

Central Water Commission
Water Systems Engineering Directorate

West Block II, wing No- 5
R K Puram, New Delhi-66
Dated 31.10.2018

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.

Encl: As above.

P. Mahendran
31.10.2018
SPA (Publicity)

o/c

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

31/10/18

Director, WSE Dte.

31/10/18

For information to:

Chairman, CWC, New Delhi

Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned, uploaded at www.cwc.gov.in

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 31.10.18 in the

Mint Delhi

Hindustan Times

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

M.P. Chronicle

Statesman

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

Aaj (Hindi)

The Times of India (N.D.)

The Hindu

Indian Nation

Indian Express

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

Tribune

Deccan Chronicle

The Times of India (A)

Hindustan (Hindi)

Deccan Herald

Business standard

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

India's neglected groundwater crisis

Mint, Delhi Wed, Oct 31 2018.

Systematic analysis of groundwater conservation methods must be conducted to forestall the water crisis

India's over-exploitation of groundwater is contributing to—as stated by NITI Aayog—"the worst water crisis in its history".

Groundwater is one of the most important water sources in India accounting for 63% of all irrigation water and over 80% of the rural and urban domestic water supplies. In fact, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Water Development Report states that India is the largest extractor of groundwater in the world. Fifty-four percent of India's groundwater wells have declined over the past seven years, and 21 major cities are expected to run out of groundwater by 2020. Thus, India faces a dual challenge: to regulate the growing demand for groundwater while replenishing its sources.

Subsidies on electricity are thought to play a central role in the Indian groundwater crisis. The vast majority of groundwater pumps are unmetered, and if charged, are billed at a flat, non-volumetric, and highly subsidized tariff. This flat rate is responsible, at least in part, for inefficient usage and excessive withdrawal of groundwater.

In addition, the government encourages farmers to produce water-intensive crops like rice and sugarcane through increased minimum support prices (MSP).

Research indicates that although MSP has led to assured incomes, it has also led to groundwater depletion, income inequality and unsustainable agriculture. On the supply side, performance of state governments has not been satisfactory, with the NITI Aayog Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) report stating that the majority of states have scored less than 50% in the source augmentation of groundwater resource index.

Given this situation, we require policies that promote judicious use of groundwater. Although there are a number of potential interventions in the area of groundwater conservation, there are hardly any rigorous evaluations. In absence of rigorous research, such as randomized evaluations, which can establish the causal impact of an intervention, it is a challenge to identify solutions that are highly effective. However, researchers could draw lessons from existing solutions, and use them to design interventions that could later be rigorously evaluated.

One of the proposed ways to reduce groundwater extraction is by reducing electricity subsidies. An analysis of panel data across 370 districts in India found that a reduction in electricity subsidy was correlated with a decrease in groundwater extraction. On average, a 10% reduction in electricity subsidy generated a 6.7% decrease in groundwater extraction. However, reducing electricity subsidies for farmers could be politically unpopular.

Not Pay



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 31.10.18 in the

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

Mint Delhi

U

and documented at Bhagirathi(English) & Publicity Section, CWC. THE ECONOMIC TIMES

One possible way to overcome this challenge is by limiting the electricity subsidy offered to farmers and compensating them with a direct cash transfer for every unit they save. This provides farmers an incentive to use groundwater judiciously without any additional cost to the government.

The government of Punjab has entered into a partnership with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) to conduct a randomized evaluation to test this model. Researchers will estimate the impact of this cash transfer intervention on farmers' power use, with the ultimate goal being to reduce groundwater extraction.

Another way of efficiently using groundwater is by encouraging farmers to adopt micro-irrigation techniques such as drip irrigation and micro-sprinklers. According to the CWMI report, adopting micro-irrigation techniques can save roughly 20% of the groundwater used annually on irrigation in India. A key challenge is to convince farmers to adopt such techniques.

A study by Kumar and Palanisami showed that the adoption of drip irrigation increased in areas where less water-intensive crops such as banana, grapes and coconut were grown. Additionally, the study found that the adoption of drip irrigation was higher in regions where water and labour were scarcer. Thus, it would be prudent for policymakers and researchers to encourage adoption of drip irrigation practices and rigorously evaluate its impact on groundwater levels in such areas.

Lastly, creating sustainable change would require a bottom-up approach by empowering the local community to become active participants in managing groundwater. In line with this, the central government in its 12th five-year plan proposed a policy of participatory groundwater management (PGM), which involves a collaborative approach among government departments, researchers, NGOs and community members. The plan involves training community workers to carry out aquifer mapping and implement innovative ways to use groundwater conservatively with the local community.

The PGM has been implemented in different states, albeit with some variations, such as the Andhra Pradesh Farmer Managed Groundwater Systems (APFAMGS) programme in Andhra Pradesh and Pani Panchayats in Maharashtra.

However, there is almost no research study evaluating its impact. While this void is disconcerting, it also presents an opportunity for researchers and policymakers to design and test different interventions ranging from awareness campaigns to training programmes that effectively mobilize and equip the local community to work towards groundwater conservation.

Groundwater has helped India overcome food shortage in the 1960s by playing an instrumental role in ushering in the green revolution. However, the NITI Aayog CWMI report is a timely reminder of the need for policymakers and researchers to come together and conduct rigorous evaluations in order to understand what works and what doesn't work for groundwater conservation.

Unless we take urgent measures to avert this crisis, we may find ourselves faced with an environmental catastrophe of our own making.

Ashwin MB is a research associate with J-PAL South Asia at IFMR.

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 31/10/2018 in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

DNA, Mumbai ✓

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

Arunachal river may flood, warning issued

Itanagar: Authorities here asked people not to venture into the Siang river flowing through Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh following a landslide in Tipting which could trigger possible floods in the state.

The possibility of floods in the Siang river looms large if the artificial dam, formed by Monday morning's landslide on the Yarlung Tsangpo river, breached, according to officials.

The Yarlung Tsangpo river is known as Siang in Arunachal Pradesh and Brahmaputra in Assam. Upper Siang DC Duly Kamduk said in a circular on Tuesday that the Department of Disaster Management had informed the Upper Siang district administration about the landslide at the Milin section of the Yarlung Tsangpo river and the possibility of floods in the Siang.

The circular also stated that there has been an unprecedented decrease in the volume of water in the Siang river at Tuting since



Yarlung Tsangpo river is known as Siang in Arunachal — WIKIMEDIA

 The foreign ministry informed the Central Water Commission (CWC) about the landslide that occurred in the Yarlung Tsangpo river, at the same place where another landslide had occurred.

Ravi Ranjan, CWC superintending engineer

Monday night.

Advising people to take precautionary measures, the DC asked them not to panic or create panic.

Central Water Commis-

sion superintending Engineer of Guwahati-based circle office, Ravi Ranjan said, "The External Affairs Ministry on Monday night informed the Central Water

Commission (CWC) about the landslide that occurred in the Yarlung Tsangpo River at the same place where another landslide had occurred a fortnight ago."

There was nothing to panic as only 1.44 metres of water volume had decreased since 10 pm on Monday to 8 am on Tuesday, Ranjan said.

According to the hydrological data of the CWC, the water level of the Siang River at Tuting is falling at the rate of one cm per hour.

Since it is the winter season, the volume of discharge of water in the river would come down by 40 to 50 per cent, the DC said.

India and China have established Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) in 2006 to discuss various issues related to trans-border rivers. Under the agreements, China provides hydrological information of Yarlung Tsangpo to India during the flood seasons. This year, however, the data sharing was extended due to the barrier lake in the river.

— PTI

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 31.10.2018..... in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

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

कर्नाटक ने सूखा राहत के लिए मांगे 2,434 करोड़

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): कर्नाटक सरकार ने राज्य के 24 जिलों में सूखा राहत के लिए केंद्र से 2,434 करोड़ रुपये की मांग की। गृह मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह के साथ एक बैठक में राज्य के राजस्व मंत्री- आर वी देशपांडे और एन एच शिवशंकर रेड्डी दोनों ने राज्य के बाढ़ प्रभावित इलाकों के लिए भी 722 करोड़ रुपये की सहायता जल्द जारी किए जाने का आग्रह किया। राज्य सरकार के दोनों मंत्रियों ने राज्य में किसानों की महाजनी कर्ज देने

वालों से बचाने के मकसद से राज्य मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा पारित ऋण राहत विधेयक को लागू करने के लिए अध्यादेश को केंद्र से मंजूरी दिलाने का भी आग्रह किया।

देशपांडे ने बैठक के बाद संवाददाताओं से कहा कि हमने प्रदेश के 24 जिलों के 100 तालुक को सूखा प्रभावित घोषित किया है। सूखे के कारण 74.6 लाख हेक्टेयर में से 47 प्रतिशत क्षेत्र में खरीफ की फसलें प्रभावित हुई हैं।

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 31.10.2018..... in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

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

सीएसई की रिपोर्ट

सरकार के वादे झूठे, 2020 तक गंगा नहीं होगी साफ



पत्रिका
डेटा
डीकोडेड

रवि शर्मा
ratrika.com

१९/११

नखनऊ. पवित्र नदी गंगा सिर्फ एक नदी नहीं, यह हमारी संस्कृति और मान्यताओं से जुड़ी है। लेकिन, आज गा देश की सबसे गंदी नदियों में गमार है। सरकार 2020 तक गंगा को हर कीमत पर साफ किये जाने को लेकर प्रतिबद्ध है। लेकिन, नमीनी हकीकत कुछ है। एक तिष्ठित पत्रिका की रिपोर्ट की माने तो दो साल में गंगा कतई साफ नहीं हो सकती। भले ही इसके लिए भारी-भरकम बजट सरकार खर्च कर दे



और राजनीतिक बयानबाजी करती रहे।

मंगलवार को राजधानी में सेंटर फॉर साइंस एंड एनवायरमेंट (सीएसई) की पत्रिका डाउन टू अर्थ के स्वच्छता गंगा, चुनौतियां वही

2019 के गंगा पर आधारित अंक के विमोचन के दौरान अब तक के अध्ययन के आधार पर यह निष्कर्ष निकला कि अभी गंगा साफ नहीं होगी बल्कि यह हमेशा की तरह प्रदूषित बनी रहेगी। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक चार

साल पहले प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने स्वच्छ गंगा का वादा किया था। बावजूद इसके गंगा नदी प्रदूषित है। नदी के किनारों पर रहने वाले लोग भले ही आंशिक रूप से उपचारित सीवेज का पानी पी सकते हैं, लेकिन गंगाजल नहीं। जबकि, सरकार का दावा था कि गंगा 2019 तक साफ हो जाएगी। अब यह समयसीमा 2020 तक बढ़ा दी गई है।

विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि गंगा नदी में पानी का स्तर खतरनाक दर से नीचे जा रहा है। अगर नदी में प्रवाह को बनाए रखा जाता तो नदी में मौजूद कार्बन प्रदूषण का 60 से 80 प्रतिशत खुद ही दूर कर लेती, लेकिन चिंता इसी बात की है कि भविष्य में जल का प्रवाह और कम हो जाएगा। भागीरथी और अलकनंदा

पर स्थापित कई जलविद्युत परियोजनाओं ने गंगा के ऊपरी हिस्से को परिस्थितिकीय रेगिस्तान में बदल दिया है। इसीलिए 1970 के दशक के मुकाबले 2016 में नदी के बेसफ्लो में 56 प्रतिशत की कमी आई है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, उत्तर प्रदेश में गंगा बेसिन कस्बों में सीबरेज नेटवर्क बनाने के लिए 5,794 करोड़ रुपए की आवश्यकता होगी। यह नमामि गंगे के पूरे व्यय से एक चौथाई अधिक है। सफाई कार्यक्रम में देरी से लागत में वृद्धि हो रही है। नेशनल मिशन क्वीन गंगा के अनुसार 22,323 करोड़ रुपए के परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी गई है, लेकिन अप्रैल 2018 तक स्वीकृत राशि का केवल 23 प्रतिशत ही उपयोग किया जा सका है।