

News item/letter/article/editorial published on May-3.5.2015 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
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
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The Times of India (A)
Blitz



COLLATERAL DAMAGE: Several parked cars were damaged when huge trees fell on them during the heavy rain that lashed the City on Saturday. (Below) Pedestrians try to cross the waterlogged MG Road. DH PHOTOS

Over 30 trees uprooted as rain continues to pound City

Five vehicles damaged by falling trees in Jayanagar

BENGALURU: More than 30 trees were uprooted on Saturday, following the rainfall that lashed the city. Jayanagar was the worst affected with more than 15 trees being uprooted.

In Jayanagar, trees were uprooted near Ashoka Pillar; Krishna Kalyana Mandira; Jayanagar 4th 'T' block (at 38th, 39 and 40th cross); near Adyar Ananda Bhavan; Tilak Nagar and East End Main Road.

BBMP reported complaints of tree falling at Cubbon Road, Johnson Market, Ashok Nagar, near Hosmat Hospital, near Dayanand Sagar College in Kumaraswamy Layout, JP Nagar 6th Phase, Puttenahalli, Vijayanagar 6th Main Road, Radha Krishna Hospital at Girinagar, Banashankari BDA complex, near Raghavendra Mutt in Banashankari 2nd Stage, Rajkumar Road in Rajajinagar, Vijaya Bank Colony, Bannerghatta Road



and Puttenahalli.

Five vehicles were damaged in Jayanagar as trees crashed on them. Apart from uprooting of trees, the rainfall led to traffic jams. Bumper-to-bumper traffic was witnessed near

Chinnaswamy stadium, Mare-nahalli main road, JC Road, Residency Road (till Brigade Road Junction), Shanthala Junction in Majestic and on Ballari Road (near Hebbal fly-over). Peak-hour traffic was re-

ported at Chennamma Circle (from Kamakya theatre Circle on Outer Ring Road).

Ambulances passing through Trinity Circle, MG Road were seen struggling to reach their destinations. Wa-

terlogging was reported at Shivajinagar bus stand due to which motorists and commuters were put to inconvenience. The footpaths at the bus stand were submerged in rainwater, adding to the woes of the commuters.

N Jayanti, general manager, customer relations, Bescom, said, "We have received 2,600 complaints and the helpline numbers are busy with calls from residents since evening. Action is being taken and we are closely monitoring the situation."

"The most number of poles have fallen in South and East zone, due to uprooting of trees and strong winds".

The city recorded 9.3 mm of rainfall till 5.30 pm, HAL Airport about 0.8 mm and BIAL received trace rainfall. According to Indian Meteorological Department, Bengaluru, the city will experience moderate rainfall for the next two to three days.

DH News Service

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Hope for Saraswati river surfaces

Water strikes at nine spots at 7-foot depth in Yamunanagar's Mughalwali village



Deputy Commissioner SS Phulia and District Development and Panchayat Officer Gagandeep Singh dig at Mughalwali village in Yamunanagar district on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTOGRAPH

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

YAMUNANAGAR, MAY 5

It was a joyous moment for a team working on reviving the Saraswati river in Yamunanagar district as they found strong water current on reaching a depth of seven feet today.

This has raised hope for the project, which was receiving criticism from various planks who termed it an RSS ambition.

Assembly Speaker Kanwar Pal Gurjar had inaugurated the excavation work of 'Saraswati Revival Project' at Rullaheri village in Yamunanagar district on April 21.

After inauguration, the District Development and Panchayat Department had undertaken digging work in two-and-a-half-km area. Water struck at nine spots when the creek of river was being dug at Mughalwali

Myth or reality

- The river's length in Yamunanagar would be 55 km and would pass through 43 villages
- It is believed that the river passes underground through Kurukshetra, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad and Sirsa districts before entering Rajasthan and Gujarat

district would be 55 km.

Earlier, plan was to dig the river till seven feet deep. However, now, they were planning to dig it till 10 feet deep for good natural flow of water. The river would pass through 43 villages of the district.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has already announced ₹50 crore for the project.

The credit to bring the Saraswati River on ground goes to 88-year-old RSS veteran Darshan Lal Jain. He had formed Saraswati Nidi Sodh Sansthan in 1999 and since then, has been struggling for its revival.

"Some people thought it to be a mythological fantasy but water found at 7-foot-deep in its creek has proved that the Saraswati River is flowing below the earth," said Darshan Lal Jain.

The river originates from Adi Badri in Yamunanagar.

village on Tuesday.

"The water is potable, fresh in taste and sweet," said Deputy Commissioner SS Phulia, after a visit to the Mughalwali village.

The people of the village offered prayers to Goddess Saraswati and distributed sweets.

District Development and Panchayat Officer Gagan-deep Singh, who is coordinating the Saraswati Revival Project, said the river length in Yamunanagar

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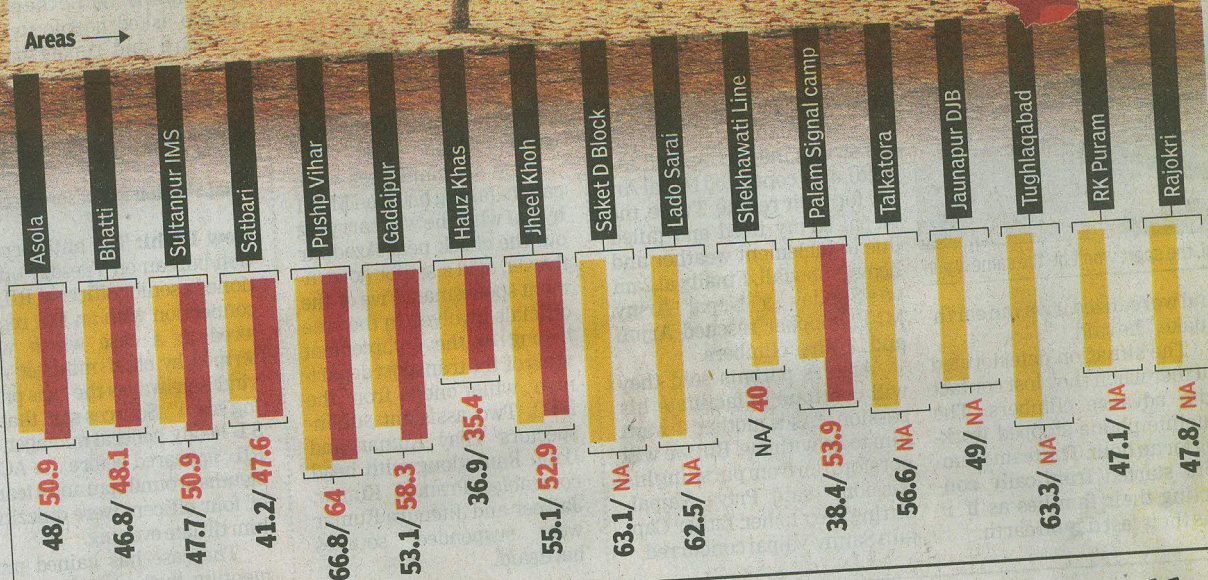
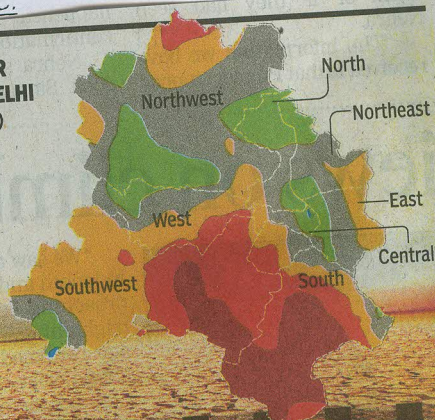
SINKING MORE AND MORE

Areas with critical (red category)
groundwater levels (in metres
below ground level)

Jan
2010 2015
Areas →

DEPTH OF WATER
LEVEL OF NCT-DELHI
(November 2014)
in mbgl

Less than 2
2 to 5
5 to 10
10 to 20
20 to 40
More than 40



Water level down in 53% of wells

► Continued from P1

The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) found that between November 2013 and November 2014, 53% of all wells in the city showed a drop in the water level. Of these, the drop was up to 2m in 40% of wells and more than that in the rest.

A recent study by Shashank Shekhar of the earth sciences department at Delhi University found the rate of decline in water levels to be as high as 1.7 to 2 metres per year in some areas of south and southwest Delhi.

"Localities such as Tughlakabad and Pushp Vihar have indeed gone down to below 60 metres. But we have to understand that to extract water, one has to go another 20 metres deeper. So the depth to water level could be about 80 metres in these areas," said Shekhar.

"Once this reaches 120 metres, the aquifer becomes unproductive. The situation is alarming in south Delhi as

The steady drop in the water table, however, is yet to stir the Delhi government into action. There is, for instance, no data on how many rainwater harvesting structures are being built and are functioning in the city

exploited like this," he added.

Shekhar said such over-exploitation would impact the biodiversity of the area. "When soil moisture gets affected, plants and the general ecology will see a change. Roots of certain plants will obviously not go so deep and this will gradually lead to a new type of biota like cacti or other varieties."

This steady drop in the water table, however, is yet to stir the Delhi government into action.

There is, for instance, no data on how many rainwater harvesting structures are being built and are functioning in the city.

"Delhi made rainwater harvesting mandatory in 2000. There was a court order directing the Delhi government to harvest rainwater in every road and flyover. Later, building bylaws were amended to make it mandatory for every new house with a rooftop space of more than 100 sq metres to have an RWH structure. But most of this is only on paper. There is no monitoring to check if RWH systems in these houses are functioning," said Sushmita Sengupta of Centre for Science and Environment.

CGWB officials said they had helped set up several RWH prototypes in Talkatora garden, Kushak drain, Lodhi garden, President's Estate and other places. "I am not sure whether these are still functioning. We only helped set these up. Their upkeep depends on the agencies concerned," said the CGWB official.

CSE recently found sewage seeping into an RWH structure on the AIIMS flyover which can do more damage than good.

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At 40.8°C, Capital sweats on hottest day of the season

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Delhi was left sizzling on Tuesday as the city experienced the hottest day of the season so far with the maximum temperature touching 40.8 degrees Celsius.

According to the weatherman, the remainder of the week is going to be just as hot. The maximum temperature was two degrees above normal.

The city saw the temperature climb to 40.6 degrees on April 19 but it remained below the 40 degree mark on most days till Tuesday.

Tuesday's minimum temperature, meanwhile, was recorded as 21.3 degrees Celsius, four degrees below normal.

According to the Met department, the maximum temperature on Wednesday is expected to be 41 degrees Celsius while the minimum will be around 22 degrees Celsius.

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Water table dropping fast in 'critical' S Delhi areas

Jayashree.Nandi
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Residents of Pushp Vihar have to dig 80 metres to extract water from the ground. It's one of hundreds of localities in south and southwest Delhi where the groundwater situation is termed 'critical'. What's alarming, however, is that in

FULL COVERAGE: P 5

many of these areas, the water table continues to deplete rapidly and no steps are being taken to reverse the trend.

TOI accessed the latest Central Ground Water Board data on the area and found the

FALLING 2 METRES PER YEAR

► Water table falling by **1.7 to 2 metres per year** in areas of south and southwest Delhi, says DU study

► Aquifers in Tughlakabad & Pushp Vihar, where water is extracted at 80m, may be close to turning unproductive



► Groundwater board says **53%** of wells in Delhi showed a fall between Nov 2013 & 2014. Of this, dip was up to 2m in 46% and more than that in the rest

► Govt has no data on number of rainwater harvesting structures in city or how many are functional

water table had dropped by 7 metres in Satbari village in the past five years, by 5m in Gadai-pur, 3m in Asola and Sultanpur, and 2m in Bhatti.

"Massive depletion is taking place due to over-extraction.

While too much water is being taken out, very little is getting recharged because of concretization," confirmed a CGWB official.

► Continued on P 5

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Govt moves slow on rainwater harvesting

Scheme On Backburner For 2 Yrs Despite Residents Being Keen; DJB Plans To Push It Now

Neha.Lalchandani
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Record March rainfall this time could have helped the city tide over its summer water crisis had the water been tapped properly, but most of it just flowed down sewers after flooding roads and jamming traffic. It isn't that the city lacks a rainwater harvesting programme (RWH), but for about two years now it has been on the backburner despite keen interest from residents—during the

AAP government's budget consultations in Mayur Vihar, people made a strong pitch for RWH.

The city's groundwater levels have plunged after years of indiscriminate pumping and RWH is the only way to replenish aquifers. But for that the programme has to be implemented citywide, not in a few demonstration projects.

The Sheila Dikshit government had created awareness about RWH and people who wanted to set up these systems got financial assistance. But



URGENTLY REQUIRED

later, the programme got pushed to the background in an atmosphere of political flux.

"There is no significant increase in RWH within the city between last year and now.

Some mandatory work has been done for new buildings but nothing substantial," said Jyoti Sharma, director of Force, an NGO. Delhi Jal Board had appointed Force and heritage body Intach to set up RWH pilot projects in two zones.

"We had created several designs for RWH structures and submitted them to the government for construction through the 'My Delhi, I Care' fund. While the fund has not been scrapped, no assistance has been granted from it in the past year or so," Sharma said.

It is mandatory for all buildings that discharge 10,000 litres or more of sewage every day, and those that are built on plots larger than 100sqm, to harvest rainwater. Under the 'My Delhi, I Care' programme, each district magistrate had Rs 7 crore to Rs 8 crore for RWH and could allocate Rs 5 lakh to Rs 7 lakh to each resident welfare association. Individuals could not apply for the assistance, though.

In 2010, it was decided that borewells would be allowed on plots larger than 200sqm only

if RWH systems were installed. However, there is no monitoring or enforcement of this rule.

DJB says it will actively promote RWH this summer. Sanjam Chima, consultant PRO of the board, said, "We are giving a rebate of 10% to households that have RWH and 15% if there is a water recycling plant on the premises. The water utility will take up a public awareness programme to sensitize people and encourage them to install RWH systems."

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टिहरी बांध, जैतापुर परमाणु संयंत्र पर आशंकाएं

बेंगलुरु, (आईएनएस): नेपाल में विनाशकारी भूकंप से भारत के उत्तराखंड में टिहरी बांध पर विवाद एक बार फिर खड़ा हो गया है। इस बांध ने 2006-2007 में काम करना शुरू कर दिया था। महाराष्ट्र के जैतापुर में एक परमाणु संयंत्र की स्थापना का प्रस्ताव भी रखा गया है। रोम स्थित 'इंटरनेशनल एसोसिएशन फॉर प्रोमोटिंग जियोएथिक्स' (आईएपीजी) ने कहा कि स्वतंत्र भूकंप वैज्ञानिकों की सलाह के बावजूद बांध और इस परमाणु संयंत्र के लिए स्थान के चुनाव को मंजूरी दी गई।

'आईएपीजी' ने अपने ताजा रपट 'जियोएथिक्स, एथिकल चैलेंजिंग एंड केस स्टडीज इन अर्थ साइंसेज' में टिहरी बांध और जैतापुर परमाणु संयंत्र को सबसे विवादास्पद परियोजनाएं बताई हैं। 260.5 मीटर ऊंचा टिहरी बांध देश का सबसे ऊंचा बांध है और 9,900 मैगावाट क्षमता वाला परमाणु संयंत्र विश्व का सबसे बड़ा परमाणु संयंत्र है। हैदराबाद स्थित भूभौतिकीय अनुसंधान संस्थान के पूर्व निदेशक और इस अध्ययन के अध्ययनकर्ता विनोद गौड़ ने बताया कि टिहरी बांध मध्य हिमालय में स्थित है और

भूकम्प का डर

सबसे ज्यादा विवादास्पद हैं दोनों परियोजनाएं

यह प्रत्येक 100 साल में लगभग दो मीटर भारत में दक्षिण की ओर बढ़ रहा है। गौड़ के मुताबिक, टिहरी बांध का निर्माण 1972 में किया गया था। इसका निर्माण इस अनुमान पर आधारित था कि इस स्थल पर रिक्टर पैमाने पर अधिकतम 7.2 तीव्रता के भूकंप आ सकते हैं। गौड़ ने कहा कि

1980 के मध्य के आसपास भूकंप की तीव्रता का अंदेशा 7.2 से बढ़ाकर 8.5 कर दिया गया, लेकिन टिहरी बांध के सलाहकारों ने बांध के निर्माण संरचना के आधार पर 0.25 जी (जी से यहाँ तात्पर्य गुरुत्वाकर्षण की वजह से बढ़ोतरी है) को बरकरार रखा।

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नवभारत टाइम्स > नई दिल्ली > बुधवार, 6 मई 2015 > पेज 16

मिल गई सरस्वती नदी!

हरियाणा में मुस्लिम दंपती के फावड़े से निकली धारा

■ एस पी रावत, कुरुक्षेत्र

लुप्त हो चुकी प्राचीन सरस्वती नदी के उद्गम स्थल को हरियाणा के यमुनानगर में खोज लिया गया है। जिला प्रशासन ने भी इसकी पुष्टि कर दी है। यमुनानगर का आदिबद्री क्षेत्र सरस्वती का उद्गम स्थल माना जाता रहा है। वहां से पांच किलोमीटर दूर रूलाहेडी से इस नदी की खुदाई 21 अप्रैल को शुरू की गई थी। मंगलवार शाम मुगलवाली गांव के पास खुदाई के दौरान 4 बजे नदी मिलने की बात कही गई। सूचना मिलते ही आसपास के लोगों के अलावा उपायुक्त डॉ. एस. एस. फुलिया सहित जिला प्रशासन के बड़े अधिकारी मुगलवाली गांव पहुंच गए। खुद उपायुक्त ने एक गड्ढा अलग जगह खोदा और उसमें से 8-9 फुट पर पानी फूट पड़ा। इसके बाद जगाधरी के एसडीएम प्रेमचंद और डीडीपीओ गगनदीप सिंह ने भी गड्ढा खोदा जिनसे पानी निकला।

डीसी बोले, हकीकत में तब्दील हुआ मिथ : सरस्वती नदी का जल प्रवाह मिलने की बात यमुनानगर के डीसी ने भी मान ली है और चंडीगढ़ से बाकायदा प्रेस नोट जारी किया गया है। मुगलवाली गांव में उपायुक्त ने कहा कि पुराणों में वर्णित सरस्वती नदी आज हकीकत में धरती पर अवतरित हो गई है। डीसी के मुताबिक, सैटलाइट के माध्यम से सरस्वती नदी के छाया रूप को हकीकत में बदल दिया गया। गांव छलौर में अब बड़ा जलाशय बनाया जाएगा।



7 फुट पर मिली सरस्वती

सरस्वती नदी की खुदाई करने वाले मुस्लिम दंपती सलमा और रफीक के फावड़े से 7 फुट पर सरस्वती नदी का पानी फूट पड़ा। 15 दिनों के अंदर लगभग 3 किलोमीटर की खुदाई की जा चुकी है। डीसी ने बताया कि सोमवार को कुछ-कुछ जगहों पर पानी की बूंदें टपकी थीं और मंगलवार को सरस्वती नदी की 7-8 फुट की गहराई पर प्रचुर मात्रा में पानी फूट पड़ा।

ट्यूबवेलों में पानी 85 फीट नीचे

जिस जगह पर सरस्वती नदी मिलने की बात कही जा रही है उसके आसपास पानी के कई ट्यूबवेल भी लगे हुए हैं और उनमें भूमिगत जलस्तर 85 फुट से नीचे है। ऐसे में महज सात फुट पर पानी निकलने से सभी हैरान हैं। सरस्वती नदी शोध संस्थान के अध्यक्ष दर्शनलाल जैन ने करीब बीस साल पहले यह काम शुरू किया था।

कब से शुरू हुआ काम : सरस्वती नदी शोध संस्थान के अध्यक्ष दर्शनलाल जैन ने करीब 20 साल पहले यह काम अपने हाथ में लिया था। तब केंद्र में जगमोहन पर्यटन मंत्री थे तो करोड़ों रुपया खर्च करके देश के कई भागों में सरस्वती की खोज में खुदाई का काम हुआ था। मगर सरकार बदलने के बाद काम बंद हो गया था।

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

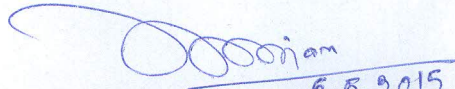
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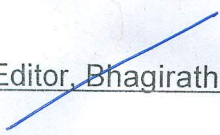
Dated

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 stated above.


 Assistant Director (publicity) 6.5.2015
 for


Editor Bhagirath (English) & Publicity


Director (T.D.)

 6/5

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