

Central Water Commission
WSE Dte.,

West Block II, Wing No-4
R. K. Puram, New Delhi – 66.

Dated

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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.

P. Johnson
15/3/2019
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

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15/3/2019

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Director, WSE Dte.

Do. 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

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

Ganga water quality has worsened in 3 yrs: Study

Binay Singh | TNN

Varanasi: The Rs 20,000-crore "Namami Gange" project to "conserve, clean and rejuvenate" the Ganga river seems to have failed to achieve its target. On the contrary, analysis of data collected by city-based Sankat Mochan Foundation (SMF) has revealed that there is a significant rise in coliform bacteria and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), important parameters to evaluate water quality.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had set an ambitious 2019 deadline to achieve results on nirmalta (cleanliness) of Ganga when he launched the project in May 2015. Union minister Nitin Gadkari last year extended the deadline to March 2020.

SMF, a Varanasi-based NGO, has been monitoring the quality of Ganga water

OFF THE CHARTS

Faecal coliform count up from 4.5L (upstream) and 5.2cr (downstream) in Jan 2016 to **3.8cr** (upstream) and **14.4cr** (downstream) in Feb 2019 (for bathing, total coliform organism MPN/100ml should be 500 or less)

Biochemical oxygen demand level up from 46.8-54mg/l to **66-78mg/l** during Jan 2016-Feb 2019 (should be max 3mg/l)

Source: Sankat Mochan Foundation

since the launch of the Ganga Action Plan by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1986. Working as a watchdog for the cause of the Ganga, SMF has established its own laboratory to analyse the samples of Ganga water on a regular basis.

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Coliform in Ganga water at alarming levels

► Continued from P 1

Data collected by SMF's Ganga Laboratory at Tulsi Ghat here has painted a gloomy picture of the Ganga's health due to high bacterial pollution. Coliform organisms should be 50MPN (most probable number)/100ml or less in drinking water and 500MPN/100ml in outdoor bathing water, while BOD should be less than 3mg/l. According to SMF data, faecal coliform count rose from 4.5 lakh (upstream at Nagwa) and 5.2 crore (downstream in Varana) in January 2016 to 3.8 crore (upstream) and 14.4 crore (downstream) in February 2019.

"Similarly, BOD level has risen from 46.8-54mg/l to 66-78mg/l during January 2016-February 2019. Besides, the level of dissolved oxygen (DO), which should be 6mg/l or more, has gone down from 2.4mg/l to 1.4mg/l during this period. High presence of coliform bacteria in Ganga water is alarming for human health," said SMF president and IIT-BHU professor V N Mishra, who is also the mahant of the famous Sankat Mochan temple.

"Faecal coliform is present in the gut and faeces of warm-blooded animals. Consequently, E coli is considered to be the species of coliform bacteria that is the best indicator of faecal pollution and possible presence of disease-causing pathogens," said noted environmental scientist and former BHU professor BD Tripathi.

A slight improvement was seen in tapping discharge of sewage into the Ganga during this period.

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 15/3/2019 in the

Hindustan Times

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Financial Express, ✓

Maharashtra's water-wars

The state must discourage sugarcane farming, fix water usage

WHILE INTER-STATE water wars are fairly common, intra-state ones were almost unheard of until two regions of Maharashtra locked horns in the Supreme Court in November last year. Cane farmers and the sugar industries along upstream Godavari in western Maharashtra have challenged the Bombay High Court's September 2016 order that held that the river's water must be used equitably as envisioned by laws on regulating water resources and irrigation enacted by the state government. Farmers from the Marathwada region that lies downstream of the river have countered this, saying if upstream reaches didn't release enough water to the Jayakwadi dam, the lifeline of the downstream areas, the water rights of the people of Marathwada would have been violated. This water-war, as *Down to Earth* (DTE) reports, has poor water resource management, wasteful water use perpetuated by a strong sugar lobby in the state, graft, climate change and ill-conceived policy at its core.

How disastrous Maharashtra's moves on water have been are evident from the fact that while the state suffered a 27% deficiency in rainfall in 2015 as compared to 9% in 2018, the number of drought-hit villages has risen, from 15,747 to 20,000. The amount of water stored also fell dramatically, from 63% to 10% in the case of medium and minor irrigation projects and from 38.5% to 16% for major irrigation projects. While long dry spells and a few days of incessant downpour during the monsoons instead of more evenly distributed rainfall—this is increasingly becoming common, thanks to climate change—is a factor, a hasty, ill-conceived shift to a disaggregated storage, watershed management and groundwater recharge scheme, the Jal Shivar Abhiyan (JSA), experts have argued, is also responsible. Ironically, the scheme's adoption happened against the backdrop of the state investing ₹70,000 crore in irrigation projects between 1999-2009 that increased the state's irrigation potential by a mere 0.1%. Experts say the stream-deepening and widening model of the JSA has resulted in aquifers getting exposed and drying up. When, in 2017, the state government announced incentives under JSA for farm ponds, farmers started hoarding groundwater in ponds even though these ponds were meant to store rainwater. Indeed, the alarm on the state's falling groundwater levels had been sounded long ago, but little has been done to curb it. While there were 40 borewells per square km in 1960, the figure stood close to 200 in 2018.

The water-guzzler sugarcane is exacerbating the state's water woes—it is cultivated in just 4% of the cultivable land in Maharashtra (though the area under sugarcane is seeing rapid increase every year), but consumes 70% of its irrigation water. The sugar lobby in the state has ensured that this grab continues. Indeed, of the 53 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of Godavari water allocated to the Jayakwadi dam, 27 TMC is used up by the upstream sugarcane areas given the government is dragging its feet in forming water-use associations in the downstream areas. To address Maharashtra's water-woes—and now, water-wars—the government must take legacy issues head-on. From discouraging sugarcane farming to fixing water storage and management, tackling drought in the state will need a multi-pronged approach.

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 15/3/2018 in the

Hindustan Times

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Business Line, ✓

FROM THE VIEWSROOM

Everyone loves a water crisis

Chennai's water woes are a creation of vested interests

Even if the 9.8 million residents of Chennai settle for the bare minimum, the city needs 830 million litres of water a day. But thanks to monsoon failures, there is just not enough to go around.

As of February, the water supply department could manage to scrounge 550 million litres per day (mld), just 170 mld of which came from the city's reservoirs. Another 200 mld came from the two desalination plants – the third has been stuck in the tendering process for, hold your breath, five years! About 180 mld more flowed through pipes from the distant Veeranam lake. In 2015, the South African city of Cape

Town, which has half the population as Chennai's, came perilously close to going completely dry. Will Chennai beat Cape Town to the dubious distinction?



As if the spectre of the city going dry rose suddenly, the department concerned said last October that it was "exploring new sources for augmenting the city's water supply". The options included rejuvenating lakes in and around Chennai and tapping rain water stored in abandoned quarries. Accordingly, the department, showing great pluck and agility, successfully identified 13 lakes and six quarries. The problem is, none of these will wet the parched throats this summer. Incidentally, several dead lakes have been rehabilitated by CSR initiatives – these could have provided relief if only the rains had come. Rampant 'legalised' construction on the lake beds by unscrupulous industrialists, with the connivance of politicians, have caused the problem. Politicians have personal stakes in the trucked water supply business, which thrives in conditions of scarcity

For the deep-pocketed, there is always a way out. For example, you can produce water from air, provided you are prepared to pay ₹25 a litre. You can buy an RO plant and extract something drinkable from hard water. But commoners will have to do with the 'comforting' thought that they need to wait only 10 years, when waters from the Godavari would flow to the city in steel pipes.

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हरियाणा ने दिल्ली पर लगाया हर साल 300 क्यूसेक पानी बर्बाद करने का आरोप

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट में हरियाणा सरकार ने हलफनामा दायर कर दिल्ली पर हर साल 300 क्यूसेक पानी बर्बाद करने का आरोप लगाया है। हलफनामों में कहा गया है कि यह सिर्फ लीकेज व गैरकानूनी रूप से इस्तेमाल किए जाने वाला आंकड़ा है। अगर दूसरे स्रोतों पर जोर दिया जाए तो यह आंकड़ा ज्यादा हो सकता है। इसके बावजूद दिल्ली को जरूरत के अनुसार पानी की आपूर्ति की जा रही है। चीफ जस्टिस राजेंद्र मेनन व जस्टिस एजे भंभानी को बेंच ने इस पर दिल्ली सरकार व दिल्ली जलबोर्ड से जवाब

● हलफनामा दायर किया, दिल्ली जलबोर्ड ने लगाई थी याचिका

मांगा है। और सुनवाई 15 अप्रैल के लिए स्थगित कर दी। हरियाणा ने कहा है कि वजीराबाद में काफी पानी बर्बाद किया जा रहा है। जबकि दिल्ली को अक्टूबर, नवम्बर व दिसम्बर में पर्याप्त पानी की आपूर्ति की गई थी। आर्थिक सर्वे के अनुसार दिल्ली में लीकेज व अन्य कारणों से 30 फीसदी पानी बर्बाद हो रहा है। जो करीब 300 क्यूसेक है। दिल्ली सरकार की तरफ

से वकील सुमित पुष्करना ने कोर्ट को बताया कि दिल्ली व हरियाणा के बीच जल विवाद के निपटारे के लिए प्रधानमंत्री को पत्र लिखा गया है। इस पर बैठक होनी है।

हरियाणा सरकार ने इसका खंडन करते हुए कहा कि दोनों राज्यों के बीच जल विवाद अपर यमुना रिवर बोर्ड (यूवाईआरबी) निपटा सकता है, क्योंकि हरियाणा, हिमाचल प्रदेश, दिल्ली, राजस्थान व उत्तर प्रदेश 12 मई, 1994 के समझौते के अनुसार जल विवाद का मुद्दा सुलझाने का अधिकार यूवाईआरबी को दिया गया था।