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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 will be uploaded on the CWC website.

Encl: As stated above.

P. Mahendran.
6.12.2018
SPA (Publicity)

o/c

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

[Signature]
6/12/18

Director, WSE Dte.

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6/12/18

For information to

Chairman CWC, New Delhi

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

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 06.12.2018 in the

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

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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
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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

TN to hold special session over Mekedatu Dam dispute today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, DECEMBER 5

THE TAMIL Nadu government has called for a special session of the state Assembly Thursday to press for the withdrawal of the Central Water Commission's (CWC) nod to Karnataka to prepare a detailed project report on Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir and Drinking Water Project - proposed across the Cauvery in Karnataka's Ramanagaram district with its tail in Tamil Nadu.

On November 22, Central Water Commission (CWC) gave a go-ahead to Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited for preparation of a detailed report on Mekedatu.

Tamil Nadu has maintained that the project will affect water flow in Cauvery. It has argued that the CWC nod was a violation of the Supreme Court's order on Cauvery water-sharing issue and moved to file a contempt petition against the CWC chairman, Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy and Karnataka

Water Resources Minister DK Shivakumar for violating the Supreme Court order on the issue.

"We earlier passed a resolution in 2015 seeking the Centre's intervention to stop the project report on Mekedatu. The Assembly session on Thursday evening will pass yet another resolution in this regard," a senior AIADMK minister told *The Indian Express*.

The decision to convene a special Assembly session comes on the heels of the protests and massive public meetings by Opposition parties, including the DMK, accusing the Centre of favouring Karnataka and failing to protect the interests of Tamil Nadu despite their frequent meetings with the PM and BJP ministers.

DMK chief MK Stalin Tuesday said the party will not let Modi enter Tamil Nadu if his government goes ahead with the project. "PM Modi, please remember that if you betray Tamil Nadu on the Mekedatu project and fail to save the people, we will create a situation in which you will never come here," Stalin said.

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Gadkari: 254 projects approved for Ganga rejuvenation

The government has sanctioned 254 projects for the rejuvenation of the Ganga, Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday, adding Prime Minister Modi had suggested to clean the river first and then focus on its continuous flow. Seeking to blunt the criticism on the government's exercise to clean the river, he said a lot of projects have been undertaken under the Namami Gange Mission.

PTI

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'You will see aviral Ganga from March '19'

TIO-CC

New Delhi: Union water resources minister **Nitin Gadkari** on Wednesday claimed that the government had "freed Kanpur from the ill-effects of Sismat drain after 128 years", considered as one of the main polluters of Ganga, and that significant changes would be visible on the ground after March next year.



Banking on 254 sanctioned projects at an estimated cost of Rs 24,000 crore, he said he would like to assure people that "their dream of rejuvenated Ganga will soon be fulfilled".

He was speaking here at the India Water Impact Summit 2018 during which the government released Ganga River Basin Management Plan of five main stem river basin-states and launched Green Ganga App which will be used for geo-tagging saplings. He also said the 'Aviralta' (uninterrupted flow) of river Ganga had also been given importance and a notification had been published in October to ensure that required level of ecological flow was always maintained. TNN

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Modi's priority is clean Ganga: Gadkari

'The issue of uninterrupted flow of the river can be addressed later'

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had suggested that efforts must first be made to clean the Ganga and then the question of ensuring environmental flows could be addressed, Nitin Gadkari, Union Water Resources Minister, said at the India Water Impact Summit here on Wednesday. This is a significant statement, as prioritising environmental flows – and not mere cleaning – was a key demand of the

late environmentalist and seer G.D. Agrawal, who went on a fast in June demanding that the government act on its promise to clean and save the Ganga, and died on October 11.

Hydropower projects

He had, in a letter to Mr. Modi on June 22, demanded that all under-construction and proposed hydropower projects on the Ganga and the rivers that fed it be cancelled.

This was critical to ensur-

ing that the river remained 'aviral', its flow uninterrupted.

The tension between 'aviral' and 'swachh' (clean) has, for long, plagued the mission to clean the Ganga.

"The Prime Minister gave us a suggestion, that first you work for a 'clean Ganga' and then talk about 'aviral Ganga.' We constituted several committees of IITians and experts and concluded that 'aviralta' is a matter of great importance for us," said Mr. Gadkari.

Former Union Water Resources Secretary Shashi Shekhar, who led the Ministry between June 2015 and December 2016, told *The Hindu* that treating sewage and cleaning the river was always the priority.

"The Prime Minister had said, that priority 1 was cleaning the river and priority 2 was ecology. We are still far from cleaning the river, and the ecological flows notification (of October) is quite inadequate," he said.

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NEERI to help govt tap Yamuna floodwater

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New Delhi: Delhi government will be taking the help of National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to tap floodwater and rainwater during monsoon, recharge aquifers and store water in reservoirs along the Yamuna to plug the demand and supply gap of potable water in the national capital.

Senior government functionaries confirmed that NEERI director Rakesh Kumar met the flood and irrigation department minister Satyendar Jain in his office in Delhi secretariat. They discussed the possibility of tapping millions of gallons of floodwater released in Yamuna from Hathnikund barrage every monsoon.

Sources said NEERI will assess how much water can be stored and submit a report to Delhi government in the next few weeks. The agency will also extend technical knowhow to execute the plan, officials said.

The water released from Hathnikund every monsoon, if stored, is adequate to

meet the ever-increasing requirement of the city, government officials said.

Against the current demand of about 1,130 million gallons per day (MGD), Delhi Jal Board manages to supply 913 MGD through various sources, including 80-90 MGD from ranney and tube wells, 375 MGD from the Yamuna, 240 MGD Ganga water and 218 MGD from Bhakra storage. There is a shortfall of over 200 MGD.

Water released from Hathnikund every monsoon, if stored, is enough to meet Delhi's ever-increasing requirement

"Studies done by the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Central Ground Water Board and other agencies mention that the depth of sand in the Yamuna floodplain is about 40 metres and has a buffer capacity to store substantial water," said a senior government official.

The official added, "The huge tract on the left of the 28km Yamuna stretch betwe-

en Palla at Delhi-Haryana border and Wazirabad can be used to create banks and reservoirs and channelise additional water to percolate in aquifers. This will not only help increase the groundwater level, but improve the base-flow of the Yamuna."

The groundwater can then be extracted by installing more ranney wells. "There will be sufficient water available to easily meet the supply shortage of 200-300MGD. Channelising water for storage will not have any adverse impact on the ecological flow of the river," the official added.

Officials, however, said that a large part of the land along the Yamuna is owned by individuals and the government will have to work out a strategy to be able to use it during monsoon. The government will need 600-800 acres to set up the storage facility.

"An agreement will have to be made with the farmers for using their land during monsoon. They can be either paid rent or given a portion of the stored water for agricultural purposes," the official added.

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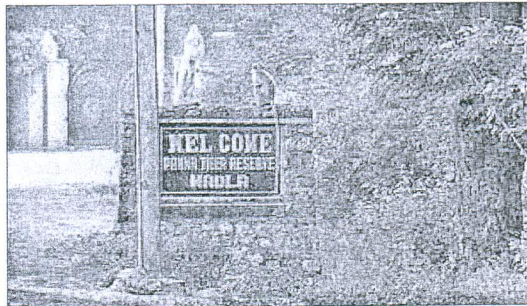
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DNA, Mumbai

CEC to visit Ken Betwa location to check measures



Experts say the project may cause long-term damage to Panna tiger reserve

DNA EXCLUSIVE

Nikhil M Ghanekar
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New Delhi: The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) will visit the site of the Ken Betwa river linking project (KBLP) in Madhya Pradesh to assess the efficacy of measures suggested by the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) in order to mitigate damage to forest and wildlife in the Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR). During their visit, the CEC would also see a presentation on the project by the Madhya Pradesh forest department.

The project is based on diverting the Ken river's water to the Betwa river basin, but the project dam would submerge 100 sq.km of forest land, and impact the habitats of tigers, vultures and gharials.

The CEC is examining a plea that claimed the project clearance is in violation of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (WPA). On Monday, the CEC called senior officials of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and wildlife division of the Union environment ministry to hear their response to the plea.

The petitioner's advocate said the project is in contravention of the WPA, which prohibits diversion of water

KEN BETWA PROJECT

The project, that aims to link Ken river to the Betwa river basin, has been stuck due to lack of consensus between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, while experts have said it could inflict long-term damage on the river and the wildlife.

and exploitation of wildlife inside a national park unless the state government and NBWL are satisfied that it is necessary for betterment of wildlife. In response, NTCA and the wildlife division said a site inspection was carried out before the NBWL clearance, and mitigation measures were recommended based on the site inspection report.

The NTCA and environment ministry officials said that as part of the mitigation measures, three sanctuaries would be added to the Panna landscape area.

However, the CEC questioned the connectivity of the three sanctuaries with PTR and sought to know about their proximity to the tiger reserve. The committee also said they were not sure how the addition of area to PTR's landscape and impounding of water for the river linking project would help wildlife.

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UNDOING HISTORY

H.T. 6 9-20



■ We can create large statues, but can we restore the choked and dying river? REUTERS

A free-flowing Yamuna is critical to the Taj's future

A dry and polluted river could disintegrate the wooden foundations that support the world-famous mausoleum

KUSALA
RAJENDRAN



A "teardrop on the cheek of time" is how Rabindranath Tagore described the Taj Mahal. For some, "teardrop" represents the tragedy that befell Shah Jahan as he spent his last days in captivity, gazing at the mausoleum and its reflection in the Yamuna. Perhaps, the Mughal emperor's words — "the sight of this mansion creates sorrowing sighs and makes sun and moon shed tears from their eyes" — captured his love for Mumtaz Mahal, but reading those lines today makes me think that the tears are trickling down a sluggishly flowing Yamuna, carrying the waste left by humans.

When Shah Jahan eternalised his love for Mumtaz, he must have believed that the river would be flowing forever. But for the lack of foresight on that one issue, his decisions were perfect. The choice of a site near a sharp bend in the river was for aesthetics and to reduce scouring by erosion.

There was no solid ground on which the foundation could be built. So they used a well foundation, an engineering practice using deep wells to lower the water table and filling them with rocks and mortar. Finally they were capped with wooden, boxlike structures on which the mausoleum was constructed.

Little is known about the Taj's foundation, and these details have been dug up by SC Handa, a former professor at IIT, Roorkee. The Yamuna is an integral part of the Taj's

design and there was no anticipation that it would dry or become narrow.

But the river has narrowed and it is polluted. The wooden foundations are likely to become brittle and might disintegrate because, as Venice, built on a wooden foundation, shows, longevity of wood increases when it is submerged in water.

When the wood is not exposed to oxygen there are no microorganisms to promote decay. A dry Yamuna could promote disintegration of the wooden foundations, the corrosive effect of the polluted water adding to the decay. Thus, to retain the structural integrity of the Taj Mahal, a free-flowing Yamuna in its original form is a must. We should feel proud and energised about river restorations because rivers have always been a part of our culture. We worship rivers, perform rituals, cremate the dead and offer prayers on their banks. Little surprise then that the premises of the Sarayu river, on the banks of which stands Ayodhya, is being chosen as the site for the proposed statue of Ram.

We can create large statues, but can we restore the choked and dying river?

The once mighty Sarayu, was about 1.5 kilometre-wide; today, it's just 80-40 metres wide and is polluted.

It is reported that the visionaries of the statue project plan to divert the flow of the Sarayu so as to touch the feet of the Lord at all times. But the rate at which these rivers are declining, how long would they last? Would Ram like the feel of polluted water flowing over his feet, day and night?

More than 300 years ago, the builders of the Taj could not have anticipated the drastic transformations that we are now seeing.

Kusala Rajendran is professor at the Centre for Earth Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. The views expressed are personal.

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TELLING NUMBERS

Extreme weather report: four neighbours worse hit than India

IN A report that places India 14th among countries most affected by extreme weather events in the last 20 years (*The Indian Express*, December 5), four of the country's neighbours are placed even higher. Myanmar is at rank 3, Bangladesh at 7, Pakistan at 8 and Nepal at 11 in the report, prepared by Germanwatch, an independent development organisation.

These rankings are based on a Climate Risk Index (CRI) developed by Germanwatch. It analyses quantified impacts of extreme weather events, in terms of fatalities and economic losses. It accounts for these impacts in absolute as well as relative terms. This explains why the four neighbouring countries are listed as more affected by India. Although India suffered 73,212 casualties during 1998-2017 and its annual average casualties during 1998-2017 was 3,660, second only to Myanmar's 7,048, an adjustment for population places Bangladesh,

Pakistan and Nepal above India on the list. For assessing economic impact, the CRI also looks at losses per unit GDP of each country.

During 1998-2017, India faced the super-cyclone in Odisha, other cyclones, floods, landslides and extreme rain and heatwave events. In a separate list that looked at CRI for 2017 alone, India is again ranked at 14, while Nepal is at 4 and Bangladesh at 9. The report mentions massive rains that affected 40 million people and caused 1,200 deaths in these three countries in 2017. Sri Lanka, whose 20-year rank is 31, is at rank 2 in 2017 (a year in which heavy rain and landslides left more than 200 dead). Conversely, Myanmar and Pakistan, which are among the most affected 15 for 1998-2017, improve to ranks 69 and 33 respectively for 2017. Myanmar's position in the 20-year list is largely on account of Cyclone Nargis in 2008, which left an estimated 1.40 lakh people dead.

THE 3 WORST HIT, AND INDIA & NEIGHBOURS

COUNTRY	RANK	DEATHS/YEAR	LOSSES/YEAR (\$mn PPP)
Puerto Rico	1	150.05	5,033.16
Honduras	2	302.45	556.56
Myanmar	3	7,048.85	1,275.96
Bangladesh	7	635.50	2,403.84
Pakistan	8	512.40	3,826.60
Nepal	11	235.30	230.83
India	14	3,660.60	12,822.71
Sri Lanka	31	60.75	491.05
China	37	1,240.80	36,601.70
Bhutan	105	1.65	4.99

Source: Germanwatch data for 1998-2017