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River water diversion to address NK water woes in offing

BAGALKOT, DHNS: Newly sworn-in Minister Murugesh Nirani has said that a delegation of MPs from the state will soon visit New Delhi seeking approval from the Centre for a project worth Rs 6,000 crore aimed at diverting water from River Kali to River Malaprabha to meet the drinking water needs of the six districts of plains.

Speaking to reporters at Kerakalamatti in Badami taluk on Saturday, he said, the Mudhol-based Nirani Foundation has prepared an action plan of diverting the surplus 140 tmcft water of river Kali which otherwise joins the sea through Supa reservoir. With the help of a 35-km pipeline, the river water can be diverted to River Malaprabha and it can be used to meet the drinking water needs of plains, he added.

Nirani said that a proposal has been already sent to the Ministry of Water Resources. Discussions will be held in this regard with the 28 MPs of the state, he said.

AN OASIS OF HOPE in parched Bundelkhand

As tube wells and handpumps go dry, women volunteers build check dams and repair natural water bodies in villages to regain the wealth they had lost, finds **Namita Bajpai**

+ve UTTAR PRADESH

FROM a group of a dozen women, they are now over 750, working tirelessly to mitigate the water woes of over 100 villages of perennially parched Bundelkhand. They are called 'Jal Saheli'.

Their efforts in the last four years have removed thirst from over 100 villages across four Bundelkhand districts. The others are close to achieving the target. Over 450 check dams and 56 lakes have been built in these villages.

Bundelkhand is one of the most water-deficient regions of UP-Madhya Pradesh. Drought is a way of life in its six districts. People go long distances to get water just enough to quench their thirst. Women here are the worst hit as they are the ones who mostly bear the responsibility of fetching water.

Amidst this struggle emerged a group of women of Lalitpur - a district in Bundelkhand - to form 'Jal Sahelis' (friends of water), a self-help group - with the help of an organization called Parmarth Samaj Sewa Sansthan, which works among local communities for water conservation.

The Sansthan started organ-

izing the women, encouraging them to revive water bodies in their village. A dozen women came forward to fight the biggest adversity. They began with repairing the water pumps near their homes.

"It wasn't easy...we were not comfortable going out to work; our husbands feared the wrath of society in letting us participate in public events. They were uncomfortable in letting us converse with volunteers who taught us about water conservation," says Gayatri, 40, a Jal Saheli.

Gayatri's co-worker Rekha says the women of Lalitpur would wake up at dawn to fin-

ish off their chores. "When our husbands left for work and the children were off to school, we'd start our task of repairing the wells near our place," she says.

Sansthan's secretary Dr Sanjay Singh says the women were first sensitized about water conservation, groundwater table and the need for repairing work. Special training programmes were designed by Parmarth to make the women water literate.

The initial success came in a year when Jal Sahelis repaired all the hand-pumps in and around their villages in Lalitpur and installed a few new ones too. Even men volunteered to support the women. "It has become a movement...the women volunteers are now active in six district of the region in both UP and MP. In UP, Jal Sahelis have brought about a sea change in water conservation in Hamirpur, Jalaun, Lalitpur and Jhansi. They have also started working in Chitrakoot," says Dr Sanjay Singh.

"I joined the Jal Saheli programme four years ago. Despite all unpleasant comments and restrictions, I decided to carry on. I have revived five wells in my village Manpur in Jhansi," says Geeta, as she scans a clean water body revived by her.

The women are divided into groups who are trained in water literacy programmes. They build check dams in their respective villages. "In some places, the Jal Sahelis would end up working for 25 days at a stretch, digging acres of existing lakes and converting them into check dams," says Dr Singh. "The water is now available not just for domestic use, but for irrigation as well," he says.

In places where farmers would grow only one crop during the maximum availability of water in the year, they are now getting three crops, courtesy Jal Sahelis. "The farmers' income is rising and migration of youth has been contained - a change being witnessed by thousands of villagers every day," says Dr Singh.

**CONQUERING
ADVERSITY**

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Gayatri, a Jal Saheli



Over 450 check dams and 56 lakes have been built in Bundelkhand villages | EXPRESS

Gujarat rivers remain highly polluted

Effluents continue to be dumped in Sabarmati and Mahisagar

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD

The unchecked flow of untreated industrial effluent into rivers in Gujarat has led to increasing pollution in the Sabarmati, Mahisagar, Narmada, Vishwamitri and Bhadar. According to data from the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), the Sabarmati is among the most polluted rivers in the country.

Gujarat ranks fourth among the top five States with highly polluted rivers, with as many as 20 rivers in the critically polluted category. Recently, a thick froth on the Mahisagar, along a stretch of several kilometres, raised serious concern, prompting the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) to constitute a high-level committee to study the rising level of pollution in the river.

"Pollution in rivers has emerged as a major threat in the last few years because the lackadaisical approach



Death of a river: Untreated effluent being released into the Sabarmati outside Ahmedabad. • FILE PHOTO

of the authorities has emboldened the industries to discharge untreated effluents into flowing rivers," said Vadodara-based environmental activist Rohit Prajapati.

He said that both treated and untreated effluent is released into the estuary of the Mahisagar and Gulf of Cambay, flouting the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

As per the official parameters, if the chemical oxygen demand (COD), which indi-

cates organic pollutant load, is higher than 250 mg per litre, then it should not be released into the rivers.

"Most of the Gujarat rivers where the effluents are dumped into, the COD level is in the range of 700 to 1000 mg per litre. While Dissolved Oxygen (DO) level [indicating the health of a river] in perennial rivers like Mahisagar should be in the range of 6 to 8 mg per litre, it is actually below 2.9 mg per litre," he added.

In December 2020, Mr. Prajapati and a few others wrote a letter to the State authorities providing evidence, including videos and photographs, of how toxic effluents were being dumped into the Mahisagar and other rivers by industries.

"The Vadodara Enviro Channel Ltd, which runs a 55-km-long pipeline to discharge treated effluents into the deep sea, releases the effluents into the river. The effluents are not getting discharged into the deep sea as required," a former official of the Gujarat Pollution Control Board told *The Hindu*.

Now, the State government has proposed a ₹2,300 crore project for a deep sea effluent disposal pipeline to cater to nearly 4,500 industrial units. The project will serve four highly industrialised districts (Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Kheda and Rajkot), which are the main sources of pollution.

Jal Shakti Minister writes to CMs of A.P., Telangana

Shekhawat seeks detailed reports for all new projects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has asked the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to take the initiative to submit the detailed projects reports (DPRs) of all new projects taken up by the two governments, as agreed at the Apex Council meeting held on October 6, last.

In separate letters addressed to the Chief Ministers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, K. Chandrasekhar Rao and Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy, respectively, Mr. Shekhawat reminded them that they had agreed to submit the DPRs of all new projects to the Krish-



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

na and Godavari River Management Boards (KRMB and GRMB, respectively) constituted under the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act.

The Union Minister said that while Andhra Pradesh had submitted only one DPR

out of 19 new projects taken up after the bifurcation of the combined Andhra Pradesh, including 15 in the Krishna basin and four in the Godavari basin, Telangana had not given the DPR for any of the 15 projects taken up, including seven in the Krishna basin and eight in Godavari basin. Andhra Pradesh had submitted the DPR of the Purushottapatnam lift irrigation scheme, he noted.

The two State governments were also required to secure other statutory approvals and clearances for going ahead with new projects, and submission of DPRs was necessary to resolve lingering disputes, the Minister felt.

Rajasthan Patrika- 17-January-2021

1979 में राष्ट्रीय चंबल अभयारण्य में छोड़े गए थे डॉल्फिन के पांच जोड़े अब हैं 150 से अधिक वयस्क डॉल्फिन गंगा की तरह चंबल में भी अठखेलियां करने लगी हैं डॉल्फिन, बढ़ रहा है कुनबा

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

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इटवा. दुनिया की सबसे बुद्धिमान जीव कही जाने वाली डॉल्फिन का कुनबा चंबल नदी में अब बढ़ रहा है। पिछले करीब 40 सालों में डॉल्फिन की संख्या में दोगुनी तेजी से इजाफा हुआ है। 1979 में राष्ट्रीय चंबल अभयारण्य में घड़ियालों के साथ गंगा डॉल्फिन (गंगा सूँस) के भी संरक्षण का काम शुरू किया गया था। तब यहां डॉल्फिन के महज पांच जोड़े छोड़े गए थे। पिछले वर्ष दिसंबर में जब चंबल सेंच्युअरी की टीम ने डॉल्फिनों की गणना की तो नतीजे काफी बेहतर मिले। सेंच्युअरी के क्षेत्राधिकारी के अनुसार चंबल में 150 वयस्क डॉल्फिन अठखेलियां करती दिखी। समुद्री लहरों के बीच अठखेलियों करने वाली डॉल्फिनों को चंबल का पानी रास आ रहा है। साफ पानी और ऑक्सीजन



की अच्छी मात्रा मिलने से उनकी संख्या में इजाफा हुआ है।

साफ और शुद्ध चंबल का पानी: चंबल नदी डॉल्फिन के साथ-साथ घड़ियाल, मगरमच्छ, कछुए और विभिन्न प्रकार के जलचरों के लिए जानी जाती है। चंबल का पानी मीठा, साफ और शुद्ध होने के कारण यहां पिछले कुछ सालों में डॉल्फिन्स का कुनबा बढ़ा है। सेंच्युअरी के

क्षेत्राधिकारी हरिकिशोर शुक्ला के अनुसार, डॉल्फिन प्रदूषित पानी में कभी नहीं रहती। पानी में प्रदूषण बढ़ते ही डॉल्फिन वह क्षेत्र छोड़ देती है। चंबल में ऐसा नहीं हुआ। यही वजह है कि बीते कुछ सालों में उनकी संख्या इतनी बढ़ गई। क्षेत्राधिकारी के अनुसार, अगर ऐसे ही उनकी संख्या बढ़ती गई तो जल्द ही गंगा से ज्यादा यहां डॉल्फिन पाई जाने लगेंगी।

लायन सफारी में बढ़ेगा शेरों का कुनबा, शेरनी जैसिका के दोनों बच्चे निकले मादा

इटवा जिले के लायन सफारी में शेरों का कुनबा बढ़ रहा है। शेरनी जैसिका

ने के पैदा हुए दोनों शावक मादा हैं। दोनों शावकों के मादानिकलने से इटवा

सफारी प्रशासन के अधिकारी काफी खुश हैं। उप निदेशक सुरेंद्र चंद्र राजपूत

का कहना है शेर का कुनबा बढ़ने में काफी मदद मिलेगी।

भारत का राष्ट्रीय जलीय जीव

गंगा नदी में पाई जाने वाली डॉल्फिन राष्ट्रीय जलीय जीव है। 5 अक्टूबर, 2009 को केंद्र सरकार ने गंगा डॉल्फिन को भारत का राष्ट्रीय जलीय जीव घोषित किया था। इसका वैज्ञानिक नाम प्लैटानिस्टा गेंगेटिका है। गंगा डॉल्फिन गंगा ब्रह्मपुत्र, सिंधु, मेघना नदी अपवाह तंत्र जिसमें भारत, नेपाल और बांग्लादेश शामिल हैं, में पाई जाती है। उत्तर प्रदेश में ये नरोरा और बिहार के

पटना साहिब के क्षेत्र में पाई जाती हैं। 1972 में डॉल्फिन को भारतीय वन्य जीव संरक्षण कानून के दायरे में लाया गया, जिसका मतलब कि इनका शिकार करना अपराध है। इसके बाद 1996 में इंटरनेशनल यूनियन ऑफ कंजर्वेशन ऑफ नैचर ने इन्हें विलुप्त प्राय जलीय जीव घोषित किया। भारत में डॉल्फिनों की संख्या बढ़ाने के लिए मिशन क्लीन गंगा चलाया जा रहा है।

कार्यालय लौह पुरुष सरदार वल्लभ भाई पटेल सहकारी शक्कर

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