


Central Water Commission  
Technical Documentation Directorate  
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section  
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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 will be uploaded on the CWC website.

  
14/12/2018  
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

  
14/12/18

Director, WSE Dte. - In meeting.

For information to

Chairman CWC, New Delhi

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

O/C

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

Hindustan (Hindi)  
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)  
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
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## PERFECT STORMS

# Are we prepared?

Climate change may cause multiple calamities to hit regions all at once, as we are seeing with near simultaneous floods and droughts

BK Singh

Flood and drought seem to occur in many areas nearly simultaneously. This year, we have seen floods in parts of Karnataka, Maharashtra and in dry areas of central and north India. Recently, a central team was in Karnataka for drought assessment; a couple of months ago, a similar team was here to assess the flood in Kodagu and other parts of Western Ghats. The coastal area of Tamil Nadu had also faced heavy rains and floods and were recently hit by cyclone.

Erik Franklin, a researcher at the University of Hawaii's Institute of Marine Biology, has said that human society will be faced with devastating combined impacts of multiple interacting climate hazards, which means climate change may cause several calamities to hit all at once.

The uncertainties in wind direction, rainfall, temperature increase, sea-level rise and storm surges are all on account of unprecedented carbon pollution and global warming. The only way to save ourselves is for humanity to cap global warming at two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by minimising greenhouse gas emissions. Certainly, the international community is not united in achieving this goal. Scientists have also classified regions according to the severity of the impact. Tropical coastal regions are said to be suffering the most.

In India, coastal areas as well as dry areas will bear the brunt of the climate hazard. Areas along the east and west coasts of peninsular India are at greater risk. We have already experienced a number of cyclonic impacts on the east coast but not so much on the western coast, thanks to better quality forests along the Western Ghats and the coast. But the recent floods in Kerala and Kodagu is a wake-up call for us to make sure that further destruction of the Western Ghats is halted.

Looking at the rainfall pattern, flash floods are going to be more common in the years to come. Scientists at the National Centre for Atmospheric Re-

search in the US have analysed the data collected at weather stations across the globe and have concluded that half of the measured global precipitation in a year falls in 12 days.

The climate models project that this lopsided distribution of rain and snow is likely to become even more skewed. Recent flooding in Mumbai, Chennai and other urban centres bear out this conclusion. The scientists have further gone on to show that half of the annual precipitation will fall in just 11 days by the turn of the century.



Good quality forests on the coast are important to bring rains into the continents. A group of researchers at the St Petersburg Institute of Nuclear Physics say that large forest expanses should be seen as 'biotic pumps', drawing moisture from the ocean and driving continental evapo-transpiration and precipitation, thus replenishing, renewing and intensifying the regional water cycle.

For biotic moisture pump to work properly, natural forest cover should be located adjoining the ocean. The absence of continuous cover of tall trees and high leaf area prevents evaporation and the biotic pump would not work. Low leaf index vegetation in the forest cover also reduces precipitation.

As we move away from ocean, the evaporation fluxes damp out exponentially. Continuous forests can carry the fluxes up to 1,200 km from the coastline. Further, aerosols emitted by trees promote condensation. This explains why the Amazon forests bring rains at far-off distances from the coast. Biotic pumps help in cross-continental transport of

fluxes and bring rains at local, regional and global level. The real ecosystem services to vegetation may be their ability to return water vapour to atmosphere, intensifying the water cycle.

If the forests are allowed to degrade along the coastline, the moisture cycle will vanish and there will be desertification. This explains why most deserts are along the coast. Coastal regions are more prone to be impacted by climate change hazards.

### Bengaluru's lakes

The world lost 3% of global forest cover in the five-year period taken up for the study by scientists between 2000 and 2005. If this is the rate of deforestation, we can imagine its contribution to global warming. It has been further found that wetlands declined by 50% during the last century, taking a toll on climatic impact.

Let me narrate an example from the handling of urban lakes in Karnataka. Bengaluru lakes are interconnected with rajakaluve. The overflow from lakes located at higher altitude flows through the rajakaluve to lakes located at lower altitudes. As per the Laxman Rao Committee report, we had 215 lakes in 1986. Within a span of three decades, the numbers of live lakes has come down to 81.

In the process of rapid urbanisation, lake lands have been filled up by even government agencies and the areas are used for layouts, public utilities and commercial establishments. Lake lands and rajakaluve are also occupied illegally. Presently, these lakes are subjected to encroachments, illegal mining of earth and sand, dumping of debris, ingress of untreated sewage, discharge of industrial wastes, etc. Consequently, once in four to five years, some localities in the city are flooding and bringing misery to citizens.

From July 2002 to March 2018, urban lakes were managed by the Lake Development Authority (LDA). It was only in 2016 that an Act was promulgated and the authority could take action against culprits responsible for illegal activities in lakes and lake beds. In March 2018, the Act was repealed and the LDA shut down. Urban lakes were handed over to the authority managing irrigation tanks in the state. The state has lost the focus on conservation of urban water-bodies. There is a lack of commitment to fight climate change and global warming. (The writer is former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Karnataka)

Hindustan Times  
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# SC refuses to stay K'taka's DPR on Mekedatu project

## Wants response from Centre, state on TN's application

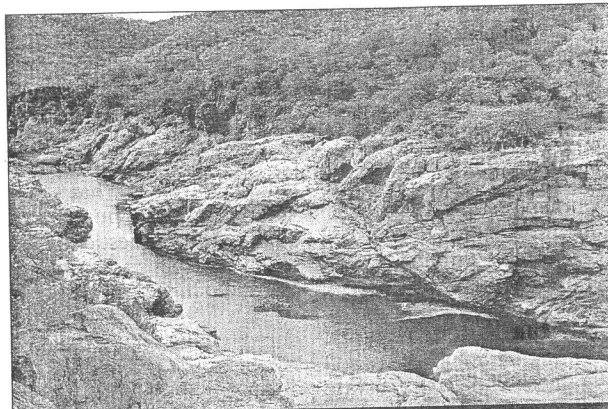
13DH

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to allow a plea by Tamil Nadu government for stay against a permission granted to Karnataka to prepare a detailed project report for Mekedatu balancing reservoir across Cauvery river.

The top court, however, asked the Union government and Karnataka to file a response within four weeks on Tamil Nadu's application for restraining the upper riparian state from undertaking the exercise.

### Reply sought

A bench presided over by Justice A M Khanwilkar also sought a reply from the Centre and Karnataka on another plea by Tamil Nadu for a direction to the Union government to appoint an independent and full-time chairman of the Cauvery Water Management Authority, approved



**IN FOCUS:** The Supreme Court has asked the Union government and Karnataka to file a response within four weeks on Tamil Nadu's application for restraining the upper riparian state from undertaking the exercise to prepare the detailed project report. DH FILE PHOTO

by the apex court on May 18 and notified by the Centre on June 1.

During the hearing, Karnataka's Advocate General Udaya Holla contended the application by Tamil Nadu was premature as it was only a permission

to prepare a detailed project report, subject to conditions, and the views of the co-basin states would have to be taken.

"So it is only a detailed project report. No final decision has been taken," the

bench said.

The Union government, represented by advocate, S Wasim A Qadri said the project could be subject to the orders of the apex court. He, however, sought time to file his response.

Senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, appearing for the Tamil Nadu government, submitted if the Centre was willing to give such an assurance, it should be recorded by the court. He said the state did not want any fait accompli.

The court finally decided to seek reply from the Centre and the Karnataka government on applications by Tamil Nadu as its counsel contended the project would violate the orders passed by the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal and the apex court's judgement.

The Tamil Nadu government was aggrieved with the order issued on November 22 by the Director, Project Appraisal (South), Central Water Commission, with re-

gard to "unauthorised" Mekedatu balancing reservoir project.

Besides, it filed a plea seeking a direction to the Union government to appoint an independent person as chairman of the Cauvery Authority.

The Ministry of Water Resources had on July 7 issued orders allowing S Masood Husain, chairman of the Central Water Commission (CWC), to hold additional charge as head of the authority.

### Fresh plea

The Tamil Nadu government also filed a fresh plea before the court seeking contempt action against senior officers of the Centre and the Karnataka government for going ahead with Mekedatu project.

On Wednesday, the top court, however, adjourned the hearing on the contempt plea as it decided to examine two other applications.

**DH News Service**

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# Mild snow greets tourists in Shimla, Kufri, Barog

Control room set up in capital | Road to Chopal still closed | Coldest day in Dalhousie T-14

**BHANU P LOHUMI**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

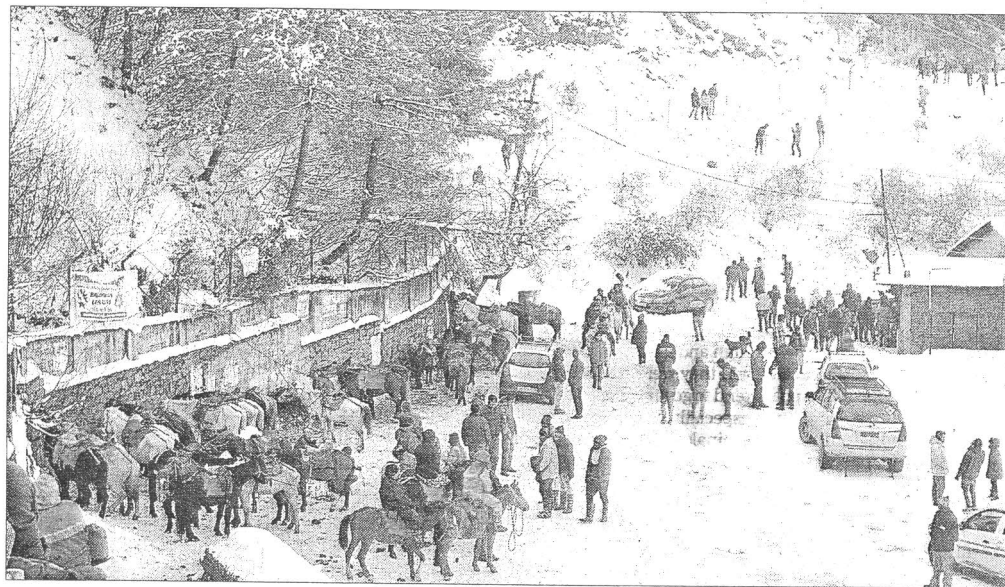
**SHIMLA, DECEMBER 13**

Most parts of the state continued to reel under biting cold wave conditions as the temperatures stayed 4 to 10 degree below normal while the high-altitude tribal areas and mountain passes groaned under the arctic conditions with the minimum temperatures ranged between -10 and -15 degree C.

The region had a clear day this morning but the sky was overcast with thick clouds as the day advanced. Strong-velocity icy winds lashed the region as Shimla and suburbs received intermittent mild snow.

Deputy Commissioner, Shimla, Amit Kashyap ordered immediate restoration of essential services in the affected areas. Roads leading to Chopal was still closed to traffic.

He said 10 JCBs and four dozers had been deployed in Chopal, Fagu, Narkanda and Kharapathar to keep the roads open and ensure the smooth movement of vehicles. He said SDMs had been



**WHITE DELIGHT:** A large number of tourists made a beeline for Kufri near Shimla on Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

asked to get regular updates on roads, electricity, water supply and essential services from officials. The PWD and NH authorities had deployed their men and machinery on various spots and the elec-

tricity supply had been restored in most areas in the district, he added.

A control room had been set up in the District Emergency Operation Centre, Shimla, with the toll-free

number 1077 for sharing the information, the tourists coming to Shimla could see Shimla District facebook page for weather updates, especially the status of roads.

He said 44,830-litre milk

and 9,000 packets of bread had been supplied to the city. Kufri and Kalpa recorded 8 cm of snow followed by Kothi 6 cm, Shimla and Udaipur Gondla 3 cm and Sumdoh and Bharmour 2 cm. Moder-

ate rain occurred at a few places and Bangana was the wettest with 10 mm rain while Saloni recorded 9 mm, followed by Manali, Dharamsala and Kheri 8 mm.

## DAGSHAI TURNS WHITE, TRAFFIC HIT

- **Solan:** Various parts of Solan district, including Dagshai cantonment and Barog, received snowfall, affecting the vehicular movement. Intermittent rain lashed Solan, Kasauli and other areas of the district throughout the day.
- Driving became risky as roads were slippery. One could see a number of cars lined up on roads as drivers chose to wait till the stretches were cleared.
- Tea vendors did a brisk business. Elated tourists were seen taking selfies at Barog en route Shimla.
- The minimum temperature in Solan was 2 degrees C, while the maximum temperature hovered around 16 degrees C.

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# Come June, groundwater extraction will invite a fee

Industries to pay conservation charge; agriculture and defence units exempted

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

In a bid to promote conservation of groundwater, the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified a water conservation fee (WCF) that industries will need to pay on groundwater extraction starting from June.

As per the notification, industries extracting groundwater, including mining-dewatering units and those that use groundwater for packaged drinking water, will need to apply for a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the government. Individual households that draw groundwater using a delivery pipe of a greater than 1" diameter, too, will need to pay a WCF.

However, the agriculture sector – the largest consumer of groundwater in the country – will be exempt from the fees.

The guidelines will come into force with effect from June 2019, and will apply across the country.

## Online NOC process

"The entire process of grant of NOC will be done online through a web-based application system of CGWA," the Water Resources Ministry said in the notification.

The rates, according to a notification by the CGWA on Wednesday, would be levied depending on the location of the groundwater extraction

## Extract and pay

### Domestic users

Households that draw groundwater using a delivery pipe greater than a 1" diameter tube will have to pay WCF

**Agriculture exempted**  
The largest consumer of groundwater in the country will be exempt from the fee

The Central Ground Water Authority has decided to levy a Water Conservation Fee (WCF) on groundwater extracted by industries and some sections of domestic users

### Industrial units

Users, including mining dewatering units and those that use groundwater for packaged drinking water, to pay the new fee. They may also have to get a NOC from the concerned authorities

## WATER USE TABLE

### Agriculture

90% of the annual groundwater extraction is for farming-related activities

228 billion cubic metre is the average water extraction per annum

### Domestic and Industrial users

10% water is extracted for domestic and industrial uses

25 billion cubic metre is the average amount of water extracted



point and the amount of water being extracted. The government has a list of groundwater blocks, called assessment blocks. These are classified as 'safe,' 'semi-critical,' 'critical' and 'overexploited' depending on the groundwater draft.

Drawing up to 20 cubic metres (a cubic metre is 1,000 litres) a day in a 'safe' block would cost a company ₹3 per cubic metre. However, extracting 5,000 or more cubic metres a day, at an 'overexploited' block would invite a daily charge in excess of ₹100 per cubic metre.

The WCF for residential projects ranges from ₹12 per cubic metre. The WCF apart, all industrial as well as resi-

dential bodies would also need to apply for an NOC.

"These are not water charges but a water conservation fee and will be used for groundwater recharge projects," said K.C. Naik, Chairman, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB).

The rates were decided in consultation with industry, which "fully supported" the government's assessment of the need to impose charges for drawing groundwater, Mr. Naik added.

Defence establishments and users who don't use electricity to extract water have also been granted exemption from the requirement of obtaining NOCs and having to pay the WCF.

In India, extracted groundwater is mainly used for irrigation and accounts for about 228 BCM (billion cubic metre) – or about 90% of the annual groundwater extraction. The rest, 25 BCM, is drawn for drinking, domestic and industrial uses.

India is the largest user of groundwater in the world, and accounts for about 25% of the global water extraction. The CGWB classifies 6,584 assessment units countrywide. While 1,034 units have been categorised as 'overexploited,' 253 are termed as 'critical,' 681 as 'semi-critical' and 4,520 as 'safe.' The remaining 96 assessment units have been classified as 'saline.'

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 14-12-2018... in the

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## 'Disneyland plan won't affect other projects'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
BELAGAVI

Karnataka Water Resources Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday said the ₹1,500-crore project to develop Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) on the lines of Disneyland in the U.S. would not change the government's priority of completing all the ongoing irrigation projects, including the Upper Krishna Project Phase-III.

Mr. Shivakumar agreed to have a discussion on UKP Phase-III in the Assembly next week.

### **Budgetary scheme**

The issue came up when Leader of the Opposition B.S. Yeddyurappa expressed concern in the Assembly over the government proposing to spend around ₹1,500 crore on the project and wondered if that would affect the priority being given to complete the

ongoing irrigation projects.

Responding to this, Mr. Shivakumar said the KRS development plan was a budgetary scheme and not even a single paise was being spent by the government. He appealed to Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar to schedule a discussion on UKP next week.

The Minister said the government would not discriminate between north and southern parts of the State for development schemes.

He said the government was keen to increase the height of Almatti reservoir from the present 519.6 metres to 524.256 metres.

However, it was waiting for the Centre to notify the award of Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-2 to go ahead with the matter.

But the Supreme Court had issued a stay on notifying the award, he said.

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## BJD asks Speaker to Refer Dams Bill to House Panel



**New Delhi:** A day after the Centre introduced the Dams Safety Bill, 2016, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Thursday opposed the government and demanded the bill be referred to a Standing Committee for Parliament for scrutiny. In a letter to Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, BJD parliamentary party leader Bhartruhari Mahtab said the issue concerning the dams is a state subject and that the current bill — unlike the bill of 2010 — does not reflect the spirit of the resolutions passed by the state legislatures. He pointed out that the preamble of the 2010 Bill and that of the new Bill differ in many aspects. OUR POLITICAL BUREAU

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## भूजल स्तर गिरने से समिति चिंतित

नई दिल्ली। देश के कई राज्यों में भूजल स्तर में तीव्र गिरावट से चिंतित संसद की एक समिति ने सिफारिश की है कि सरकार ड्रिप सिंचाई समेत प्रभावी सिंचाई तरीकों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए नीतिगत उपाय किया जाए। लोकसभा में पेश, जलवायु परिवर्तन संबंधी राष्ट्रीय कार्य योजना के कार्य निष्पादन से जुड़ी प्राक्कलन समिति की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि भारत के पास विश्व की 15 प्रतिशत जनसंख्या है लेकिन जल संसाधन विश्व का केवल चार प्रतिशत है।