

Central Water Commission  
WSE Dte.,  
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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. Haldar  
18.2.2019

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Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

*[Signature]*  
18/2/19

Director, WSE Dte.

*[Signature]*  
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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)

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

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# World Bank approves ₹11k cr for improving safety of dams

## Plan Will Cover 733 Large Dams Across 18 States Over Next 10 Years

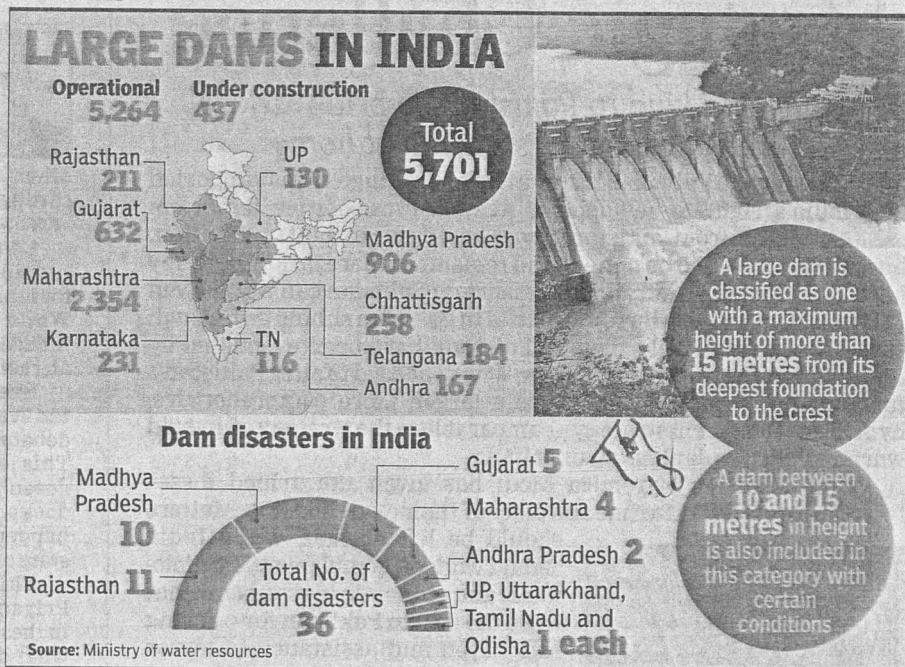
Vishwa.Mohan  
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**New Delhi:** The World Bank has accepted a proposal to provide Rs 11,000 crore to India to improve safety and operational performance of its 733 large dams across 18 states over the next 10 years.

The money will be utilised under the ongoing Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Programme (DRIP) for its subsequent phases beginning 2020. Besides operation, maintenance and emergency action plans, the programme will also focus on revenue generation at dams through tourism, fisheries, water recreations and solar and hydro power.

"The World Bank's country director confirmed the acceptance of the proposal to provide Rs 11,000 crore to rehabilitate over 700 dams during Phase-II & III of the DRIP while speaking at the International Dam Safety Conference, concluded in Bhubaneswar on Thursday," said S Masood Husain, chairman of the Central Water Commission (CWC). Husain told **TOI** on Saturday that the World Bank has found India's work under ongoing DRIP "satisfactory".

India has currently 5,264



operational large dams, but 80% of them are over 25 years old and in need of maintenance and safety upgradation. As many as 213 large dams in India are over 100 years old.

Keeping past dam disasters in mind, the government had in 2012 launched DRIP aimed at improving safety and operational standards of 198 large dams in seven states —

Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu — by June next year.

The major dams which are to be covered under Phase-II & III of the DRIP include Bhakra dam (Himachal Pradesh), Srisailem (Telangana), Koyna and Jayakwadi (Maharashtra), Matatila, Ramganga and Raj Ghat (UP), Pong dam (HP),

Ukai (Gujarat), Rana Pratap Sagar and Mahi (Rajasthan), Hirakud and Rengali (Odisha) and Uiam (Meghalaya).

The government had initially proposed Rs 7,000 crore for the subsequent phases of the DRIP. But, later it revised it to nearly Rs 11,000 crore after getting estimates from states and central agencies including CWC.

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# 'Policies biased against rainfed agriculture'

## Agriculture atlas maps agro biodiversity, lists differences

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ  
NEW DELHI

Three out of five farmers in India grow their crops using rainwater, instead of irrigation. However, per hectare government investment on their lands may be 20 times lower, procurement of their crops is a fraction of major irrigated land crops, and many of the flagship agriculture schemes are not tailored to benefit them.

A new rainfed agriculture atlas released this week not only maps the agro biodiversity and socio-economic conditions prevailing in such areas, but also attempts to document the policy biases that are making farming unviable for many in these areas.

There has been "negligence" toward rainfed areas, which is leading to lower incomes for farmers in these regions, admitted Ashok Dalwai, CEO of the National Rainfed Area Authority. He also heads the government's Committee on Doubling of Farmers' Income.

Speaking on the sidelines of a conference on revitalising agriculture in rainfed areas, he said farmers in such areas are receiving 40% less of their income from agriculture in comparison to those in irrigated areas.

Sabyasachi Das, coordinator of the Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network, which published the



A new rainfed agriculture atlas released this week documents the policy biases that are making farming unviable.

atlas, laid out the stark differences in government policy and expenditure.

"Lands irrigated through big dams and canal networks get a per hectare investment of ₹5 lakh. Watershed management spending in rainfed lands is only ₹18,000-25,000," he said, adding that the difference in yield is not proportionate to the difference in investment.

"When it comes to procurement, over the decade between 2001-02 and 2011-12, the government spent ₹5.4 lakh crore on wheat and rice. Coarse cereals, which are grown in rainfed areas, only had ₹3,200 crore worth of procurement in the same period."

It's not just the quantum, but also the nature of investment that needs to change, he added.

Flagship government schemes, such as seed and fertiliser subsidies and soil

health cards, are designed for irrigated areas and simply extended to rainfed farmers without taking their needs into consideration, said Dr. Das.

### 'No system'

For example, many hybrid seeds notified by the government scheme need plenty of water, fertilizer and pesticides to give high yields and are thus not useful to most rainfed farmers. Commercial fertilizers will simply burn out the soil without sufficient water. "The government has no system to channelise indigenous seeds or subsidise organic manure in the same way," he claimed.

Dr. Dalwai agreed that a more balanced approach was needed to give rainfed farmers the same research and technology focus and production support that their counterparts in irrigation areas have received over the last few decades.

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Financial Express, Delhi ✓

BV MAHALAKSHMI

WHEN THE POLAVARAM irrigation project is completed in the near future, it would mean the fulfillment of a half-century-old dream of the people of Andhra Pradesh for continuous water supply. The project, an engineering marvel envisaged to supply sufficient water to all 13 districts of the state, is progressing at record pace, with the state government fast-tracking work despite financial issues, aiming to complete the work by mid next year.

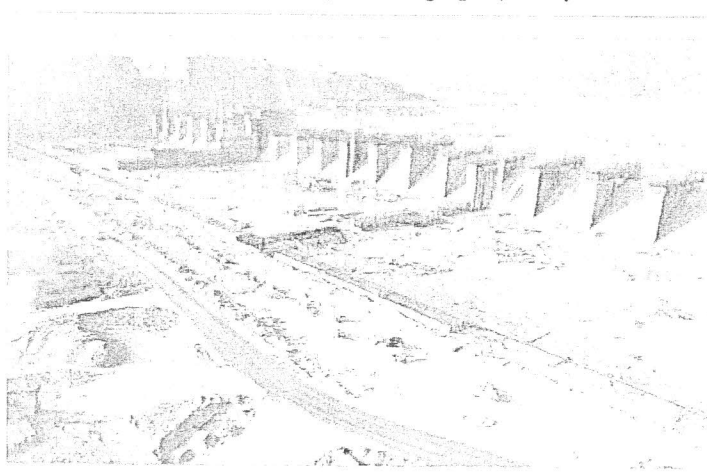
The statistics that the project—on the Godavari river in the West Godavari and East Godavari districts—throws up are most impressive. With 48 gates in all, each 20 metre high and 16 metre wide, the project spans a total of 1,119 metre. To put the huge infrastructure in place, 36.7 lakh cubic metres of concrete, 50,000 tonnes of steel and 9,30,000 tonnes of cement are being utilised. The project would irrigate, in two phases, a total of 42 lakh acres, besides meeting the water needs of a state with more than 5 crore people.

It has been designed to withstand massive floods that have a probability of occurring once in a 1,000 years. The Polavaram Spillway would have one of the highest discharge capacities in the world—at 50 lakh cusecs, it would surpass the 3 Gorges Dam in China, one of the largest dams in the world with a discharge capacity of 47 lakh cusecs. The total storage capacity of the water reservoir is estimated at 119 TMC. Another critical component of the project is a hydro-electric power house, involving installation of 12 vertical Kaplan Turbines, each of 80 MW capacity, which would cumulatively generate 960 MW of electricity.

The Andhra Pradesh government had

## POLAVARAM IRRIGATION PROJECT Taking shape in the concrete

Though slow release of funds by Centre is cause for concern,  
Andhra is looking to complete mega project by mid-2020



assigned the project to the Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd (NECL) last year, after Transtroy Ltd, the original contractor, faced challenges over its completion—NECL recently entered the record books with its feat of non-stop funnelling of con-

crete into the dam structure over 24 hours.

Says Sridhar Chinta, MD, NECL, “our company was awarded the contract worth ₹3,400 crore at 2015 prices (now valued at ₹5,000 crore) and we expect to complete the works by June, 2019”. The

contract includes construction of cofferdam, canals and spillway gates. It is estimated that the project would be complete by April, 2020.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is pushing hard for project completion by 2020 even as his government has raised questions over the Centre's stance on the issue. “Despite the hurdles it has faced, the state government has spent ₹15,585 crore on the project, while the Union government is yet to release the ₹3,722 crore the state was assured of under the AP bifurcation Act,” Naidu has said. As per Section 90 of the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, responsibility for 100% funding of the project, including on land acquisition and relief & rehabilitation (R&R), lies with the Centre.

The Centre is also yet to finalise the revised detailed project report (DPR) entailing an outlay of ₹58,000 crore. “We will fight for the reimbursement that is our due, not stopping work for want of funds given that the project promises to be a lifeline for the state,” the CM has stressed. At the same time, “further delay in reimbursement of the expenditure by the Centre would adversely affect the pace of the project, including land acquisition and R&R works,” he has said.

Significantly, the project has been deemed a national project by the Centre. Of the ₹10,459.30 crore expenditure incurred on it since the announcement, ₹6,727.26 crore has been reimbursed by the Centre so far, with the last reimbursement being made in June, 2018.

“The state government has been providing money for the project with great difficulty. This is affecting the implementation of other flagship programmes of the state,” the CM has said.



Hindustan Times ✓  
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## Study finds link between drought and groundwater



■ India is the world's largest user of groundwater, extracting 250 cubic km every year - more than a fourth of the world total. AP FILE

Snehal Fernandes

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**MUMBAI:** A study that reconstructed droughts and famines across India over the last 146 years says lack of moisture in the soil for extended periods of time can be linked to some of the most devastating famines.

Previous attempts to study 18th and 19th century droughts have been limited to meteorological droughts caused by failure of rains. The latest study -- by Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn), University of California, and the India Meteorological Department, Pune -- for the first time links decline in soil moisture to droughts and famines. It is important because groundwater, which can improve soil moisture during drought, is being depleted rapidly.

"Drought causes depletion of soil moisture and groundwater. Moreover, to replenish soil moisture, groundwater abstraction increases during drought, which further negatively impacts groundwater storage," said Vimal Mishra of the department of civil engineering, IIT-Gn, co-author of the study.

The study found that between 1870 and 2016 India witnessed seven major soil moisture droughts or agricultural drought periods (1876-1882, 1895-1900, 1908-1924, 1937-1945, 1982-1990, 1997-2004, and 2011-2015) based on their analysis of severity, area, and duration. Three droughts in 1877, 1896, and 1899

mal rains, but barring the famine of 1943, five major famines during 1873-74, 1876, 1877, 1896-97, 1899 were caused by large-scale and severe soil moisture droughts driven by June-September monsoon failures.

"Over exploitation and changing rainfall patterns have led to the depletion of groundwater, which is a threat to food and freshwater security. Lean-density rain over India, which is favourable for recharging groundwater, has declined in the last 30-40 years, and high intensity rainfall has increased," said Mishra. "Historically ground water has been the saver in times of droughts in most regions of India," said Mishra.

India is the world's largest user of groundwater extracting 250 cubic kilometres every year -- more than one-fourth of the world total. The South Asian Network on Dams, River and People estimates that ground water is vital for two-thirds of irrigated area, 85% of rural population and more than half of urban and industry.

As per the Central Ground Water Board, water level in only 30% wells rose more than two metres between 2007 and 2017, while there was a 30% decrease in 43% wells. "It's in India's national interest to bring net groundwater extraction into balance, i.e., recharge equal to withdrawals," said Dennis P Lettenmaier, co-author and professor at the department of geography, UCLA.

The study, Drought and Fam-

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## TN fined ₹100cr for waterways lapse

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**Chennai:** The principal bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has slapped a fine of Rs100 crore on the Tamil Nadu government for failing to protect its waterways in the past. The compensation, to be deposited with the Central Pollution Control Board, will be used to restore Chennai's water bodies, particularly Cooum, Buckingham canal and Adyar river.

The state government had given an undertaking to the tribunal that it would adhere to the action plan to revive waterbodies within 36 months, starting April 2015. However,

**The NGT slapped the fine on state government for failing to protect its waterways in the past. The compensation, to be deposited with the Central Pollution Control Board, will be used to restore Chennai's water bodies, particularly Cooum, Buckingham canal and Adyar river**

it didn't comply with it.

The chief secretary of the state has now been summoned before the tribunal on April 23 with a detailed action taken report. The tribunal has constituted a joint committee headed by the chief secretary to assess the quantum of damage to the environment. It has directed the committee to submit quarterly re-

ports in this regard, saying the first report should be submitted on or before May 31. The order was passed by the chairperson of principal tribunal, Adarsh Kumar Goel.

Bearing the brunt of garbage, discharge of sewage, defecation and encroachment of its banks, Adyar river, once a thriving waterway, has been reduced to a stinking water-

course, said the order, adding that it revealed that the authorities had turned a blind eye to the damage. The state had made negligible progress in the 600-crore restoration project that was launched in 2015 and was aimed at reviving the Adyar and Cooum rivers and Buckingham canal.

The tribunal stated that it dealt with 351 polluted water bodies that required action for revival. It has directed the chief secretaries of all states and Union Territories to appear before it with action taken reports to restore the environment in their respective state/UT.

Hindustan Times  
Statesman  
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## पाकिस्तान को पानी रोकने पर विशेषज्ञों की राय बंटी

नई दिल्ली, (आईएनएस): सीआरपीएफ की टुकड़ी पर गुरुवार को पुलवामा में हुए आतंकवादी हमले के बाद कड़ी कार्रवाई करने की मांग को देखते हुए विशेषज्ञ पश्चिम और पूरब की तरफ बहने वाली सिंधु और ब्यास नदियों का पानी पाकिस्तान जाने से रोकने पर विचार कर रहे हैं। वहीं, कुछ इसकी संभाव्यता पर शक जता रहे हैं। जल संसाधन मंत्रालय के सेवानिवृत्त शीर्ष अधिकारी एम. एस. मेनन का कहना है कि पाकिस्तान को दिए जानेवाले पानी को रोका जा सकता है। उन्होंने सिंधु जल समझौते पर लंबे समय से काम किया है। उन्होंने कहा कि हमने अधिक पानी उपभोग करने की क्षमता विकसित कर ली है। स्टोरेज डैम में निवेश बढ़ाकर हम ऐसा कर सकते हैं। झेलम, चेनाब और सिंधु नदी का बहुत सारा पानी देश में ही इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है। भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच 1960 में हुआ सिंधु जल समझौता पूरब की तरफ बहने वाली नदियों - ब्यास, रावी और सतलुज के लिए हुआ है और भारत को 3.3 करोड़ एकड़ फीट (एमएएफ) पानी मिला है, जबकि

● अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय जगत से  
भारत पर पड़ सकता है  
दबाव : संधि के नियमों  
का पालन करने को  
बाध्य है भारत

पाकिस्तान को 80 एमएएफ पानी दिया गया है।

विवादास्पद यह है कि संधि के तहत पाकिस्तान को भारत से अधिक पानी मिलता है, जिससे यहाँ सिंचाई में भी इस पानी का सीमित उपयोग हो पाता है। केवल बिजली उत्पादन में इसका अबाधित उपयोग होता है। साथ ही भारत पर परियोजनाओं के निर्माण के लिए भी सटीक नियम बनाए गए हैं। एक दूसरे सेवानिवृत्त अधिकारी, जो मंत्रालय में करीब दो दशकों तक सिंधु आयुक्त रह चुके हैं। उनका कहना है कि पाकिस्तान को पानी रोकना संभव नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संधि है, जिसका भारत को पालन करना अनिवार्य है। उन्होंने कहा कि मैं नहीं समझता कि इस प्रकार का कुछ करना संभव है।

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## WB project to meet Shimla's water needs

SHIMLA, FEBRUARY 15

The government has signed a development policy loan pact with the Government of India and the World Bank for improving water supply and sewerage services in greater Shimla area.

The state government, the Government of India and World Bank representatives in a meeting held at New Delhi, signed development policy loan-1 (DPL1) amounting to Rs 292 crores out of total negotiated loan amount of Rs 986 crores. After the state capital experienced water crisis during the last summer, Chief

Minister Jai Ram Thakur had made serious efforts to get this project approved so that the capital city did not face such crisis in the future, said an official spokesperson.

This is the first development policy loan related in water sector where the Himachal government has undertaken policy decision in institutional reform, volumetric tariff, water connections, energy efficiency and customer satisfaction. The state government had approached the Department of Economic Affairs to negotiate the loan with the World Bank. — TNS



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## बारिश से प्रदूषण धुला हवा फिर भी खराब



नई दिल्ली | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

दिल्ली में गुरुवार को हुई झमाझम बारिश की वजह से प्रदूषण के स्तर में गिरावट दर्ज की गई है। वहीं, बुधवार व गुरुवार को बारिश होने की संभावना है, जबकि कई स्थानों पर ओले पड़ सकते हैं।

केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के अनुसार शुक्रवार को समग्र दिल्ली का वायु गुणवत्ता सूचकांक 245 दर्ज किया

24 घंटे में 9.8 मिमी बारिश

दिल्ली में पिछले 24 घंटों में 9.8 मिमी बारिश दर्ज की गई है। जिसमें सबसे अधिक बारिश सफदरजंग स्टेशन में हुई है। मौसम विभाग के अनुसार गुरुवार सुबह 8 :30 बजे से शुक्रवार सुबह तक 8 :30 बजे तक यह बारिश दर्ज की गई है।

गया। इसे वायु गुणवत्ता मापने के पैमाने में खराब श्रेणी में रखा जाता है। सफर के अनुसार, मौसम में हो रहे बदलावों के चलते वायु गुणवत्ता में अभी और सुधार की संभावना है, जो रविवार तक खराब से मध्यम श्रेणी में पहुंच सकती है।