

Central Water Commission  
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.

Encl: As stated above.

P. Mahendran  
7.12.18  
SPA (Publicity)

O/C

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

*[Signature]*  
7/12/18

Director, WSE Dte.

*[Signature]*  
7/12

For information to

Chairman CWC, New Delhi

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



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# The human hand in nature's fury



J HARSHA

Natural disasters bleed India more than terrorism. Unbelievable! Just compare the 180 fatalities in 2013 due to terror with the Uttarakhand flood disaster of 2013 that caused 800 fatalities and marooned 700 villages. Similarly, compare 191 fatalities due to terror in Jammu and Kashmir with the flood disaster of the state that caused 300 fatalities affecting over 5000 villages.

Several natural disasters occur in India every year such as floods in Chennai, Mumbai and Bengaluru; Latur and Bhuj earthquakes to recent Kerala floods to the latest cyclone Gaja, causing fatalities and destruction in varying degrees in every nook and corner of India; but not every disaster is as sensational as a terror attack that catches the attention of the entire nation.

Both natural disasters and terrorism are uncertain events. Yet, the lack of preparedness to overcome natural disasters will never catch the attention of the nation, whereas the security lapses of a terror attack storm the headlines.

It has become a pattern in India that the issue of accountability to lapses in disaster management, whether the disaster occurred in the past or an anticipated disaster in the future, remains missing or gets blindsided in any public discourse on disaster management.

The consequences due to these

lapses on the country are profound.

Consider a hypothetical case of a high intensity earthquake striking Delhi, leading to colossal loss of lives and destruction of property.

Before an earthquake can strike Delhi, three facts are widely known: 1) That Delhi is home to about 12 million people with areas with highest population density in the country; 2) Delhi is situated close to the earthquake-prone zone or close to the geologically active Himalayan fault and 3) an earthquake is the disaster-in-waiting for Delhi.

In such a scenario who should be held responsible for the all the death and destruction that an earthquake can cause to Delhi?

Since independence, successive governments at union, state and local levels have created agencies and organisations, with all requisite scientific infrastructure and technical knowhow at the expense of public money, precisely to save lives, reduce hazards and lower the vulnerability to such natural disasters as earthquakes, landslides, droughts, cyclones and floods.

For example, building codes that mandate design of buildings/structures have been formulated under the supervision of government agencies like Bureau of Indian Standards precisely to reduce the risk from earthquakes and lower the vulnerability of men and material exposed to the risk of earthquakes.

And agencies such as public works departments have been created by governments at union, state and local levels to enforce the building codes and raise the level of awareness amongst vulnerable citizens.

But what if the agencies fail to enforce building codes, never undertake any safety drills and fail to create awareness amongst the people to save themselves in the event an earthquake strikes?

Shivraj Singh Tomar, a landlord and a father of two children in possession of four-storey building in the messy Munirka village, one of the most congested areas of New Delhi, is neither aware of any building codes formulated by government agencies nor is he aware of the proximity of New Delhi to the faults and fractures of the Himalayan belt.

All Tomar and thousands like him in Delhi are interested in is making easy money through lucrative real estate business, with little or no knowledge of the earthquake zone or the risks associated with such a natural disaster.

In contrast, when the disaster strikes, it has become a familiar pattern or business-as-usual scenario for government agencies to blame nature for all the mess in disaster management. This is because vested interests are sure that nature cannot walk into the witness box for narrating its version of the story and expose the lapses and lacu-

nae in the disaster management of these agencies.

No inquiry or no investigation by any independent body is visible.

Agencies responsible for protecting people's lives and their property successfully hide behind a common man's ignorance, thus facilitating accused agencies to assume the position of jury and magnificently conduct a trial on nature. The accused then conveniently exonerate themselves from all the accusations and responsibility, culminating in declaration of nature as the guilty party.

Simply put, "Heads" don't roll in India no matter what type of disaster strikes involving fatalities, death and destruction - a criminal neglect. Therefore, India's bane being lack of accountability causes it to bleed more from a natural disaster than any terror attack.

Now compare the case of anticipated disaster of Delhi with the most recent case of floods that caused widespread devastation in Kerala in the month of August this year. Data shows there was indeed extreme rainfall in a short spell of time.

And that's what water resource agencies at the union and state levels have been using as a convenient excuse. These agencies never reveal that they are mandated to lower the flood hazard, lower the risk from floods and lessen the vulnerability to such extreme rainfall events.

In contrast, the laymen barely understand that those very agencies in India's union, state and local governments, who throw the onus on rain gods, were created to anticipate such extreme rainfall events. The vested interests in these agencies therefore thrive on the ignorance of laymen.

Even the stakeholders from diverse disciplines barely know the fact that public money has been spent for decades by governments so as to equip their concerned agencies with state-of-the-art technology, scientific infrastructure and technical know-how in the form of sophisticated weather models, satellite remote sensing technology, telemetry and related capacity building.

In respect of Kerala floods, there were no flood forecasting stations installed at all the dams across Kerala. No inflow and outflow forecast was issued for dams and rivers in the downstream areas of Kerala on the fateful day when extreme rainfall struck. The use of rule curves of dams was never explained to the public and therefore it continues to remain murky.

Despite 72 years of independence, Kerala wasn't even on the flood forecasting map of India in spite of it being

located in one of the highest rainfall regions in the country.

So, was there any risk management in Kerala before the onset of flood events, despite all the generosity of spending public money by the governments? And similarly, is there any risk management in place to protect Delhi from future earthquakes?

In respect of Delhi, the level of enforcement of building codes in Delhi, the level of safety drills conducted so far against earthquakes and the level of awareness created even before a disaster continues to remain dark and murky.

So, Delhi is a case of a colossal disaster-in-waiting precisely due to absence of agencies entrusted with lowering the risk and vulnerability due to earthquakes.

Concluding, India's lack of accountability is a flaw deeply entrenched in its governance. The nation doesn't hold any investigation or inquiry for identifying the lapses and identify the culpability of the agencies in disaster management.

No independent inquiries other than by those who are parties to the disaster management are conducted and therefore the truth about the real causes of the disaster, the role and culpability of nature, the culpability of agencies and organizations entrusted with disaster management and the extent of loss of lives, livelihood, and the economic impact are never revealed.

The facts and truth continue to remain blindsided from public review forever.

As a consequence, the lessons for future disaster management are never learnt. With the business-as-usual scenarios, the nation bleeds with more episodes of horrendous death and destruction caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, cyclones, landslides, etc.

The net result is that India incurs heavy losses to its economy due to natural disasters precisely due to the concerted and distorted propaganda by vested interests projecting nature as the culprit while preserving the status quo of disaster mismanagement. This deception, however, has to end.

And this deception will end only when the lapses in disaster management are treated on par with lapses that lead to a terror attack. When that happens Indian public and the society will find itself less vulnerable, in possession of greater resilience against natural disasters and therefore less reason to fear and point fingers at nature.

The writer is Director, Central Water Commission, Government of India. The views expressed are his own.



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## Cabinet revives dam project on Ravi in Punjab

HTC and Agencies  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The cabinet on Thursday approved the Shahpurkandi dam project on the Ravi river in Punjab, a move that will help arrest India's share of water flowing into Pakistan, a statement said. For this, a central assistance of R485.38 crore — for irrigation component — would be provided over five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23.

The Indus Waters Treaty was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960 for sharing of Indus waters. According to the treaty, India got the full rights for utilisation of waters of the three eastern rivers — Ravi, Beas and Sutlej.

"Some of the water of the Ravi river at present is going waste through the Madhopur Headworks downstream to Pakistan. Implementation of the project would minimise such wastage of water," the statement said.

The project will eventually enable the up-stream Ranjit Sagar Dam project power station to act as a peaking station, besides having its own generation capacity of 206 MW and irrigation benefit of 37,173 hectare to Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. The work on the project began in 2013, but came to a halt over certain issues raised by J&K.

### JALLIANWALA TRUST

The cabinet also approved a proposal to replace Congress member in a trust that runs the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial with leader of the single-largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha to make the body "apolitical". The move will require amendment to the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951. An amendment bill could be brought in Parliament in the winter session beginning December 11.

Briefing reporters on the decisions, finance minister Arun Jaitley said the trust is perhaps

the only government body where a member is from one political party. "The decision aims to suitably amend the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951 so as to secure representation as trustees, the Leader of Opposition recognised as such in the House of the People (Lok Sabha), or where there is no such Leader of Opposition, then the Leader of the single largest Opposition party in the House," an official statement said. As of now, the trust which manages the memorial, has the Prime Minister as the chairperson, President of Indian National Congress, Culture Minister, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Punjab governor, Punjab CM as its members.

### INTERDISCIPLINARY MISSION

The cabinet okayed the launching of the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems. The plan will be implemented by the department of science and technology at a total outlay of R3,660 crore for a period of five years. The mission looks to establish 15 Technology Innovation Hubs, six Application Innovation Hubs and four Technology Translation Research Parks. These will connect to academics, industry, ministries and states to develop solutions at reputed academic, research and development and other organisations.

The mission addresses technological requirements and takes into account global trends and road maps of leading countries, an official statement said.

Jaitley told the press conference that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had also given its 'In Principle' approval for strategic sale of the government's existing 52.63% of total paid up equity shares in Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to Power Finance Corporation (PFC) along with transfer of management control.



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# Kerala to get ₹3,048 crore as flood relief

Home Ministry approves ₹131.16 crore to landslide-affected Nagaland, ₹539.52 crore to Andhra Pradesh for Cyclone Titli

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

A High Level Committee, headed by Home Minister Rajnath Singh, Thursday approved the additional assistance of ₹3,048.39 crore to Kerala, ₹131.16 crore to Nagaland and ₹539.52 crore to Andhra Pradesh, a Home Ministry spokesperson said.

The Kerala government had sought ₹4,700 crore as compensation from the Central government for the damage caused by the floods,

which was termed as the worst in a century.

## High casualties

At least 488 people died in Kerala due to the rains and floods this monsoon, which hit 14 districts of the State.

The meeting of the Committee was held to consider the additional Central assistance to Kerala, Nagaland and Andhra Pradesh, which were affected by floods, landslips and Cyclone Titli, respectively.

In case of any natural calamity beyond the coping capacity of a State, the State government submits a detailed memorandum indicating sector-wise details of damage, and the requirement of funds for relief operations of an immediate nature, another official said.

## Damage assessment

According to existing guidelines, the Central government sends an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) for

an on-the-spot assessment of damage and additional requirement of funds.

The IMCT report is considered by the Sub-Committee of the National Executive Committee (SC-NEC) headed by the Union Home Secretary in conformity with the norms, and then by a high-level committee, chaired by the Home Minister for approving the quantum of additional assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).



**Never seen before:** A file photo of submerged houses in Palakkad during the recent rain and floods. • K. K. MUSTAFAH

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 07.12.2018 in the

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## TIO-7 Water dispute: Delhi draws flak from SC

**New Delhi:** "Why should we pass only Delhi-centric orders?" the Supreme Court said on Thursday while hearing Delhi government's plea on Haryana being directed to release Yamuna water to the capital. Instead of demanding water from the neighbouring state, you should follow the concept of water conservation, the bench of Justices Madan B Lokur, Deepak Gupta and Hemant Gupta told

Delhi government, whose counsel had argued that people were facing severe water shortage here due to Delhi and Haryana being at "political loggerheads", the bench said. It added that the people of Haryana too would suffer if it had to continually give water to the capital.

The bench then referred to the petition filed by one SD Sinha in 1992, to which Delhi government's application

had been filed. The justices observed, "This kind of surrogate litigation is very, very dangerous."

The counsel, while clarifying that both the states were party to the petition filed by Sinha, said Delhi government would withdraw its application and take appropriate steps. The bench disposed of the petition filed by Sinha saying it was not inclined to continue with it. PTI



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## बांध डीपीआर के लिए मंजूरी के खिलाफ तमिलनाडु विस में प्रस्ताव पारित

चेन्नई, (भाषा): तमिलनाडु विधानसभा में बृहस्पतिवार को सर्वसम्मति से एक प्रस्ताव पारित कर केंद्र से आग्रह किया गया है कि वह कर्नाटक को मेकेदातू में कावेरी नदी पर उसके प्रस्तावित बांध के लिए एक विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट (डीपीआर) के वास्ते दी गई मंजूरी वापस ले। विधानसभा के विशेष आहूत सत्र में मुख्यमंत्री के. पलानीस्वामी की ओर से गुरुवार को पेश प्रस्ताव पर एक संक्षिप्त चर्चा के बाद इसे पारित कर दिया गया। इसमें केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्रालय से आग्रह किया गया है कि "केंद्रीय जल आयोग को तत्काल आदेश दे कि वह कर्नाटक को डीपीआर तैयार करने के लिए दी गई अनुमति वापस ले। प्रस्ताव में कहा गया है कि "...यह सदन भारत सरकार से आग्रह करता है कि कर्नाटक को निर्देश दे कि वह स्वयं

डीपीआर  
मंजूरी वापस  
लेने के लिए केंद्र  
से आग्रह

या अपने एजेंसियों के जरिये मेकेदातू में या कर्नाटक में कावेरी बेसिन में किसी स्थान पर...तमिलनाडु की सहमति के बिना... कोई निर्माण कार्य शुरू नहीं करे। प्रस्ताव पारित होने के बाद विधानसभा को अनिश्चित काल तक के लिए स्थगित कर दिया गया। सत्र द्रमुक के नेतृत्व में विपक्षी दलों की मांग पर आहूत किया गया था जिसने इस मुद्दे को लेकर मंगलवार को तिरुचिरापल्ली में एक प्रदर्शन किया था। अन्नाद्रमुक सरकार और विपक्षी दलों ने डीपीआर के लिए केंद्र की हरी झंडी का विरोध किया है।

पलानीस्वामी ने हाल में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को पत्र लिखकर तमिलनाडु के विरोध की ओर ध्यान आकृष्ट किया है और कर्नाटक को दी गई मंजूरी वापस लिये जाने की मांग की है।

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## नमामि गंगे की यूपी-दिल्ली परियोजनाओं की समीक्षा

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

निर्देश ५१-७

केंद्रीय जल संसाधन, नदी विकास व गंगा संरक्षण मंत्री नितिन गडकरी ने 'नमामि गंगे' के तहत उत्तर प्रदेश व दिल्ली की परियोजनाओं की समीक्षा कर काम में तेजी लाने के निर्देश दिए हैं।

गडकरी ने कहा है कि सभी परियोजनाओं को अगले साल तक पूरा करना है और उनकी कोशिश है कि तय समय से पहले ही उनको पूरा कर लिया जाए।

नमामि गंगे के तहत उत्तर प्रदेश में 9405.92 करोड़ रुपए की लागत से कुल 70 परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी गई

- गडकरी ने समय से पहले पूरा करने को तेजी लाने के निर्देश दिए
- कोशिश है कि तय समय से पहले ही उनको पूरा कर लिया जाए

है। इनमें 40 सीवेज संबंधी परियोजनाएं हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश के अधिकारियों ने बैठक में बताया कि सीवेज परियोजनाओं में से 11 पूरी हो गई हैं और 22 पर काम चल रहा है। एक के लिए निविदा हो चुकी है और तीन की प्रक्रिया जारी है, जबकि तीन के लिए टेंडर होने हैं।