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Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

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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. Maheshkar
23.1.2019
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

[Signature]
23/01/2019

Director, WSE Dte.

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23/01/19

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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

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
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Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
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The Hindu (New Delhi)
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Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

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Mekedatu dam plan violates Supreme Court verdict: T.N. H-23

'It is an attempt to impound uncontrolled flows in intermediate catchment areas'

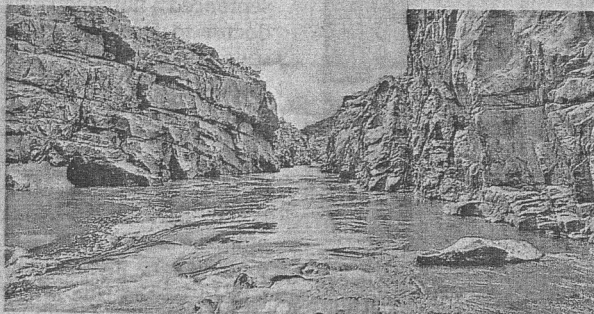
KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The proposed construction of the Mekedatu reservoir on Cauvery river by Karnataka is an attempt to impound the uncontrolled flows in the intermediate catchment areas and is violative of the decisions of the Supreme Court and the Cauvery Tribunal, Tamil Nadu told the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

This is part of the rejoinder filed by the Tamil Nadu government against the Centre's claim that conditional clearance given to Karnataka for preparing a detailed project report (DPR) on the Mekedatu balancing reservoir-cum-drinking water project was subject to the amicable resolution of connected inter-State matters.

'Claim misplaced'

Tamil Nadu said the Centre's claim was misplaced. The State, referring to the Guidelines of Submission, Apprai-



Tamil Nadu argued that inter-State aspects had to be dealt with while preparing the pre-feasibility report on the project.

sal and Acceptance of Irrigation and Multipurpose Project of 2017, argued that inter-State aspects had to be dealt with even at the stage of preparing the pre-feasibility report on the project.

The Centre failed to realise that even an "in-principle clearance" from its side to a detailed project report would require prior examination on whether the interests of the co-basin States like Tamil Nadu and Puducherry were protected under the 2017 Guidelines.

"The central agencies are duty-bound to act fairly and seem to have consciously ignored these guidelines while granting the permission to proceed for the preparation of DPR which is wholly illegal and untenable," Tamil Nadu contended in its rejoinder.

Case adjourned

Meanwhile, a Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar adjourned the case for hearing after four weeks.

Karnataka filed an affida-

DPR submitted to Central Water Commission

BENGALURU

The detailed project report (DPR) for the proposed ₹5,900 crore Mekedatu balancing reservoir cum drinking water project was submitted by Karnataka to the Central Water Commission on January 18, sources said. In-principle approval was given to Karnataka in November 2018 for preparation of the DPR.

vit in the Supreme Court informing that the project proponent, Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd, submitted the DPR with the Central Water Commission on January 18, 2019.

The affidavit said the DPR was prepared "taking into consideration the points raised by the Tamil Nadu government."

Tamil Nadu contended that the decision of the Centre to ignore the 2017 guidelines was "wholly illegal and untenable."

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
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India stares at water scarcity

Tackling drought must be the immediate priority for administrators across the country



GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI

The coming elections to the Lok Sabha, crucial to the future of our democracy, our pluralism, our federalism, are only a few weeks away.

But something else, something urgent, something is already upon us. And something that is going to coincide with the elections. A drought.

The rains have failed us. Nothing new, one might say. True, except that the rains' let down this time comes on top of an already low-rain and, in many places, no-rain ground situation. And the next nearest rains are six months away. The cruelly blue, cloudless skies over much of India, north, central, eastern and peninsular India, say it all. And there is no guarantee that June will see the onset of a normal monsoon.

What the sky says

Does anyone care? Does the political class? The Prime Minister and Chief Ministers are not unaware of the situation. They cannot be. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has given them enough data. But when droughts and elections intersect, it is extremely uncomfortable to leaders. It is inconvenient to dwell on the skies' tidings. Which government would like to tell farmers that suffering lies at their threshold? Who would like to tell them that water will be scarcer than before, that aquifers will plummet, crops wither, livestock go thirsty? Which government would, just weeks before the elections, tell us that with reservoirs

drying up taps will sputter to a stop and that we may well be looking at water-rationing? The truth is, none of them will say that. This is where, as Amartya Sen has told us time and again, the media comes in, and comes in redemptively. It is India's great good luck that public awareness, nudged and prodded by public discussions on meteorological data and media reportage, has kept droughts from deepening into famines in our country.

The IMD report on scant rains has received scant attention so far, with exceptions being provided by P. Sainath's relentless warnings and observations of experts of the calibre and veracity of Ramchandra Sable, agro-meteorologist, and D.M. More, Secretary of the Second Maharashtra Irrigation Commission, reported in *The Hindustan Times* (January 6, 2019).

Rain deficit facts

To turn to the facts. The actual deficit last monsoon was modest – barely 10%. But the post-monsoon rainfall (October to December, 2018) or PMR as it is called by meteorologists has registered a 44% deficit. This national average deficit conceals shortages in some regions where it is much higher. In Marathwada, according to the IMD, the deficit is 84%, in Vidarbha, 88%.

Why should we worry, more than before, this time? For the reason that this low-rain and no-rain situation is going to aggravate the water crisis that we have brought upon ourselves without the 'help' of a dry sky. Years of policy-driven, corporate-driven water transfers from rural to urban, agriculture to industry, poor to rich and so on have made our country-side chronically water-scarce. Urban India does not realise this fast



CHITRANESH KUMAR

enough or well enough. It will, when there are power-outages and air-conditioners do not work! "By April-May," Mr. Sainath said to me, "this drought could be tormenting millions in several States." And that is when election-campaigning will be at its peak.

The pre-election mood 'yesterday' was all about agrarian distress, farm-loan waivers. Will the pre-election mood 'tomorrow' be even thinking of, leave alone talking of, drought and what can be done to address it beyond loan-waivers?

Though our major leaders deny it, Kaun Banega Pradhan Mantri – KBPM – is what occupies the high seat in their thinking today. They seem to be in aphasia if not amnesia about the massive waterlessness that has hit us already. If they see the parched ponds, the sharded earth, the leaf-shedding trees, panting crops, drooping livestock, they do not talk about it.

That is how politics is. And yet that is not how politics should be and that is not how the rural Indian voter is going to allow politics to be. Not any more. And good for that voter that it be so. Anti-incumbency may take five years in electoral politics to mature into an ouster. It does not take more than one

failed farm-season to turn to impatience and then to rage. No politician in office or aspiring to it today can ignore the drought. It is going to be the biggest and immediate test for the new governments in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh. Somewhere in her hurt ego, a 'relieved' Vasundhara Raje must be glad she is not going to have to fight the drought. Likewise, Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Raman Singh. Not the Bharatiya Janata Party, not the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), not Narendra Modi but the drought is going to be the real challenge to the 'collective opposition' as it seeks to and could well manage to, oust the present regime.

Let there be no doubt that the Prime Minister of India 2019 will have to be India's Drought Commissioner.

And let her or him face the challenge four-square and render a national service.

Time and money are short

There is a prequel to this.

For the NDA, time is short, money is not. For the Opposition, time is short, money shorter. What is short for both, equally, is credibility. It is critically short. The voter, especially the rural voter, has no illusions. A government either helps it overcome its life-and-death problems or does not. The 'Delhi Government' will be tested in 2019 for its credibility on many issues, among which certainly Lafaire Rafale is now top-of-the-list, followed by the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bureau of Investigation mess-ups. But the elections in 2019 will test its credibility by what it does and says it will do for water-starved, food-short, livelihood-broken, rural India's agrarian distress. And in States where

the NDA is not in power – and now the States in which it is not exceeds the number of States in which it is – the rural voter will vote against whoever is in office unless the 'government party' makes drought relief, water-use, food security and massive earth-related programmes its absolute priority. In other words, unless it makes agrarian distress, now aggravated by the drought, its priority.

The failure of rains this time is so serious that 'drought' now means not just a farm crisis but a national crisis that will affect towns and cities no less than villages. 'Agrarian crisis' appears to urban India as something 'out there'. No longer true. It is only a matter of time when the 'taken-for-granted' piped water supply will falter and when water cans will cost even more than they do, today.

Whoever becomes Prime Minister will do well to appoint a commission like the Farmers' Commission, which Dr. M.S. Swaminathan headed, to advise him or her on how water scarce India, all of India, needs to face drought. And give that Commission just one month to complete its study, make its recommendations not just to government but to all Indians, to us, who have become so used to water-access imbalance, water-use lopsidedness, water prodigality in the midst of water poverty that we just do not care. And this time, not advisories or appeals but penalties will be needed.

Addressing the deepening drought, agrarian distress and water-management are critical not just for our governments to survive but for us to survive our governments.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi is a former administrator, diplomat and governor

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Rainfall a Relief for Rabi Crops in Northern States

Companies and traders say good rains will result in higher yields per acre, low temperatures will be beneficial for pulses

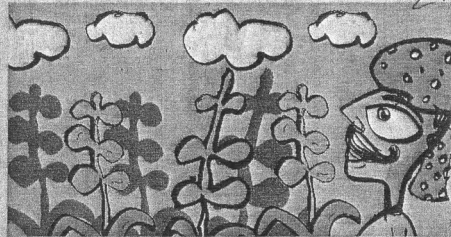
Madhvi.Sally@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Rains in the northern plains, especially in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, on Monday have led to a dip in temperatures which augurs well for the standing rabi crop especially wheat, gram and mustard, said scientists, companies and traders.

The weather office has forecast cold wave conditions to continue over this belt over the next two days. It has said that the western disturbance would ensure more rainfall and snow over the Himalayan region and the northern plains. "These rains are beneficial for the wheat crop. The crop is in tillering and pre-flowering stage

and so the rains will aid in the growth of the plant. As the rains were well-distributed, it will help farmers save the cost of one irrigation too," said Gyanendra Pratap Singh, director, Directorate of Wheat Research at Karnal, Haryana. Singh said that the wheat production will surpass the target of 100 million tonnes, this year. "If you look at the weather condition since November till now it has been very favourable with temperatures being ideal and no major fog. Whenever there has been no fog, the production has been a record," he said. As on date, yellow rust has not been reported across the wheat sown area.

Similarly, Umesh Verma of P Mark mustard oil said that the recent rain and less foggy days this



season were beneficial for the mustard crop. Companies and traders said that good rains will result in higher yields per acre. The low temperatures were beneficial for pulses, particularly gram,

which is in the growing stage in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka, said the trade. "There is some positive sentiment in the market due to the rains. The market was talking

about yields to be less due to poor winter rains, which may see a turnaround," said Bimal Kothari, vice-chairman of the India Pulses & Grains Association.

Anuj Gupta, deputy vice-president of commodity research at Angel Commodity said that due to these rains they expected wheat crop size to increase by 10% to 15%. "Due to the current weather conditions and expectations of a bumper crop, wheat prices fell by almost 0.50% in futures and as well as in the spot market. Wheat prices in February contract are being quoted at ₹2,031 a quintal," he said. Gupta said that the trade was concerned about the continuous rains followed by hailstorm which could damage chana and mustard crop.

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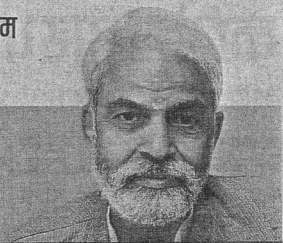
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नजरिया

कब सुनी जाएगी पिघलते ग्लेशियरों की चेतावनी

हिमालय के ग्लेशियर तेजी से पिघल रहे हैं, लेकिन हम इस मामले में किसी समाधान की ओर नहीं बढ़ रहे।

ज्ञानेन्द्र रावत
पर्यावरण कार्यकर्ता



गंगोत्री ग्लेशियर से जुड़े चतुर्गंगी ग्लेशियर के बारे में खबर आई है कि यह इतनी तेजी से पिघल रहा है कि निकट भविष्य में इसका अस्तित्व समाप्त हो सकता है। भारत में विज्ञान की प्रतिष्ठित शोध पत्रिका करंट साइंस के फरवरी, 2019 के अंक में छपा एक शोध पत्र बताता है कि पर्यावरण बदलाव का हिमालय के ग्लेशियरों पर तेजी से असर पड़ रहा है, जिसे हम गंगोत्री ग्लेशियर कहते हैं, जो हमारी सदनीरा गंगा नदी का मुख्य स्रोत है, वह दरअसल 300 छोटे-बड़े ग्लेशियरों के मिलने से बना है। चतुर्गंगी ग्लेशियर इसी का एक हिस्सा है। गोविंद बल्लभ पंत संस्थान का यह अध्ययन बताता है कि यह ग्लेशियर लगातार पीछे हटता हुआ अब गंगोत्री ग्लेशियर से कट गया है, यानी अब यह गंगोत्री ग्लेशियर का हिस्सा नहीं रहा। इसका आकार 22.84 मीटर प्रतिवर्ष की दर से घट रहा है। हालांकि खुद गंगोत्री ग्लेशियर का आकार भी घट रहा है, लेकिन इसके घटने की रफ्तार प्रतिवर्ष नौ से 12 मीटर ही है।

वैसे यह खबर बहुत चौकाने वाली इसलिए भी नहीं है कि ग्लेशियरों का घटना अब कोई नई बात नहीं रह गई। इसकी चर्चा काफी समय से है, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से इस पर कुछ नहीं हो रहा। दुनिया की सबसे ऊँची पर्वत श्रृंखला माउंट एवरेस्ट, जिसे तिब्बत में माउंट कुमोलांग्मा कहा जाता है, बीते पांच दशकों से लगातार गमम हो रही है। इससे इसके आस-पास के हिमखंड काफी तेजी से पिघल रहे हैं। मुरली मनोहर जोशी की अध्यक्षता वाली संसदीय समिति ने भी बीते दिनों अपनी रिपोर्ट में इस पर चिंता व्यक्त की थी। उसकी चेतावनियों का क्या हुआ, हमें इसकी जानकारी नहीं है। कई दूसरे शोधों में यह भी बताया गया है कि हिमालय के कुल 9,600 के करीब ग्लेशियरों में से करीब 75 फीसदी ग्लेशियर पिघल रहे हैं। सैटेलाइट चित्रों के आधार पर इसकी पुष्टि हो चुकी है कि बीते 15-20 सालों में 3.75 किलोमीटर की बर्फ पिघल चुकी है। इसका सबसे बड़ा कारण समूचे हिमालयी क्षेत्र में तापमान में तेजी से हो रहा बदलाव है। जो स्थिति गंगोत्री ग्लेशियर की है, लगभग वही यमुनोत्री ग्लेशियर की भी है। यमुनोत्री ग्लेशियर गंगोत्री के मुकाबले काफी छोटा है। इसलिए उसका पिघलते जाना ज्यादा परेशान करने वाला है।

संयुक्त राष्ट्र की पर्यावरण रिपोर्ट में भी हिमालय के

ग्लेशियरों के गायब होने की बात कही जा चुकी है। जलवायु बदलाव पर बने अंतरराष्ट्रीय पैनल आईपीसीसी ने तकरीबन दस साल पहले अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा था कि 2035 तक हिमालय के सभी ग्लेशियर ग्लोबल वार्मिंग के चलते खत्म हो जाएंगे। हालांकि हिमालय के मामले में सभी विशेषज्ञ इससे सहमत नहीं हैं, लेकिन संकट बड़ा है, इसे सब स्वीकार करते हैं। भारत ही नहीं, हिमालय के दूसरे हिस्सों का भी यही हाल है। दक्षिण-पश्चिम चीन के किंगघर्ड-तिब्बत पठार क्षेत्र के ग्लेशियर भी ग्लोबल वार्मिंग के चलते तेजी से पिघल रहे हैं। तिब्बत के इस क्षेत्र से कई नदियाँ चीन और भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप में निकलती हैं। चीन के विशेषज्ञों ने कहा है कि तिब्बत के ग्लेशियरों के पिघलने की दर इतनी तेज है, जितनी पहले कभी नहीं थी। शोध के परिणामों से इस बात की पुष्टि होती है कि 2,400 वर्ग किलोमीटर क्षेत्र में ग्लेशियरों

चीन के विशेषज्ञों ने कहा है कि तिब्बत के ग्लेशियरों के पिघलने की दर इतनी तेज है, जितनी पहले कभी नहीं थी।

का एक बड़ा हिस्सा पिघल चुका है।

गौरतलब है कि धरती पर ताजे पानी के सबसे बड़े स्रोत ग्लेशियर जलवायु परिवर्तन के विश्वसनीय सूचक हैं। प्रांत के सर्वेक्षण और मैपिंग ब्यूरो के इंजीनियर चेंग हेनिंग के अनुसार, यांग्त्सी स्रोत के पांच फीसदी ग्लेशियर पिछले तीन दशकों में पिघल चुके हैं। असल में ग्लेशियरों के पिघलने और जलवायु परिवर्तन में सीधा संबंध है। पिछले पचास सालों में तीन मौसम के त्रैसों से प्राप्त आँकड़ों के अनुसार, यह साबित हो गया है कि प्रांत की इन तीनों नदियों के औसत तापमान में लगातार इजाफा हो रहा है। वैज्ञानिकों ने इस बात पर जोर दिया है कि जलवायु परिवर्तन के अलावा मानवीय गतिविधियाँ और जरूरत से ज्यादा दोहन भी ग्लेशियरों के पिघलने का एक बड़ा कारण है। ग्लेशियरों के पिघलने से भी बड़ी समस्या यह है कि हमारे पास फिलहाल इस समस्या का कोई समाधान नहीं है।

(ये लेखक के अपने विचार हैं)