तहत केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक इकाई वापकॉस लिमिटेड को सौंपा गया है।

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समुद्री शोध को बढ़ाने की योजना मंजूर

कैबिनेट फैसले

नई दिल्ली | एजेसी ५.७०

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय की व्यापक योजना महासागरीय सेवा, प्रौद्योगिकी, निगरानी, संसाधन प्रतिरूपण और विज्ञान (ओ-स्मार्ट) को बुधवार को मंजूरी दे दी। सरकार के

एक बयान में कहा गया है कि समुद्री शोध को बढ़ाने और मौसम संबंधी प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणाली की स्थापना के उद्देश्य से इस योजना को मंजूरी दी गई है। कुल 1623 करोड़ रुपये की लागत की यह योजना 2017-18 से 2019-20 की अवधि के दौरान लागू होगी। इस योजना में महासागर विकास से जुड़ी 16 उप-परियोजनाओं जैसे सेवाएं, प्रौद्योगिकी, संसाधन, प्रेषण और विज्ञान को शामिल किया गया है। ओ-स्मार्ट के

अंतर्गत दी जाने वाली सेवाओं से तटीय और महासागरीय क्षेत्रों में मत्स्य पालन, समुद्र तटीय उद्योग, तटीय राज्यों, रक्षा, नौवहन, बंदरगाहों जैसे क्षेत्रों को आर्थिक लाभ मिलेगा।

भारतीय डाक भुगतान बैंक के खर्च में 80 प्रतिशत वृद्धि को हरी झंडी: कैबिनेट ने भारतीय डाक भुगतान बैंक की शुरुआत के तीन दिन पहले इसके खर्च की सीमा 80 प्रतिशत बढ़ाकर 1,435 करोड़ करने की मंजूरी दे दी।

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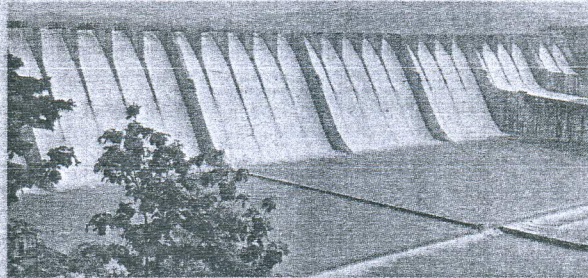
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नर्मदा नहर निर्माण के लिए केन्द्र ने दिए 730 करोड़ रुपए

सिंचाई योजना के
तहत मंजूर की
आर्थिक सहायता *SP*

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

अहमदाबाद, केन्द्र सरकार ने नर्मदा योजना के तहत राज्य में नहरों के निर्माण के लिए 730.90 करोड़ रुपए की आर्थिक मदद मंजूर की है। केन्द्र सरकार ने त्वरित लाभ सिंचाई योजना के तहत वर्ष 2018-19 के



लिए यह राशि मंजूर की है। उपमुख्यमंत्री नितिन पटेल ने बुधवार को इसकी जानकारी देते

हुए संवाददाताओं को बताया कि केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से जल्द पूर्ण किए जाने के लिए चयनित किए गए

99 प्रोजेक्टों में गुजरात की सरदार सरोवर नर्मदा योजना भी शामिल है।

केन्द्र सरकार को लॉग टर्म इरीगेशन फंड योजना में से 1484.391 करोड़ की लॉग टर्म इरीगेशन फंड की लोन भी छह प्रतिशत की ब्याज दर से मंजूर की है। जिससे नर्मदा बांध और नहर के निर्माण के कार्य में तेजी आएगी। योजना के लिए राशि मंजूर करने पर उपमुख्यमंत्री ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी का आभार भी जताया।

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इमरान के प्रधानमंत्री बनने के बाद दोनों देशों में पहली द्विपक्षीय बातचीत

सिंधु जलसंधि पर भारत पाकिस्तान में वार्ता शुरू

पहल

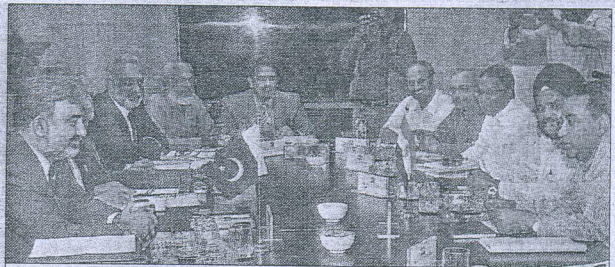
लाहौर | एजेसियां

भारत और पाकिस्तान ने बुधवार को यहां सिंधु जलसंधि के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर अहम चर्चा शुरू की। पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में इमरान खान के कार्यालय संभालने के बाद से यह पहली द्विपक्षीय बातचीत है।

इस दो दिवसीय बातचीत का पहला दौर यहां 'नेशनल इंजीनियरिंग सर्विसेस पाकिस्तान' में शुरू हुआ। भारत और पाकिस्तान के जल आयुक्तों को प्रत्येक साल दो बार मुलाकात करनी होती है। साथ ही परियोजनाओं के स्थलों और महत्वपूर्ण नदी के प्रमुख कार्यों के लिए तकनीकी यात्राओं की व्यवस्था करनी होती है।

दोनों पक्ष रिपोर्ट रखेंगे : मौजूदा बातचीत में भारतीय पक्ष का प्रतिनिधित्व जल आयुक्त पी.के. सक्सेना की अगुआई में भारतीय जल आयोग का एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल कर रहा है। जबकि पाकिस्तान की ओर से उनके जल आयुक्त सैयद मेहर अली शाह के नेतृत्व में पाकिस्तानी प्रतिनिधिमंडल भाग ले रहा है। बातचीत के दौरान दोनों देश अपनी रिपोर्ट रख सकते हैं। संयुक्त अधिसूचना जारी की जाएगी।

दिल्ली में हुई थी पिछली बैठक
यह बातचीत 18 अगस्त को इमरान खान के प्रधानमंत्री बनने के बाद दोनों



लाहौर में बुधवार को भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच सिंधु जलसंधि पर वार्ता शुरू हुई। इसमें भारत की ओर से सिंधु जल आयोग के आयुक्त प्रदीप कुमार सक्सेना और पाक की ओर से जल आयुक्त सैयद मेहर अली शाह ने हिस्सा लिया। • एएफपी

भारत की दो टूक

- भारत का स्पष्ट कहना है कि उसकी परियोजनाएं सिंधु जलसंधि का कहीं भी उल्लंघन नहीं करती
- उरी आतंकी हमले के बाद भारत ने पाक पर दबाव बनाने को इस संधि के इस्तेमाल के संकेत दिए थे

सिंधु जल संधि

- 19 सितंबर 1960 को भारत-पाकिस्तान ने नौ साल की वार्ता के बाद इस संधि पर हस्ताक्षर किए
- विश्व बैंक भी इस जलसंधि में एक हस्ताक्षरकर्ता के रूप में शामिल है
- 12 जनवरी 1961 से इस जलसंधि की शर्तें लागू कर दी गईं
- इससे नदियों के उपयोग पर दोनों देशों के बीच सहयोग व सूचना विनिमय के लिए तंत्र बना
- 06 नदियां शामिल हैं इस संधि में सिंधु, चिनाब, झेलम, व्यास, रावी व सतलुज समेत
- इसके तहत भारत 20 फीसदी पानी पाता है, शेष 80 फीसदी पानी पाक को मिलता है

देशों के बीच पहली आधिकारिक वार्ता है।

भारत-पाक के स्थायी सिंधु आयोग की पिछली बातचीत मार्च में नई दिल्ली में हुई थी। उसमें दोनों पक्षों ने 1960 की सिंधु जलसंधि के तहत पानी के प्रवाह

पाक की चाल

- पाक भारत की किशनगंगा समेत पांच पनबिजली परियोजनाओं को इस जलसंधि के प्रतिकूल बताता है
- दो साल पहले पाक ने इन परियोजनाओं को लेकर विश्व बैंक से एक पंचाट के गठन की मांग की थी

और इस्तेमाल किए जा रहे पानी की मात्रा का ब्योरा साझा किया था।

मंगलवार को शाह और अतिरिक्त आयुक्त शहराज जमील ने नौ सदस्यीय भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल का स्वागत किया।

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

New 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)
Business standard

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



रेकॉर्ड बारिश के बावजूद अगस्त में 21% कम बारिश

Poonam.Gaur@timesgroup.com

■ नई दिल्ली : रेकॉर्ड बारिश के बावजूद दिल्ली अगस्त में बारिश के मामले में 21% पीछे चल रही है। यह तब है कि जब दिल्ली पिछले दो दिनों से तेज बारिश हो रही है। अब गुरुवार से बारिश काफी कम होने की संभावना है। वहीं सितंबर में भी कम बारिश की संभावनाएं जताई गई हैं।

बीते मंगलवार को रेकॉर्ड तोड़ बारिश का फायदा इतना हुआ है कि जून से लेकर अब तक बारिश का ग्राफ सुधर गया है, और इन तीनों माह को मिलाकर दिल्ली में सामान्य बारिश हुई है। इसके बावजूद पालम में इन तीन माह के दौरान 11% तक कम बारिश दर्ज की गई। अगस्त की बात करें तो सफ़रजंग में 1 से 29 अगस्त तक सामान्य बारिश 241.9 होनी चाहिए, लेकिन अब तक सिर्फ 190.3 एमएम ही बारिश हुई है। इसी तरह मालम में इस दौरान 242.2 एमएम बारिश की जगह अब तक सिर्फ 161.1 एमएम बारिश हुई है।

सबसे कम तापमान

■ बारिश के पैमाने में पालम 33% तक पीछे चल रहा है

■ बुधवार को सबसे कम तापमान और सबसे ज्यादा बारिश का रेकॉर्ड बना

■ 29 अगस्त 2012 में 59.5 एमएम बारिश हुई थी

है कि देश में जून में सामान्य से 5% कम, जुलाई में 94% और अगस्त में भी 94 से 95% तक बारिश होने की संभावना बनी हुई है। सितंबर में भी बारिश एल नीनो के प्रभाव से कम हो सकती है।

बुधवार को बारिश ने फिर भिगोया

बुधवार को भी दिल्ली में 29 अगस्त को हुई बारिश ने पिछले 5 सालों के रेकॉर्ड को तोड़ दिया है। सफ़रजंग में 12.4 एमएम बारिश हुई। इससे पहले 29 अगस्त 2012 में 59.5 एमएम बारिश हुई थी। बीच के सालों में 27 अगस्त 2014 को सबसे अधिक 6.8 एमएम बारिश हुई है। रेकॉर्ड तोड़ बारिश से तापमान ने भी पिछले सात सालों के रेकॉर्ड को तोड़ दिया है। तापमान महज 31.9 डिग्री रहा जो सामान्य से 3 डिग्री कम है। आठ सालों के दौरान सबसे कम तापमान अब तक 2012 में 32 डिग्री दर्ज किया गया था।

स्काईमेट के अनुसार प्रशांत महासागर में तापमान लगातार बढ़ रहा है। ओएनआई (सामुद्रिक नीनो इंडेक्स) ने संकेत दिए हैं कि एल नीनो वापसी कर रहा है। एल नीनो भारत के मौसम को काफी प्रभावित करता है। स्काईमेट के अनुसार एल नीनो के असर को अभी से महसूस किया जा सकता है। गौरतलब



18 जगहों पर भरा पानी, 12 पेड़ गिरे

■ वस, नई दिल्ली : बुधवार सुबह हुई तेज बारिश के चलते दिल्ली के कई इलाकों में पानी भर गया। रैजिडेंशल कॉलोनियों में तो हालात इतने खराब थे कि कई घंटों तक पानी की निकाली नहीं हो पाई। एमसीडी की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक इस दिन कुल 18 जगहों पर पानी भरने की समस्या रही। लेकिन, लोगों का कहना था कि पानी भरने की समस्या इससे अधिक स्थानों पर थी। बारिश के चलते राजफाद जौन में मटियाला, वेस्ट जौन में पंजाबी बाग, मोहन गार्डन, हैपी चौक के पास पानी भरने की समस्या रही।

सर्दियों में जैसा प्रदूषण, एक्शन भी होगा वैसा ही

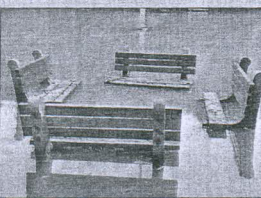
■ विस, नई दिल्ली : इस बार सर्दियों में प्रदूषण कम करने के लिए दिल्ली के हर एरिया का अलग एक्शन प्लान होगा। वजह यह है कि दिल्ली के विभिन्न एरिया में प्रदूषण की वजहें अलग हैं। सोपीसीबी (सेटल पल्यूशन कंट्रोल बोर्ड) ने क्षेत्रों के प्रदूषण का आकलन कर रिपोर्ट तैयार कर ली है। इस रिपोर्ट पर सिविक एजेंसियों को अपना एक्शन प्लान 15 सितंबर तक सोपीसीबी को बताना होगा। सोपीसीबी की इस रिपोर्ट में सर्दियों में प्रदूषण बढ़ाने वाले कारकों को शामिल कर डिटेल स्टडी की गई है। हर महीने भी इस तरह की रिपोर्ट को अपडेट किया जा रहा है।



आनंद विहार, मुंडका और द्वारका की चुनौती

आनंद विहार, मुंडका और द्वारका में पीपएम 10 प्रदूषण की बढ़ी वजह है। धूल को प्रदूषण की वजह बताया गया है। पंजाबी बाग, सोनिया विहार, विवेक विहार, अशोक विहार, बबाना, जहानपुरी, डो, कणी सिंह, पटपटगाँव और नरैला में पीपएम 2.5 को प्रदूषण की वजह माना गया है।

डूबी पार्क की बेंच



■ एनबीटी न्यूज, विकासपुरी : दिल्ली में लगातार दूसरे दिन हुई बारिश के बाद अब लोगों की समस्याएं अधिक बढ़ गई हैं। सड़कों के साथ-साथ पार्कों में पानी भर गया। विकासपुरी के कई पार्कों में पानी भरने से लोगों को घूमने में दिक्कत आई। लोगों का कहना है कि इलाके में कई ऐसे पार्क हैं, जिसमें करीब ढाई फीट से अधिक का पानी भर गया। पार्कों में लंबालब पानी भरने

होने से ट्रैक दिखाई नहीं दे रहे हैं और न ही बैठने के लिए लगाई गई बेंच। लोगों का कहना है कि कई बार संबंधित विभाग को इसकी शिकायत की गई, लेकिन कोई एक्शन नहीं लिया गया। कुछ ऐसा ही हाल जनकपुरी के रालीला ग्राउंड का भी है। पानी लोगों के लिए बीमारियों का घर बनाता जा रहा है। इलाके में डेन्यू-मलेरिया जैसी बीमारियों का खतरा बढ़ सकता है।

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)
Business standard

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

India, Pakistan begin Indus Water Treaty talks in Lahore

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 29 AUGUST

In their first bilateral engagement since the installation of a new government in Islamabad on 18 August, India and Pakistan on Wednesday began their two-day talks on water-related issues under the ambit of the 1960 Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

The nine-member Indian delegation was led by Water Commissioner PK Saxena while Commissioner for Indus Water Syed Mehar Ali Shah headed the Pakistani side at the talks being held in Lahore in a conducive atmosphere.

During the talks, the two countries are expected to put

forth their respective stand on water disputes between them. A joint statement is expected to be issued on Thursday at the conclusion of the meeting.

The last meeting of the India-Pakistan Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) was held in New Delhi in March during which both sides shared details of the water flow and the quantum of water being used under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty.

India and Pakistan signed

the treaty in 1960 after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory.

The treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two countries regarding their use of rivers. However, there were disagreements and differences between India and Pakistan over the treaty. The two sides will also finalise the schedule of future meetings of the PIC and visits of the teams of the Indus commissioners of India

and Pakistan are required to meet twice a year and arrange technical visits to project sites and critical river head works.

The meeting between the water commissioners is being seen as a positive development in the tension-ridden relationship between India and Pakistan. Pakistan's new Prime Minister Imran Khan has, in recent statements, given firm indication of his commitment to normalise ties with India. However, New Delhi has made it clear that the resumption of a formal dialogue between the two countries hinges on Pakistan showing sincerity in dealing with terrorism emanating from its soil against India.

Imran's govt preparing proposal to resolve Kashmir issue: Pak minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, 29 AUGUST

Prime Minister Imran Khan's government is preparing a proposal to resolve the Kashmir issue, a senior Pakistani minister has said, describing the draft as a "model for conflict resolution."

Minister for human rights Shireen Mazari made the revelation during a TV talk show, but she did not share the details of the proposal.

"We will prepare the proposal within a week and circulate it among all the stake-



holders," Mazari said. She said the proposal, which is a "model for conflict resolution", would be presented before the Cabinet and also Prime Minister Khan. "If the draft is approved, we will move forward on it," said Mazari, who is considered as close to the powerful army. The army,

which enjoys considerable influence over policy decisions in Pakistan, has ruled the country for much of its life since it gained independence 70 years ago. When asked about the status of the draft, the minister responded, "it's almost ready." In his victory speech last month, Khan expressed his willingness to improve Pakistan's ties with India and said that his government would like the leaders of the two sides to resolve all disputes, including the "core issue" of Kashmir, through talks.

51-30

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

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

M.P. Chronicle
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The Times of India (A)
Business Standard

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

How not to do an environmental assessment

An urban redevelopment project must apply for approvals in an integrated manner



MANJU MENON &
VIDYA VISWANATHAN

The “redevelopment” projects of Delhi which have been in the news are caught up in legal tangles. In these, it is the ones related to their environmental approvals that stand out. This article outlines three ways in which these projects have used the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to subvert the right of citizens to a better environment. A case in point is the approval process for the “World Trade Centre” in Nauroji Nagar in south Delhi.

EIA reports are a critical component of India’s environmental decision-making process in that they are supposed to be a detailed study of the potential impacts of proposed projects. Based on these reports, the Environment Ministry or other relevant regulatory bodies may or may not grant approval to a project. The EIA reports

are also important to define measures that the project could take in order to contain or offset project impacts. To ensure that they are an accurate account of scientific facts and observations, the law mandates the engagement of an accredited independent EIA consultant to undertake the study.

A case of no ethics

The EIA reports of the redevelopment projects are an exercise in the worst possible research practices and ethics. The consultant for the Nauroji Nagar project has used material from copyrighted papers, webpages and other EIA reports. It even mentions that the water quality study was undertaken in 2015, one year before the project was commissioned to NBCC. It cites eight water quality monitoring locations for the study which are situated in Tamil Nadu. This content can be traced back to the EIA report of Tamil Nadu Minerals Ltd. which was prepared by the same consultant. Another example is the text under “Hydrogeology of PIA District” on page 42 of the EIA report. This is a carbon copy of material from a copyrighted book (2015) titled “Management of Water, Energy and Bio-resources



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in the Era of Climate Change: Emerging Issues and Challenges”.

Such research practices in EIAs continue unabated because of the Environment Ministry’s failure to come down heavily on this. In the end, it is citizens who have to bear the brunt.

Gaps and errors

There are many instances of missing or misleading information which understate the potential impact of these projects. For example, the EIA’s ‘Terms of Reference’ (ToR) for Nauroji Nagar, which is essentially a commercial project, fail to mention the word “commercial”. Instead, it states that the project is for the “modernization” of government residential colonies. The NBCC’s “World Trade Centre”

that is proposed to be built at this site has been called “a commercial complex” by the EIA report. The ToR requires the EIA report to include a detailed traffic impact analysis, but this is missing. The report is also oblivious to the many archaeological and cultural heritage sites that will be affected by the construction. Other examples are: A “Table 3-20: List of animal species in the study area” on page 76 lists the names of trees, while common plankton has been listed as fish species on page 81.

The EIA Notification 2006 says that “deliberate concealment and/or submission of false or misleading information or data...” can lead to a rejection of the application or cancellation of the approval. But it is unlikely that the Ministry will pursue this line against these projects as it would mean stopping the project of the more powerful Ministry of Urban Development.

No public hearings

EIA-based approvals for most projects also involve the process of conducting public hearings in order that the views and opinions of people who are likely to be affected can be taken on board before a decision to approve the project is

made. In a world that is challenged by environmental degradation and social conflicts, scholars have upheld public participation to be a “threshold condition” for development.

Yet, it is disappointing that the government has generously exempted real estate projects from holding consultations. Since Delhi’s “redevelopment” projects were approved without public consultation, any problems raised now by citizens, such as those about the EIAs, will be rendered “post facto”. Nauroji Nagar has already been razed to the ground – homes, trees and all.

Citizen action and litigation has forced the project proponents and the Ministry of Urban Development to state that they will revise their plans to reduce or prevent tree felling. But this response is neither adequate nor legally acceptable. The Delhi High Court that is hearing this matter must ensure that these redevelopment projects reapply for approvals as a single integrated one, and in accordance with the law.

Manju Menon and Vidya Viswanathan are researchers at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi