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HOMES TOWARDS END OF PIPELINES WORST HIT

Delhi reels under water crisis as Yamuna level dips, rain falls short

Officials also cite irrigation time in Haryana as a reason, say working on plan to address the issue

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

WATER LEVEL in the Yamuna has reduced significantly since a week due to poor rainfall and beginning of the crop season in Haryana, which has severely impacted the water supply in parts of the capital.

Reduction in water levels is also increasing the concentration of pollutants, as a result of which two water treatment plants which cater to central, north and Delhi Cantonment areas have curtailed their water production by around 30%, senior officials of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) told *The Indian Express*.

The seasonal water flow of around 5 lakh cusec, which Delhi receives from Haryana at this time of the year through the river, has been cut to 2.5 lakh cusec, officials said.



A view of the Yamuna near ITO last week. A DJB official said the river looks very dry in certain areas due to poor rainfall last September and October, as well as recently. *Tashi Tobgyal*

"The river looks very dry in certain areas and this is mainly because we had poor rainfall in September and October, and in subsequent months this time... In Haryana, it is also the start of

crop season and authorities there too are complaining about lack of water available to them for irrigation," a DJB official said.

Data from the India

Meteorological Department (IMD) shows that rainfall in northwest India has been below normal levels so far this year.

RK Jenamani, senior scientist at the IMD, said that in January, against the normal rainfall amount of 33 mm, northwest India received 28 mm; and in February it was 10 mm against the normal value of 45 mm.

"The showers in the first week of January was the only time significant amount of rain was received so far this year," he said.

Rainfall in September and October last year in Delhi was also 83% and 100% below normal, as per the IMD.

The DJB official said, "Water supply in the command areas of Chandrawal and Wazirabad water treatment plants, which receive water from the Yamuna, has been affected since about a week. Water is being supplied at

low pressure every day, but houses at the tail-end of the pipeline may be receiving less than others. They can avail water tankers by contacting the DJB."

The official added, "In the previous two years, we did not face such a problem because we received good rainfall in October. Water levels would increase in the river if there was some rainfall. In the meantime, we are working on a strategy to help consumers that are at the tail-end of a pipeline."

The IMD has forecast light rain in the plains of northwest India on Sunday, along with isolated thunderstorms and hail in parts of Punjab, north Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Under the influence of a fresh Western Disturbance from March 9 onwards, isolated thunderstorms and heavy rain is again forecast in the plains of northwest India.

The Hindu 07-March-2021

Rajasthan seeks Central assistance for water projects

Demand for national status for canal project reiterated

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

The Congress government in Rajasthan has sought Centre's financial assistance for the ongoing water projects and reiterated its demand for the national project status for the ambitious Eastern Rajasthan Canal supply drinking and irrigation waters to 13 districts.

Calls for Oppn. support

Public Health Engineering Minister B.D. Kalla said in the State Assembly that the Opposition should work in cooperation with the State government for raising the water-related issues with the Centre.

The State could get the Centre's support if the Op-



Centre's share in the Jal Jeevan Mission should be enhanced to 90%

B.D. KALLA
Public Health Engineering Minister

position leaders put forth the subjects in an assertive

Mr. Kalla was replying to the debate on budgetary demands for Public Health Engineering Department, which deals with water supply in the State.

The Minister said the Centre's share in the Jal Jeevan Mission should be enhanced to 90% and steps be taken for bringing the State's full share in the Yamuna waters from neighbouring Haryana.

The demands worth ₹8,336.74 crore were passed in the House by voice vote after the debate.

Mr. Kalla said strict action would be launched against illegal water connections and steps will be taken to ensure piped water supply till the tail-end.

Plan for summer

The State government has also chalked out a contingency plan for summer.

While new water supply schemes will be implemented in both urban and rural areas in 2021-22, Mr. Kalla said new borewells, hand-pumps, solar power plants and reverse osmosis plants and laboratories would facilitate the supply of adequate water in the villages.

Pioneer 07-March-2021

Heavy rain, rise in temp in 4 decades could have led to rock collapse

New Delhi: Heavy precipitation in the Chamoli region from February 4-6 and an overall rise in temperature in Uttarakhand in last four decades could have led to the rock collapse which triggered the deadly flash floods in the state last month, according to a study by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

The report by Kathmandu-based ICIMOD, which was released on Friday, found that a crack had formed prior to the incident at the site where the rock detachment led to a rock-

slide from the Raunti peak.

The rockslide brought along with it mounds of earth and snow which could have triggered the flash floods. With a straight slide line of 1.6 km (5500 to 3900 masl), the kinetic energy during the fall generated enough heat to melt the ice. As the debris moved downstream in the Rishiganga river, it pushed running river water ahead of it, including water from small ponding structures along the river path.

So far 72 bodies and 30 human body parts have been recovered from different places

in the avalanche-hit areas, out of which 41 bodies have been identified. As many as 132 persons are still missing.

The ICIMOD is a regional organisation that works on different aspects in the Himalayan-Hindukush region. It has eight members --- India, China, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. At the same headwall of the Raunthi peak, a large ice avalanche was previously released somewhere between 19 September and 9 October 2016, which deposited ice and more bedrock in the valley below, the

UTTARAKHAND TRAGEDY

report states.

"The resulting destabilisation of the rock due to the lack of ice cover (glacial buttressing, stress-release fracturing), and increased exposure to solar radiation and hence an increased freeze thaw cycle, in combination with a large snowfall event preceding the event of February 7, 2021 and rapid melt water production, may have favoured the fracturing of rock," the report states.

"This can, however, not

explain the depth of the fracture (150 metres), which must have evolved over a longer period of time," the report states. The ICIMOD report further states that a strong western disturbance passed across Kashmir and northwest India from February 4-6. It was fully charged with convective instability that may have contributed to the heavy precipitation. The Uttarakhand tragedy occurred on February 7. "Numerical simulation of some of the attributes have

been carried out which depict strong evidence of heavy precipitation contributing to high flows downstream," it said.

The numerical simulation on February 4 shows heavy precipitation over the region. The western disturbance travelled with relatively slower speed and its stagnancy produced concentrated precipitation, the report states. "Precipitation data derived from Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) Mission suggests that there were continuous precipitation events from February 3-5 which resulted in approxi-

mately 58 mm of cumulative precipitation. Most of the precipitation in the high altitude areas of Chamoli would have occurred as snowfall," it states.

The temperatures are also rising in Uttarakhand, the report states, saying maximum temperature in the Chamoli area has increased at the rate of 0.032 degrees C per year between 1980 and 2018.

Furthermore, January 2021 was the warmest January on record in Uttarakhand for six decades, the report states.

"While a hazard event like the flood at Chamoli cannot be

directly attributed to climatic changes, the increased thaw-freeze cycle of permafrost could have partially contributed to the event," it states.

A report by the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) also stated that the collapse of a massive rock, which brought down a large amount of earth and snow, may have triggered the flash floods. The debris also blocked the mouth of a stream in the upper reaches of the Rishiganga river. This led to formation of a glacial lake which is being monitored continuously. **PTI**

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Entire Guj will be covered under Nal Se Jal Yojana by 2022: CM

Ahmedabad: All households in Gujarat will get tap water connections under the Centre's 'Nal Se Jal Yojana' by the year 2022, ahead of the year 2024 target set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani told the Legislative Assembly on Saturday.

Rupani said 17 lakh households in the state are yet to be covered under the ambitious scheme aimed at providing drinking water through taps.

"People of north Gujarat suffered for years due to contaminated ground water. We want to eliminate our dependence on hand pumps and provide drinking water through tap connections. Though Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target of the year 2024, Gujarat will meet this target in the next 17 months," Rupani told the House.

He was responding to queries

raised by Congress MLAs on the status of water supply in the state.

The CM said the state government had allocated Rs 4,000 crore for the 'Nal Se Jal' project. He said 82 per cent of the total work on the project has already been completed.

"We are planning to provide 1 lakh tap connections every month to cover the remaining 17 lakh houses in the next 17 months. Out of the total 95 lakh beneficiaries identified under the project, 17 lakh are yet to be covered," the CM said.

"We are using the lift irrigation technology to bring water to the doorstep of each and every household. Not a single village will be left out by 2022," he said.

Listing challenges, the chief minister said providing water tap connections in remote tribal and mountainous regions is proving difficult. **PTI**

Pioneer 07-March-2021

Fighting water woes



Kusuma at the well

The decision to opt for farming was not easy for the women. The primary reason being the region is water scarce. So, when Kusuma opted to grow vegetables the first thought that came to her mind was from where to get water for irrigation.

This time her caste came to her rescue. Being a *dalit* her house was at the corner of the village. There was a well at one corner of the field which was lying defunct for many years. The well was built by upper caste people of the village but they stopped using it after they installed pumps in their houses.

"This well was in very bad shape. One day sitting at the base of the well my husband and I discussed if we can install a pump then withdrawing water from the well would be easy. This way we will be able to solve the irrigation problem too," Kusuma tells you.

Initially, the husband-wife duo had used a bucket to pull water and then irrigated the vegetable with a mug. This was a tedious and time consuming job.

Shiv Avtaar, husband of Kusuma, had a little bit of knowledge of machines as he had helped electricians in the factory in Vapi. They took a little loan from a private moneylender and installed a pump.

"The water problem is solved to a large extent. After success in the vegetable business I am looking for diversification. My husband is looking for avenues in fisheries and poultry," she tells you.

Hindustan 07-March-2021

चारधाम यात्रा में श्रद्धालुओं को 24 घंटे पानी मिलेगा

ऋषिकेश। उत्तराखंड की प्रसिद्ध चारधाम यात्रा के पहले पड़ाव में इस बार श्रद्धालुओं को 24 घंटे पानी मिलेगा। जलसंस्थान ऋषिकेश से तपोवन तक हाईवे के किनारे लगे करीब 40 स्टैंडपोस्ट को अपग्रेड करेगा। प्रस्ताव तैयार शासन को भेजा है। यात्रा के दौरान बाहरी प्रांतों से आने वाले श्रद्धालुओं को पेयजल उपलब्ध कराने के लिए ऋषिकेश, मुनिकीरेती और तपोवन में हाईवे के किनारे स्टैंडपोस्ट लगाए गए हैं।

Punjab Kesari 07-March-2021

एमसीडी के पार्कों से गायब हो सकती है हरियाली

एनजीटी के आदेश पर सभी ट्यूबवेल बंद करने के आदेश, केवल ट्रीट वाटर ही इस्तेमाल करने का आदेश

राकेश शर्मा

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): दिल्ली में बढ़ती गर्मी के बीच दिल्ली नगर निगम के पार्कों से हरियाली भी गायब हो सकती है। दरअसल एनजीटी ने सभी ट्यूबवेल को बंद कर वहां ट्रीट वाटर से सिंचाई करने के आदेश दिए हैं, जबकि अभी तक पार्कों में ट्रीट वाटर की लाइन नहीं पहुंच पाई है। यह मामला साउथ एमसीडी में कई बार उठ चुका है, पार्क हर बार मांग करते हैं कि जब तक कोई विकल्प नहीं मिल जाता पार्क में सिंचाई के लिए ट्यूबवेल चलने दिया जाए। बता दें कि करीब 657 वर्ग किलोमीटर के क्षेत्रफल में फैले दक्षिणी दिल्ली नगर निगम के अधिकार क्षेत्र में छोटे-बड़े करीब 6400 पार्क आते हैं। इनमें से ज्यादातर पार्कों में पानी के अधिकृत कनेक्शन नहीं हैं। निगम के ज्यादातर पार्कों में पानी के अवैध बोरवेल या पानी के कनेक्शन थे। अवैध बोरवेल को एनजीटी के आदेशों के चलते बंद कर दिया गया है। इसकी वजह से इन पार्कों में गर्मी के मौसम में सिंचाई की मुश्किल खड़ी हो गई है। बताया जा रहा है कि मार्च महीने की शुरुआत तक सिंचाई की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं हो पाई है। जिसकी वजह से आने वाले दिनों में इन पार्कों से हरियाली गायब हो सकती है।



**निजी
कंपनी पर है
जिम्मेदारी**

दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने एक निजी कंपनी को दिल्ली के विभिन्न इलाकों के पार्कों व इसी तरह के दूसर आवश्यकताओं के लिए पानी उपलब्ध कराने की योजना पर काम करने की जिम्मेदारी सौंपी थी। इस कंपनी ने जल बोर्ड को करीब 700 करोड़ रुपये की परियोजना बनाकर सौंपी है। इस राशि में से करीब 74 करोड़ दक्षिणी दिल्ली नगर निगम के हिस्से में आये हैं। जब तक यह राशि दक्षिणी दिल्ली नगर निगम नहीं चुका देता है, जब तक जलबोर्ड की ओर से निगम के पार्कों को पानी उपलब्ध नहीं कराया जाएगा।

कहां से लाएं फंड

आर्थिक तंगी से जूझ रहे निगम के पास नए कनेक्शन के लिए फंड नहीं है। निगम के एक अधिकारी की माने तो दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने पानी के कनेक्शनों के लिए दक्षिणी दिल्ली नगर निगम से करीब 74 करोड़ रुपये की मांग की थी। लेकिन आर्थिक तंगी के चलते नगर निगम यह राशि जमा कराने में असमर्थ है। इसके चलते दक्षिणी दिल्ली ही नहीं बल्कि दिल्ली के ज्यादातर पार्कों की हरियाली खतरे में पड़ गई है। यदि समय रहते नगर निगम की ओर से 74 करोड़ रुपये जमा करा दिये जाते हैं, तभी निगम के पार्कों को जलबोर्ड के एसटीपी प्लांट से सीधे पानी मिल सकेगा।