

Central Water Commission
Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

West Block II, Wing No-5
R K Puram, New Delhi – 66.

Dated 19.12.2018

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. M. Choudhary
19.12.18

SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

O/C

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

[Signature]
19/12/18

Director, WSE Dte.

[Signature]
19/12

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 19.12.2018..... in the

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Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi) ✓
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
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The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

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'T.N. consent not needed for grant of ToR for new Mullaperiyar dam'

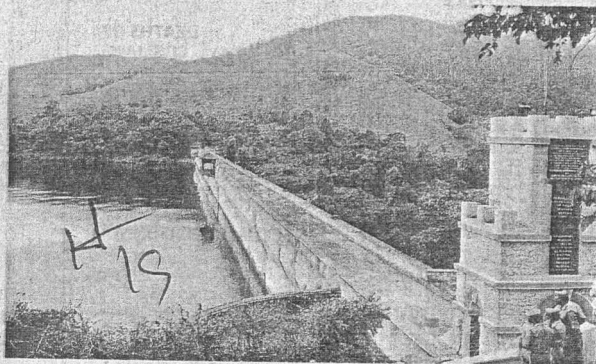
Terms of Reference granted as per EIA notification: Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Centre has informed the Rajya Sabha that prior consent from the Tamil Nadu government is "not required" for the collection of baseline data for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the Kerala government's proposal to build a new dam at Mullaperiyar.

In response to a query from DMK MP Kanimozhi in the Upper House, Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Mahesh Sharma stated that the ministry had granted the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the construction of a new Mullaperiyar dam on November 14, 2018.

The grant of ToR was as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, and a subsequent amendment in 2009, along with the conditions for preparation of the EIA/EMP



Legal remedy: Liberty had been granted to the parties to apply to the court if they were unable to arrive at an amicable solution, Union Minister Mahesh Sharma said.

report, he stated.

A condition had been stipulated in the ToR letter, he said. It states: "As per the ruling of the Supreme Court, in its judgment dated May 7, 2014, liberty has been granted to the parties to apply to the court if they are unable to arrive at some amicable solution regarding the new dam.

"Therefore, mutual con-

sent/amicable solution passed in this regard should be submitted while applying for environmental clearance."

Ms. Kanimozhi sought to know whether the ministry granted ToR for data collection for the EIA study towards construction of a new dam in Mullaperiyar in violation of the Supreme Court judgment.

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NGT raps Ministry over groundwater notification

Asks other parties to put forth their responses by January 2

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal on Tuesday rapped the Union Water Resources Ministry over its notification pertaining to groundwater extraction.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel came down heavily on the Ministry and said that the notification, issued on December 12, was against "national interest".

No-objection certificate

In the notification, the Ministry had said that industries extracting groundwater and those that use the same for packaged drinking water, would need to apply for a no-objection certificate from

the government. However, the agriculture sector will be exempt from the fees, the notification had said.

The Ministry informed the Bench that a Water Conservation Fee has also been introduced in the revised guidelines.

Water Conservation Fee

"The WCF payable varies with the category of the area, type of industry and the quantum of groundwater extraction and is designed to progressively increase from over-exploited areas and from low to high water consuming industries as well as with increasing quantum of groundwater extraction," read the affidavit submitted by the Ministry

before the NGT.

However, stating that merely imposing a cost was not enough to curb groundwater extraction, the green panel has asked other parties, including the petitioners, to put forth their suggestions and objections to the guidelines.

While asking the petitioners to file their responses to the notification by January 2, the Tribunal added that a detailed order including the directions will be uploaded by the NGT by January 11.

Earlier, the NGT had rapped the Central Ground Water Authority for failing to curb illegal extraction of groundwater and directed the Ministry to notify a policy by December 18.

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Indian Express ✓
Tribune

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Wildlife institute all for hydel projects in Arunachal tiger zone

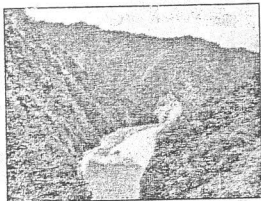
JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 18

DEVIATING FROM recommendations made by statutory panels under the Environment Ministry, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has virtually cleared the way for at least two proposed mega hydel power projects in Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley and Lohit districts, one of India's most biodiverse landscapes.

The move by the premier institute under the Ministry comes at a time when a three-year survey conducted by the WII's own researchers reported sightings of tigers in the high-altitude forests of the Dibang Valley.

Records reviewed by *The Indian Express* show that in one case — the 3,097 MW Etalin hydel project to be jointly developed by Jindal Power and the Arunachal government — the WII was asked by the Ministry to assess the feasibility of the plan that requires 1,166 hectares of forestland in the valley.

The Ministry's move followed a recommendation from its Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)



The Lower Demwe site.
Environment Ministry

to conduct an environment impact assessment study. Instead, the WII initiated a study to find how the project's impact on wildlife can be minimised — the institute is expected to submit its final conservation plan soon.

In the second case, records show, the WII was asked to conduct a hydrology/ecology study by the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) for the 1,750 MW Lower Demwe hydel project in Lohit district by Athena Demwe Power Limited (ADPL), a Special Purpose Vehicle of Athena Energy Ventures Pvt Ltd.

However, records show, the WII held three meetings with ADPL "to find a way forward"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Wildlife institute for hydel projects in tiger zone

and concluded three months ago that construction can be allowed while the institute conducted a two-year, Rs 1.85-crore study funded by the developer to decide the limits of the dam's peaking operations.

When contacted by *The Indian Express*, WII director V B Mathur said: "In both cases, there were some deficiencies in the previous studies and we were asked to step in. Given the limitations of time available, we did our best. Decisions regarding project clearance are taken by the Ministry and the WII cannot assume either way while sharing its recommendations."

Siddhanta Das, director general (forests), Environment Ministry, ruled out the possibil-

ity of the WII influencing decision-making. "The norms are clear. If the WII does research for private clients, it will not be part of the decision-making process in the Ministry. If it meets developers on the Ministry's behalf, it will place the details before the Ministry to take a call," he said.

Mathur and Das denied that recommendations of the FAC and NBWL were not followed.

"It is for the NBWL and the Committee to point out such dilutions in subsequent meetings. But compositions keep changing and few are keen to take on the Ministry... when WII recommends a project, there is no ground to deny it clearance," said a former NBWL member.

For the Etalin project, the Ministry asked WII to conduct the survey "on mutually agreed terms and conditions with the user agency" after the FAC sought an impact assessment study during a February 2017 meeting.

"The minutes record that the FAC found the existing impact assessment study inadequate and sought multiple seasonal replicate studies before deciding on the Etalin project... not a conservation or impact mitigation plan," said Deepak Apte, director, Bombay Natural History Society, who resigned from the FAC weeks after that meeting.

However, in an advertisement to hire researchers for the study in December 2017, the WII described the nine-month project as "Preparation for Wildlife Conservation Plan for Impact Zone of Etalin HEP".

The Indian Express has learnt that as part of the Etalin dam study, a WII team deployed camera traps around the project's impact zone during January-April. G V Gopi, the WII researcher who conducted the tiger survey, was also part of the study at the dam site. However, when contacted by *The Indian Express*, Gopi declined comment.

"Going by an interim draft (of the WII's conservation plan), we are hopeful about a positive report," said a Jindal Power official, speaking to *The Indian Express* on condition of anonymity.

In the neighbouring Lohit district, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had set aside the project's green clearances in October 2017, with a three-member expert committee recommending "a comprehensive peer-reviewed study on the hydrology and ecology of three seasons". However, the Environment Ministry asked the WII to submit its report in three months and the institute conducted a "rapid foot survey" over 20 days.

"When the WII will find out the limits of peaking operations only after two years, why is it recommending construction of the dam today?" asked Bimal Gogoi, a conservationist who had challenged the project before the NGT.

Records also show that the developer, ADPL, was taken to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal by Indian Bank for alleged non-payment of Rs 334 crore in loans. In September 2017, the Tribunal initiated corporate insolvency resolution proceedings in the case.

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Warming leads to water crisis in Himalayas: study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

Climate change is driving glaciers in the Himalayas to melt more rapidly than at any point in the last 10,000 years, and could soon cause water supply shortage in parts of India, Pakistan, and Nepal, a study has warned.

Researchers from Ohio State University in the U.S. showed that climate change could have devastating effects on vulnerable residents in the Andes mountains and the Tibetan plateau.

"By 2100, the best case scenario is that half of the ice will disappear. Worst-case scenario: two-thirds of

it will. And you've got all those people depending on the glacier for water," said Lonnie Thompson, a climate scientist at Ohio State University.

Researchers showed that while water supply is declining, demand is rising because of growing populations.

The glaciers in Peru supply critically needed water for people, crops and livestock.

The international research team dubbed the plateau the "Third Pole" because it contains the largest stores of freshwater in the world outside of the North and South poles.

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CM wants to give water mgmt Bill another shot

RAJMEET SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 18

Following the withdrawal of the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2018, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh is learnt to have directed the Department of Water Resources to take up the issue again in the Cabinet meeting after consulting ministers.

The Bill which focuses on setting up the Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority was withdrawn during the recently held winter session of Vidhan Sabha due to opposition by ministers, especially those representing urban areas.

If the authority is formed, all line departments supplying water will automatically come under the Water Resources Department for the purpose of fixing the water tariff.

"The tariff should not be kept in the ambit of the regulatory body that could take other corrective measures.



“With the depleting water table, there is an urgent need to check over-exploitation of groundwater and regulate the construction of any structure for extraction of ground water for domestic, commercial and industrial use, except agriculture.

A senior government functionary

This needs wider consensus as it will have political implications in urban and rural areas as recovering the defaulting amount and increasing the tariff is a sensitive issue,” said one of the ministers.

Already, water supply bills have not been paid by users to the Water Supply and Sanitation Department over the years. Similarly,

users in civic bodies have not paid their water bill dues. The department in turn owes Rs 600 crore to the Punjab State Power Corporation.

Food and Supplies Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu said like the power regulatory commission, the proposed water tariff could be increased every year.

It has been pointed out that the government has kept the farming community out of the ambit of the proposed regulatory body despite the agriculture sector responsible for the 90 per cent of the water consumption.

A senior government functionary said with the depleting water table, there was an urgent need to check over-exploitation of ground water.

Tejdeep Singh, a senior scientist with the Central Ground Water Board, said, “The authority is a must as far as Punjab is concerned. But, regulation is needed, keeping in mind the economy of the particular sector.”

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To save Dal Lake, Army begins operation clean-up

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 18

In a desperate move to save an ailing lake in Srinagar, Army men have joined efforts to clean up the Dal Lake, which is at the heart of Kashmir's tourism industry.

An official of the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) said 100 soldiers were working for the past two days to clean up the lake, which is facing an existential crisis due to the outgrowth of lilies and weeds.

The soldiers start the exercise of removing lily patches from the lake early morning when the temperatures are still sub-zero. The uprooted lilies are collected in boats and dumped on the banks.



Soldiers remove lilies and weeds from the Dal Lake in Srinagar on Tuesday. AMIN WAR

On social media, a Netizen described the Army's intervention to clean up the lake as the 'proof of the failure' of politicians, bureaucracy and

the administration.

The LAWDA official said the soldiers come with 20 boats to perform the operation clean-up. "The soldiers

are not trained for this and they asked for 20 skilled labourers, who are now guiding them," the official said.

The lake, which receives

₹759 CR SPENT, BUT LITTLE TO SHOW

■ According to the state government, ₹759 crore has been spent on the conservation of the world famous Dal Lake since 2002 but little has been achieved to prevent its decay.

■ Once pristine and picturesque, the Dal is at the heart of the tourism circuit of the Kashmir valley and serves as a base for thousands of tourists arriving in the region each year.

continued conservation efforts.

The increased human interference over the decades and the slow and unscientific conservation efforts in the past have resulted in continuous degradation of the lake with entry of sewage and high-nutrient load posing a major challenge to its eco-system.

The water expanse of the lake covered by lilies is estimated to be 6 sqkm. The LAWDA launched a major clean-up drive of the lake in July and pressed into service nearly 1,000 skilled and unskilled labourers to uproot lilies and another 500 for dewatering. The official said 1.5 sqkm of lily patches have so far been uprooted in the past six months.

perennial high-altitude glacial melt and run-off from a catchment spread over more than 350 sqkm, has a total area of 25.76 sqkm and is the focus of

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● पल्ला से बदरपुर तक यमुना की कुल लंबाई 54 किलोमीटर ● राजधानी में 1390 लाख लीटर सीवर का पानी प्रतिदिन यमुना में जाता है

चिंताजनक : यमुना को जहरीला बना रहे 52 हजार अवैध कारखाने

नई दिल्ली | प्रभात कुमार

राजधानी की 52 हजार अवैध औद्योगिक इकाइयां यमुना नदी के पानी को जहरीला बना रही हैं। रिहायशी इलाकों में चल रही ये इकाइयां सीधे तौर पर नाले व सीवर के जरिए अपना खतरनाक रसायनिक कचरा यमुना में बहा देती हैं।

यही वजह है कि यमुना के कुल प्रदूषण का 76 फीसदी दिल्ली में है। इसके अलावा यहां औद्योगिक इलाकों में चलने वाले कारखाने भी पानी को प्रदूषित करने में अहम



भूमिका निभा रहे हैं। इसका खुलासा नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल के समक्ष यमुना नदी की सफाई की निगरानी के लिए गठित समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में की है। ट्रिब्यूनल के अध्यक्ष जस्टिस ए.के. गोयल की अगुवाई वाली पीठ

के समक्ष हाल ही में पेश इस रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि रिहायशी व गैर औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में चल रही 51 हजार 837 औद्योगिक इकाइयां पूरी तरह से अनियंत्रित हैं। इसमें कहा गया है कि इन औद्योगिक इकाइयों से

सीईटीपी से 17 औद्योगिक क्लस्टर जुड़े

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि दिल्ली में कुल 28 औद्योगिक क्लस्टर हैं। इनमें से 17 औद्योगिक क्लस्टर 13 सीईटीपी से जुड़ी हैं। खास बात है कि इन क्लस्टरों की सभी औद्योगिक इकाइयां भी पाइप के जरिए सीईटीपी से नहीं जुड़ी हैं। रिपोर्ट में जो औद्योगिक इकाइयां सीईटीपी से नहीं जुड़े हैं, समिति ने दिल्ली प्रदूषण नियंत्रण समिति को उसे बंद करने के बारे में कदम उठाने को कहा है।

निकलने वाले दूषित पानी में हानिकारक रसायन, भारी मेटल व अन्य तत्व समाहित होते हैं। यह घरेलू सीवर में जाकर मिल जाता है। दिल्ली के पूर्व मुख्य सचिव रही शैलजा चंद्रा व एनजीटी के पूर्व

विशेषज्ञ सदस्य की इस समिति ने कहा है कि उद्योगों से निकलने वाला प्रदूषित कचरा घरेलू सीवर में मिलने के बाद काफी प्रयास के बाद भी सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट (एसटीपी) में शोधित नहीं हो पाता। अंततः यह

यमुना में चला जाता है। इसके अलावा दिल्ली के 11 औद्योगिक क्लस्टरों की हजारों औद्योगिक इकाइयां भी अबतक सीईटीपी से नहीं जुड़ी हैं। यह भी यमुना के प्रदूषण का एक बड़ा कारण है। रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि राजधानी की 11 सीईटीपी की क्षमता 2120 लाख लीटर प्रतिदिन औद्योगिक कचरा के प्रवाह को शोधित करने का क्षमता है, लेकिन सिर्फ 520 लाख लीटर का ही शोधन हो पाता है। औसतन यह 10 से 41 फीसदी तक अपने क्षमता के हिसाब से काम करता है।

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तूफान 'फेथाई' से ओडिशा में बारिश जारी

भुवनेश्वर, (आईएनएस): चक्रवाती तूफान 'फेथाई' के प्रभाव में मंगलवार को भी ओडिशा के विभिन्न इलाकों में बारिश हो रही है।

भारतीय मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (आईएमडी) के अनुसार, सोमवार को आंध्र प्रदेश पहुंचा चक्रवाती तूफान ओडिशा के कई इलाकों में कमजोर पड़ गया है लेकिन इसकी वजह से भारी बारिश जारी है। आईएमडी ने कहा कि अगले 12 घंटों के दौरान ओडिशा में हल्की से मध्यम स्तर की बारिश होने की संभावना है। आईएमडी ने मछुआरों को अगले 12 घंटों तक उत्तर-पश्चिम बंगाल की खाड़ी और ओडिशा में समुद्र से दूर रहने की सलाह दी है। विशेष राहत आयुक्त बिष्णुपदा सेठी ने कहा कि झारसुगुडा में 75.3 मिलीमीटर (मिमी) बारिश दर्ज की गई है जबकि संबलपुर में 73.5 मिमी और सुंदरगढ़ 71.8 मिमी बारिश हुई है।

pk-19

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अदालत कावेरी जल विवाद का स्थायी हल नहीं कर सकती : कुमारस्वामी

तिरुपति/बेंगलुरु, (भाषा) कावेरी मुद्दे पर तमिलनाडु की तरफ से याचिकाओं के नए दौर का सामना कर रहे कर्नाटक के मुख्यमंत्री एच डी कुमारस्वामी ने मंगलवार को कहा कि दशकों पुराना यह विवाद न्यायपालिका से "स्थायी रूप से हल नहीं होने जा रहा" और उन्होंने दोनों राज्यों में बातचीत की वकालत की। आत्मीयता की बात करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि कन्नड़ और तमिल दुश्मन नहीं हैं और अंतरराज्यीय नदी जल को भारी प्रवाह और कम प्रवाह की स्थितियों के हिसाब से साझा किया जाना चाहिए। कुमारस्वामी

ने बीते कुछ दिनों में दूसरी बार बातचीत पर ऐसे वक्त जोर दिया है जब कावेरी पर मेकेदातु में बांध बनाने के कर्नाटक के प्रस्ताव को लेकर दोनों राज्यों में तनातनी बनी हुई है। तमिलनाडु बांध बनाने का यह कहते हुए विरोध कर रहा है कि इससे उसके किसानों पर असर पड़ेगा। तमिलनाडु इस बांध के मुद्दे को लेकर पहले ही उच्चतम न्यायालय जा चुका है और संकेत दिये हैं कि वह विवाद पर बातचीत के कर्नाटक के प्रस्ताव के पक्ष में नहीं है। PR-19

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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

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Cold wave from tomorrow, temperature to dip to 4° Celsius

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 18

THE CAPITAL is expected to see a three-day-long cold wave starting Thursday, officials at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

While the minimum temperature was recorded at 5.1 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, which is 3 degrees below normal, it is expected to drop to 4 degrees Celsius by Thursday morning. IMD declares a cold wave when the temperature is 4 degrees below normal for three days in a row.



Air quality will dip too.

Abhinav Saha

Tuesday's maximum temperature was recorded at 22.3 degrees Celsius, normal for this time of the year.

Delhi has seen a relatively

warm December since 2015, where the minimum temperature did not go below 5 degrees Celsius throughout the month. In 2014, it had dropped to 2.6 degrees Celsius, and in 2013 it was recorded at 2.4 degrees Celsius for the month. The lowest minimum temperature recorded till date is 1.1 degrees Celsius, in 1945.

With temperatures dropping, air quality is also set to get worse. While the air quality index value on Monday was 337, it rose to 353 on Tuesday. According to the SAFAR forecast, it will deteriorate for two more days before improving.