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Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director WSE Dte.

Director, WSE Dte. On. Leve

For information to

Chairman CWC, New Delhi

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

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All Clean Ganga projects to be HT-28 finished in next 13 months: Gadkari

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

ALL PROJECTS linked to the Clean Ganga movement will be completed in the next 13 months, and will benefit 97 towns and 4,465 villages along the river, Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday, even as Finance Minister Arun Jaitley maintained that all previous governments until 2014 had paid lip service to cleaning the Ganga.

Actual progress on this front has been made only in the last four years under the Narendra Modi government, Jaitley, speaking at a Clean Ganga event along with Gadkari, said.

Jaitley said: "This is because Prime Minister Modi has given the scheme importance and placed the project at the top of his agenda, and there is no better person to implement his vision than Nitin Gadkari. He is a doer — when he was in Maharashtra he was the one who built the Mumbai-Pune highway, the first of its kind, with barely no resources. And this



Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi on Wednesday. Praveen Khanna

was before Prime Minister (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee had launched the Golden Quadrilateral."

The Mumbai-Pune expressway project was begun under Gadkari as Maharashtra's PWD minister in the first Shiv Sena-BJP government in the state.

Gadkari said, "The previous initiatives to clean the Ganga had total allocation of less than Rs 4,000 crore between 1985 and 2014. Under the Namami Gange Programme (of Modi government), this has been significantly scaled up to Rs 20,000 crore for the period 2015–20, with 100-per cent Central funding," Gadkari said. "Since 2014–15,

more than Rs 5,650 crore have already been spent, and the momentum has accelerated, with the current year's expenditure exceeding Rs 2,305 crore so far."

He maintained that 276 projects have so far been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs 27,748.17 crore, of which 82 projects have been completed.

Gadkari said Namami Gange programme is designed to include a "sustainable approach based upon scientific studies, the first of its kind PPP [public-private partnership] approach of Hybrid Annuity Mode and performance-linked payments for sewerage projects", among others.

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Stop Makora Pattan Dam of water flow to Pak: Punjab

To stop India's river water share flowing to Pakistan, Punjab government has demandedforreleasing of Rs 412 crore from the Center to construct a dam at Makora Pattan on Ravi-Ujj conglomeration and pressed upon the center to accord it a national project.

During a meeting with

a national project.
During a meeting with the Union minister for Water resources, road transport and highways, Nitin Gadkari, Punjah minister for rural development and panchavar Tripat Rajinder Singh Bajwa and water resources minister Sukhbinder Singh Sarkafia informed that with the construction of this dam water flowing to Pakistan could be stopped and the state would be able to use this water for irrigation purposes.

Ingation purposes.
Informing Gadkari of details of the project proposal both Bajwa and Sarkaria said that a seven kilometer channel would be constructed to carry through this water to put it put in Kalanaur-Ramdas Canal System to further utilise to irrigate one lakh acro of land already devoid of irrigation facilities.

Moreover, with this project the state government would also be able to utilise this water to provide clean drinking water to 100 villages and 6 townships of this border area, added the ministers. Both the ministers also appealed Gadkari to approve it as a national project and release the required funds so as to complete this project in shorter span of time to stop water flow towards Pakistan thus to be used it in the interests of the country.

Giving in principle approval to this project, Gadhari asked the state government to submit the Detailed Project Report so that all the technicalities must be examined before constructing this project of national importance. Both Cabinet ministers also asked Gadkari to decide upon the Center-State funding patter for already approved project of strengthening and upgradation of Upper Bari Doab Canal. "At present only 2,76 lakh hectare out of total area of 5.13 lac hectare was being irrigated, but with the completion of this project the remaining area would also be covered under the canal irrigation system," they said. Bajwa and Sarkaria also appealed the Union Minister to extend the JammitKatra Express Highway project to be constructed by the center through Amritsan Dera Baba Nanak and Kalanaur.

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THUNDERSTORM COMING

There's many a twist in Delhi winter's tail

HT Correspondent 41-28

NEW DELH: The western disturbance that caused rain and chilly winds on Monday and Tuesday will likely continue till Thursday and another disturbance is expected on March 2 and 3, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said, highlighting the profusion of these extraropical storms that have hit north-west India this winter.

"Widespread rain, snow along with isolated thunder-storms and hailstorms are likely over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and scattered to fairly widespread rainfall with isolated hailstorms over Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh during next

24 hours," IMD's bulletin on Wednesday stated.

The disturbance made Wednesday the coldest late February day in at least seven years, IMD said, with day-time temperature dropping to 20 degrees Celsius, at least six degrees below normal.

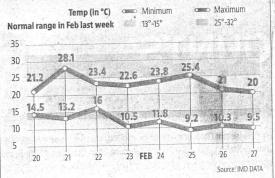
Strong surface winds speed reaching 30-40 kmph gusting to 50 kmph are also likely over plains of northwest India, over Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and north Madhya Pradesh till Thursday evening, IMD added.

The western disturbance on March 2 and 3, the 15th of the season, is likely to cause severe weather again in northwest India, but only on those two days.

CONTINUED ON P8



The disturbance made Wednesday the coldest late February day in at least seven years, IMD said



Delhi weather

IMD meteorologists said there may only be a marginal and temporary drop in temperature following it. "We are expecting rain and thunderstorms in the northern plains and snowfall in the hills on March 2 and 3. The temperature drop after the western disturbance passes will not be significant," said M Mohapatra, director general of meteorology at IMD.

"This could be the last chill of the winter months, as according to meteorological terms December, January and February are considered the official winter months. From March, the wind pattern starts changing, paving way for the summer season. March is more of a transient month in which we experience both winter and summer type temperatures," said B P Yadav, referring to Wednesday's chill.

India usually sees five to six western disturbances in winter. Mohapatra explained the frequency and number of disturbances are high this year because of the weakening of the Polar Vortex. The disturbances develop

due to a temperature difference between nor them and southern latitudes. They are more intense this time because of the higher temperature gradient which is a result of the weakening of the Polar Vortex, he said. Polar Vortex is a pocket of very cold air in the northern hemisphere which lies near the polar region in winter. Due to disturbances in its jet stream, cold air affects parts of US. For example, this year large parts of North America were gripped by an influx of Arcticair.

IMD data since 2012 shows that night temperature hovers between 13 and 15 degrees Celsius in the last week of February. It has never dropped below 10 degrees over the past six years. The maximum temperature ranges between 25 and 32 degrees Celsius during the last seven days of February.

This year, average night temperature since February 20is 11.8 degrees Celsius and average day temperature, 23.2 degrees Celsius. The rain and strong winds helped settle dust and blow away local emissions, taking Delhi's air quality index (AQI) to the "satisfactory" category, which is a rare occurrence. According to the Central Pollution Control Board data, the overall AQI in the city was 99.

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पाक से सिंधु जल संधि क्यों है खास?

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■ नई दिल्ली: पुलवामा हमले के बाद सिंधु जलसंधि एक बार फिर चर्चा में है। इस सिंध को नकार कर पिकस्तान की ओर जाने वाला पानी रोकने की मांग की जा रही है, तािक उसे माकूल जवाब दिया जा सके। कहा जा रहा है कि अगर पिकस्तान को इस संधि के तहत पानी मिलना बंद हो जाएगा तो वह चंद रोज में ही घुटनों पर आ जाएगा। यह सिंध मूलतः पिकस्तान के डर की उपज है। भारत विभाजन के बाद से ही उसे इस बाद की आशंका सताने लगी थी कि संबंध खराब होने या युद्ध की हालत में भारत उसकी निदयों का पानी रोक सकता है और अगर ऐसा हो गया तो पिकस्तान भारी मुसीबत में धिर सकता है।

1960 में संधि के बाद से रही खामोशी

विभाजन के कारण पंजाब भी दो हिस्सों में बंट गया था- पूर्वी और पश्चिमी। इसका पूर्वी हिस्सा भारत के पास आया तो पश्चिमी हिस्सा पाकिस्तान के पास। तमाम उतार चढ़ाव और विवादों के बाद 19 सितंबर 1960 को विश्व बैंक की मध्यस्थता में भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच नदियों के पानी के बंटवारे के लिए एक समझौता हुआ, जिसे सिंधु जल संधि के नाम से जाना जाता है। इस पर कराची में भारत के तत्कालीन पीएम जवाहरलाल नेहरू और पाकिस्तान के राष्ट्रपति अयुव खां ने दस्तखत किए।



इस संधि के मुताबिक, पंजाब से होकर बहनेवाली तीनों पूर्वी नदियों- रावी, सतलुज और व्यास के पानी पर भारत को पूरा अधिकार दिया गया। पश्चिमी नदियों- सिंधु, झेलम और चेनाब के 13.50 करोड़ एकड़ फीट पानी पर पाकिस्तान को अधिकार दिया गया। यानी इतना पानी भारत, पाकिस्तान को देता रहेगा। भारत को अपने हिस्से के 20 प्रतिशत पानी का कृषि, घरेलू जरूरतों आदि के लिए इस्तेमाल करने के साथ ही बिजली पैदा करने के लिए इन नदियों पर बांध बनाने की अनुमति भी सिंधु जल सींध में दी गई। जहां तक मौजूदा हालात का सवाल है भारत, पाकिस्तान को उसके हिस्से का पानी दे रहा है। भारत के जल संसाधन मंत्रालय का कहना है कि पूर्वी क्षेत्र की तीनों नदियों के पानी का इस्तेमाल करने के लिए भारत लगातार प्रयास कर रहा है। इस मकसद से उसने सतलुज पर भाखड़ा बांध बनाया है। व्यास पर पोंग और पंडोह और रावी पर थीन बांध बनाया है। भारत का कहना है कि वह इन पूर्वी नदियों के पानी की एक भी बूद पाकिस्तान तक जानें से रोकने के लिए लगातार काम कर रहा है। इस सिवासिकों में शाहपुर कड़ी बाध का काम भी जारी है। इससे पंजाब और जम्मू-कश्मीर में 37 हजार हेक्ट्रेयर जमीन की सिवाई और बिजली बनाने में मदद मिलेगी।