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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.

S. Mahendram
11.12.18

SPA (Publicity)

O/c

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

[Signature]
11/12/18

Director, WSE Dte. *on tour*

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 14.12.2016 in the

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The Time of India (New Delhi)

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Hindustan (Hindi)

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

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Mekedatu: T.N. rejects Karnataka's offer of talks

'An attempt to impede proceedings in SC'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Monday turned down Karnataka government's offer of talks over the contentious proposal for a dam project across the Cauvery at Mekedatu, citing the proceedings in the Supreme Court over the issue and contending that it was sub judice.

Affecting proceedings

Referring to a letter of Minister for Water Resources D.K. Shivakumar, seeking an appointment with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister to discuss the issue, Tamil Nadu Law Minister C.Ve. Shanmugam said it was "an attempt to impede the proceedings" pending in a litigation moved by Tamil Nadu in the Supreme Court.

The offer of talks was also an attempt to impede contempt proceedings initiated against Mr. Shivakumar and others in the Supreme Court on December 5 and the matter was sub judice, Mr. Shanmugam pointed out and requested him not to go ahead with the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project.

"Any construction or even preparation of a DPR for construction of any new reservoir/project is a clear violation of the judgment of the Supreme Court. Hence, I request you to desist from preparation of a DPR for Mekedatu project. I also request the Karnataka government to comply with the judgment of the Supreme Court in letter and spirit," Mr. Shanmugam said.

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

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
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DNA, Mumbai ✓

Games the dragon plays

China, by building dams on trans-Himalayan rivers, can use water as political weapon against India



Brahma Chellaney

Just as China has changed the status quo in the South China Sea through an island-building strategy, it is working to re-engineer cross-border flows of international rivers that originate in Tibet,

which Beijing annexed in 1951.

No country will be more affected by China's dam frenzy than India because of one telling statistic: out of the 718 billion cubic metre of surface water that flows out of Chinese-held territory yearly, 347 billion cubic metre (or 48.3 per cent of the total) runs directly into India. Several major Indian rivers originate in Tibet, including the Brahmaputra, the Kosi, the Sutlej and the Indus.

China already boasts of large dams than the rest of the world put together. More importantly, it has emerged as the key obstacle to building institutionalised collaboration on shared water resources in Asia.

In contrast to the bilateral water treaties between many of its neighbours, China rejects the concept of a water-sharing arrangement or joint, rules-based management of common resources.

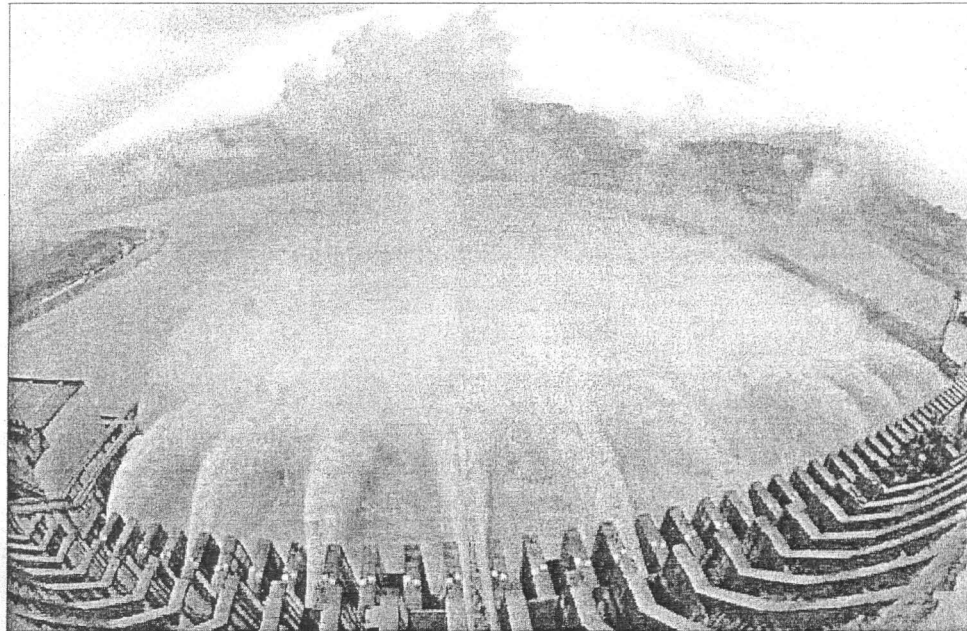
India has water-sharing treaties with both the countries located downstream to it: Pakistan and Bangladesh. These treaties govern the Indus and the Ganges.

By contrast, China, despite its unrivalled international status as the source of river flows to more than a dozen countries, stands out for not having a single water-sharing arrangement with any neighbour.

India's treaties with Pakistan and Bangladesh have actually set new principles in international water law. The 1996 Ganges treaty — which coincided with the 25th anniversary of Bangladesh's Indian-assisted independence — set a new standard by guaranteeing delivery of specific water quantities in the critical dry season.

The Indus treaty stands out as the world's most generous water pact, in terms of both the sharing ratio (80.52 per cent of the aggregate water flows in the six-river Indus system are reserved for Pakistan) and the total volume of basin waters for the downstream state (Pakistan gets 90 times greater volume of water than Mexico's share under a 1944 pact with the US).

China, in rejecting the 1997 UN convention that lays down rules on shared water resources, contended that an upstream power has the right to assert absolute territorial sovereignty over the waters on its side of the international boundary — or the right to divert as



India's 2,000 MW Tehri Dam on River Bhagirathi pales in comparison to China's 22,500 MW Three Gorges Dam (above) —FILE

much water as it wishes for its needs, irrespective of the effects on a downstream state.

Today, by building mega dams and reservoirs in its borderlands, China is working to divert the flows of major rivers that are the lifeline of lower riparian states.

Since the last decade, China's major dam building has moved from dam-saturated internal rivers to international rivers located in ethnic-minority homelands like Tibet.

On the Brahmaputra, China is racing to complete several additional dams located in close proximity to each other. This cascade of dams is likely to affect the quality and quantity of downstream flows into India and Bangladesh.

Only five rivers in the world carry more water than the Brahmaputra and only one — mainland China's Yellow River — carries more silt. The Brahmaputra is the world's highest-altitude river. It represents a unique fluvial ecosystem largely due to the heavy load of high-quality nutrient-rich silt it carries from forbidding Himalayan heights.

The Brahmaputra's annual flooding cycle helps to re-fertilise overworked soils in India's Assam plains and large parts of Bangladesh, where the river is the biggest source of water supply.

Today, by building mega dams and reservoirs in its borderlands, China is working to divert the flows of major rivers that serve as lifelines of so many lower riparian states

The silt-movement impediment by China's upstream dam projects constitutes a bigger threat to the biophysical vitality of the river and to the soil fertility of downstream plains than even the likely diminution of cross-border flows.

China's centralised, mega-projects-driven approach to water resources is the antithesis of the policy in India, where water is a state (not federal) subject under the Constitution and where anti-dam non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are powerful. India's Narmada Dam project, which remains incomplete decades after its construction began, symbolises the power of NGOs.

The largest dam India has built since independence — the 2,000-megawatt Tehri Dam on River Bhagirathi — pales in comparison to China's giant

projects, such as the 22,500-megawatt Three Gorges Dam and the new megadams on the Mekong like Xiaowan, which dwarfs Paris's Eiffel Tower in height, and Nuozhadu, which boasts of a 190-square-km reservoir.

China's population is just marginally larger than India's, but its internally renewable water resources (2.813 billion cubic metre per year) are almost twice as large as India's. In aggregate water availability, including external inflows (which are sizeable in India's case), China boasts of virtually 50 per cent larger water resources than India.

India's surface-water storage capacity — an important measure of any nation's ability to deal with drought or seasonal imbalances in water availability — is one of the world's lowest: Amounting to 200 cubic metre per head per year, it is more than 11 times lower than China's. The 2030 Water Resources Group, an international unit, has warned that India is likely to face a 50 per cent deficit between water demand and supply by 2030.

In the coming years, China, by ramping up construction of dams on trans-Himalayan rivers, could fashion water into a political weapon against its neighbour India.

Author is a leading strategic analyst

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Hindustan Times
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Pain caused by hydro projects in Sutlej valley documented in film

ARCHANA PHULL
SHIMLA, 10 DECEMBER 2018

‘The Mountains Agonised’, a documentary film by a Delhi based independent filmmaker, traces the pain of Sutlej (river) valley in Himachal Pradesh and the suffering of hill folks due to hydropower development over the years.

Screened at the ‘Cinema of Resistance’ festival in Palampur last weekend, the documentary film by The Mountains Agonised was shot over a period of 7 to 8 years’ travel from village to village along Sutlej Valley. The 110 minute long documentary film is titled ‘Ho Gayi Hai Peer Parvat Si’.

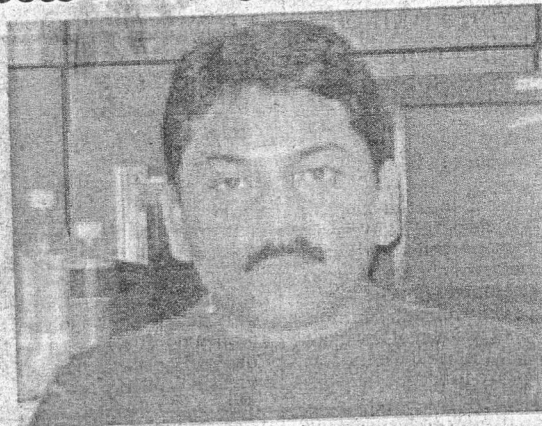
It captures visuals and resident testimonies of the damaging impact of ongoing hydropower projects on environment, local livelihoods and natural resources, including water sources. Besides, it depicts that how the execution of power projects has led to deforestation, health haz-

ards, landslides and flash floods, leading to desperate situations for communities, wherein they are driven into dispossession and perpetual deprivation.

In the documentary film, the locals, from Hangrang Valley in Upper Kinnaur, not just narrate their experience of dams but also speak of their attempts to protect their lives, livelihoods, and cultures.

They tell endless tales of devastation as well as environmental violations and failure of the law and policy to address any of their concerns. Sahu originally hails from Odisha and has two-decade experience in television programming and film making.

“I was travelling in the valley with my camera for another film back in 2010 and expected pristine landscapes. What I saw instead were mountains of muck and concrete and I knew that there was a story to be heard and told”.



Focusing on the Sutlej basin, his documentary film captures the devastation of people's resources and the ecology in progress and the responses of the people to all this. Keeping the broad canvas of the ‘development debate’ in focus, the narrative is in the format of an informal travelogue: travelling through the state and learn-

ing the situation while also discovering the solutions people have to offer.

This interface is extensively intercepted by images describing the economic and cultural life that the mountain folks have been leading for centuries and how an ensuing colossal disaster is slowly taking in to its grip their social, cultural, and eco-

nomic security systems. The Nature, of course, speaks for itself, and pits its own arguments.

Himachal Pradesh government's agenda to tap hydro power from the state rivers and rivulets to generate income has led to much devastation of ecology and local livelihoods, mainly for lack of interest of the authorities to ensure environment safeguards.

The protests by the local communities and environmentalists have not stopped the government from moving ahead. Having identified 27000 Mega Watt (MW) power generation potential from the state rivers, the state has until now harnessed over 10,000 MW of electricity. “Out of five major river basins in Himachal Pradesh, the Sutlej basin has the highest identified capacity of 13,000 MW and has been the most ravaged,” said environment activist, Manshi Asher.

Hindustan Times
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पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों की पारिस्थितिकी गड़बड़ाने से जनजीवन के सामने कई समस्याएं आ खड़ी हुई हैं मैदानों में सुखी रहना है तो भी पहाड़ बचाएं

NBT-11

Bilal Bahadur



आज अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने इस बार की थीम 'माउंटेस मैटर' पर केंद्रित की है। दुनिया में 22 फीसदी भूमि पहाड़ी है, जहां विश्व की 13

फीसदी आबादी रहती है। यूरोप को छोड़ दें तो ज्यादा पहाड़ी इलाके विकसित देशों में हैं। पहाड़ दुनिया के सबसे बड़े जलालय के रूप में उन नदियों का जीवन देते हैं, जिन पर दुनिया की आधी से ज्यादा आबादी का पालन-पोषण निर्भर है। एक मीटर हिस्सा के अनुसार पहाड़ों के उत्पाद से 100 करोड़ लोग सीधा लाभ लेते हैं और अन्य सेकड़ों करोड़ों लोग अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से इससे लाभान्वित होते हैं। ये दुनिया की ऊर्जा आवश्यकताओं का पाँचवाँ हिस्सा उपलब्ध कराते हैं, जो पनबिजली के रूप में आता है। खेती की जल आवश्यकताएँ पूरी करने के अलावा कई ऐसी फसलों का जन्म भी पहाड़ों से ही हुआ, जो हमारे 80 फीसदी भोजन की जरूरत पूरी करती हैं। जैसे मक्का, आलू, बाजरा, सेब और टमाटर की मूल प्रजातियाँ पहाड़ी जैव विविधता की हो देन हैं।

■ सूखती हुई धाराएँ

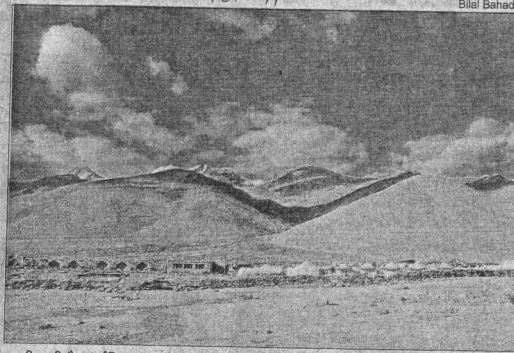
जैव विविधता की दृष्टि से पहाड़ पूरी दुनिया में सर्वोपरि हैं। यहां दुनिया के 50 फीसदी से ज्यादा जैव विविध हॉट स्पॉट हैं, जो विश्व की अमूल्य जैविक संपदा को बचाए हुए हैं। दुनिया का 15-20 फीसदी पर्यटन पहाड़ों से जुड़ा है। रोजगार नष्टाने में पहाड़ अहम भूमिका निभाते हैं। पर विश्व को जीवन का

आधार प्रदान करने वाले पहाड़ आज खुद ही स्वस्थ नहीं रहे जा सकते हैं। यहां हर तीसरा व्यक्ति खाद्य संकट झेलता है। इतना ही नहीं, करोड़ों को पानी देने वाले पहाड़ों के लोग लोग अक्सर पानी से वंचित रहते हैं। दुनिया की पहाड़ी आबादी के पास मैदानों आबादी की तुलना में 50 फीसदी कम सुविधाएँ हैं। जलवायु परिवर्तन का सीधा बड़ा असर पहाड़ों पर दिखाई देता है। पिछले तीन दशकों में जो बड़े बदलाव पहाड़ों में हुए हैं, उनका नकारात्मक असर अब दिख रहा है।

जैसे, धाराएँ सूख रही हैं क्योंकि हमारे निर्माण वैज्ञानिक नहीं हैं। इन अवैज्ञानिक निर्माणों की वजह से एक्विफर (भूजल भंडार) हिल जाते हैं और धाराएँ बाधित हो जाती हैं। हमने धाराओं के स्रोत और डिस्चार्ज क्षेत्र को बाधित कर दिया है। ये धाराएँ धीरे-धीरे पानी रिलीज करती हैं, जो निर्माण गतिविधियों के कारण नहीं हो पा रहा है। पहाड़ों में शिमला

अतिवृष्टि, भूस्खलन और पल्लेस पलड इधर पहाड़ों के लिए नए अभिशाप के रूप में सामने आए हैं और इन्होंने यहां की जिंदगी को नरक बना दिया है

और मसूरी जैसे पानी आबादी वाले शहरों के कारण पानी जमीन के अंदर नहीं जा रहा है। उल्टा ऐसे शहर धाराओं को प्रदूषित करने में अपना योगदान दे रहे हैं। कुछ लोग इस संकट की वजह चीड़ के पेड़ों को मानते हैं। उनका कहना है कि चीड़ के पेड़ बनों में आग फैला रहे हैं और इस आग से जलस्रोतों को



सूखी पड़ी है '3 डीइयट्स' से चर्चा में आई लदाख की पैगगांग झील

नुकसान पहुंच रहा है। इन्हें हटाए बिना जंगलों का बचना संभव नहीं है और जब जंगल ही सुरक्षित नहीं रहेंगे तो धाराओं का बचना भी नामुमकिन है। उनकी राय है कि चीड़ के स्थान पर ओक के पेड़ों को बढ़ावा देना चाहिए क्योंकि ये पेड़ तीन चौथाई पानी का भंडारण कर सकते हैं और भूमि में नमी बनाए रखते हैं। ओक के पेड़ जमीन में पानी भी छोड़ते हैं।

पहाड़ों में फसल चक्र बुरी तरह प्रभावित हुआ है। यह मात्र तापक्रम से जुड़ा असर नहीं है। वर्षा का रुख भी अप्रत्याशित रहा है। पहाड़ों की ज्यादा खेती आसमान के व्यवहार पर टिकी है। पिछले तीन दशकों में यहां मौसम और मौनसून बड़े स्तर पर प्रभावित हुए। पहाड़ों में वर्षा आधारित खेती के ज्यादा हिस्से

के लड़खड़ाने से यहां खाद्य संकट पैदा हो गया है। इतना ही नहीं, कई तरह के फल पौधों के भंडार रहे पहाड़ बदलते मौसम से प्रभावित हुए हैं। समय पर वर्षा का अभाव, ओलों की मार, बिगड़ते तापक्रम के कारण फल-फूलों के उत्पादन पर बुरा असर पड़ा है। इन सबके अलावा प्रदूषण व तापक्रम की बढ़ोतरी ने हिमखंडों पर भरपूर चोट की है। एक आकलन के अनुसार पहाड़ों का तापमान वैश्विक औसत से कहीं अधिक तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। जलवायु शोधकर्ता इसके कारणों का अध्ययन कर रहे हैं। तिब्बती पठारों में बर्फ पिघलने की दर कई गुना बढ़ी है। एक शोध के अनुसार 4000 मीटर की ऊंचाई वाले पहाड़ों के ऊपर बर्फ पिघलने की दर नीचे के पहाड़ों की तुलना में

75 फीसदी बढ़ी है, और यह सब सिर्फ 20 वर्षों में हुआ है। तिब्बती पठार एशिया की 10 सबसे बड़ी नदियों का स्रोत हैं जिनमें गंगा, सिंधु और मीकांग शामिल हैं। ये नदियाँ करीब डेढ़ अरब लोगों को पानी उपलब्ध कराती हैं।

■ आपदाओं की मार

बढ़ते तापक्रम के कारण पहाड़ों की जनसंख्या में एक बड़ा परिवर्तन आया है। दुनिया के 10 बड़े विश्वविद्यालयों के वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा किए गए एक समूहिक शोध के अनुसार इस सदी के अंत तक पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों के तापमान में अप्रत्याशित वृद्धि होगी। इस अध्ययन में यूरोप, जापान, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, न्यूजीलैंड, कनाडा, अमेरिका और दक्षिणी अमेरिका को शामिल किया गया था। अतिवृष्टि, भूस्खलन और फ्लड फ्लड पहाड़ों के लिए नए अभिशाप के रूप में सामने आए हैं। पिछले दो दशकों से इनका प्रकोप बढ़ा है। इन्होंने नई आपदाओं को जन्म दिया है।

कठिन भू-संरचना और संचारहीनता ऐसी आपदाओं के समय पहाड़ी जीवन को नरक बना देती हैं और लंबे समय तक यहां की समस्याओं का हल नहीं हो पाता। कैसी विडंबना है कि पहाड़ों से दुनिया के हर तरह की सहूलियतें हासिल होती हैं मगर खुद पहाड़ी जनजीवन ही आज संकटग्रस्त हो गया है। हिमालय, आरावली, विन्ध्यचल, सप्तपुड़ा और नीलगिरि अपने देश के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण पहाड़ों में हैं। इन सबकी पारिस्थितिकी संकट में पड़ गई है। ऐसा ही चलता रहा तो पहाड़ कल देश में समस्याओं के पहाड़ खड़े कर देंगे। अपना भविष्य सुरक्षित करने के लिए हम सबको पहाड़ बचाने की मुहिम को हिस्सा बनना होगा।

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

Daily Pioneer (11.12.18)

1st int'l conf on sustainable water mgmt inaugurated

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The first international conference on Sustainable Water Management, organised by the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) under the aegis of National Hydrology Project of Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, was inaugurated on Monday by Himachal Pradesh Governor Acharya Devvrat.

Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation's secretary UP Singh was the Guest of Honour on the occasion.

Devvrat highly appreciated the collective activities of Union Ministry, BBMB, National Hydrology Project, World Bank, various participating countries and organisations on Sustainable Water Management.

UP Singh cited water-related issues with realistic examples to all the delegates. BBMB chairman



DK Sharma, in his inaugural speech, gave detailed presentation on water related issues and also about BBMB in plenary session.

Various participating countries have put their stalls depicting need of sustainable water management. Union Ministry of Water Resources also displayed a very informative stall.

BBMB displayed a wonderful exhibition wherein a big replica of Bhakra Dam, along with multifarious activities carried by BBMB in technical fields, its achieve-

ment, social activities, swacchta activities, were displayed in a very colourful stall.

The two-day conference would provide interactive platform for extensive brainstorming and sharing path breaking ideas and case studies in respect of flood and drought management, hydrology, e-flows, inter-basin water transfer, climate change, intelligent decision support system, etc, to address pressing issues regarding sustainable management of water resources.