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TS, AP remove blocks for wildlife to cross in peace

No more human disturbance at stretches of river Krishna

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HYDERABAD, MAY 29

There is good news for tigers and other wild animals crossing River Krishna between Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR) in Telangana and Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) in Andhra Pradesh, two of India's largest protected areas for tigers.

The wild animals are now able to cross over in peace, thanks to a joint effort by the two Telugu states in removing human disturbance over some stretches of the river designated as wildlife crossing areas.

Krishna River forms a natural boundary between the two tiger reserves that in united Andhra Pradesh came under Rajiv Gandhi Tiger Reserve. When Telangana was formed, part of forests on Nallamala hill ranges in Telangana became Amrabad Tiger Reserve, while the Nallamala forests in Andhra Pradesh became the Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve.

Every year, hundreds of fishermen, encouraged by fishing contractors, set up



Officials from Amrabad Tiger Reserve check on the catch of fishermen on River Krishna running next to the reserve.

temporary settlements during summer months along the river, both upstream and downstream of Srisailem dam. Their presence have become a deterrent for wild animals in crossing the river from one side to the other and return to their familiar territories.

"This year, we decided to reduce human disturbance to wildlife along identified stretches of Krishna River to ensure that the animals have undisturbed riverine corridors," Amrabad Tiger Reserve field director B. Srinivas told *Deccan Chronicle*. As part of this effort, tiger reserves' officials and staff have launched a campaign to inform fishermen to keep away from some stretches of

the river that are known crossings. The efforts have started paying off.

Cooperation between officials of both tiger reserves was essential as fishermen asked not to make their camps in some stretches along the river would move on to the neighbouring state.

"So, we began working with officials and staff from NSTR to keep these stretches of the river also clear of human disturbances," Srinivas said.

He underlined that they are not asking fishermen to totally stop fishing. The fishermen have to keep away only from the river stretch between Pogilla to the check dam, which is about a couple of kilome-

tres from Srisailem Dam. This is where wildlife is crossing over from one reserve to another.

Another stretch where fishing is not allowed is between Akkama Caves and Bollaram village on Telangana side, and Chendutippa on Andhra Pradesh side.

"We are receiving good cooperation from the fishermen, as we have ensured that their livelihoods are not affected. At the same time, we have been able to provide safe corridors on the river for wild animals," the Amrabad reserve field director stated.

These riverine corridors on Krishna have been identified keeping in view the depth of the water, where wild animals, whether tigers, deer, or others can safely cross.

While tigers are expert swimmers, other wild animals are not. Others require shallow stretches over which they can safely wade through.

Camera trap images have confirmed movement of tigers on both sides of the river, confirming the importance of these riverine corridors, Srinivas added.

Morning Standard 30-May-2021

Water levels drop in major dams, likely to hit power generation for city

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

A drop in water levels in the reservoirs of Bhakra, Pong and Thein dams is likely impact power generation and release of water for irrigation to the beneficiary states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi. While Bhakra reservoir currently holds just 8 per cent of its capacity, reservoirs of Pong and Thein have only 14 per cent

and 34 per cent of their respective capacities filled.

As per the latest data by the Central Water Commission (CWC) on May 27, Bhakra Dam holds 0.524 billion cubic metre (BCM) of water against its total capacity of 6.229 BCM which is just 8 per cent of the full reservoir level (FRL). Last year on the same date it was 22 per cent of the FRL.

Meanwhile, the Pong Dam

holds 0.880 BCM water, which is 14 per cent of the FRL, while last year on the same day (May 27) it was 48 per cent of the FRL. Ranjit Sagar Dam (Thein) holds 0.788 BCM, which is 34 per cent of its FRL, while the FRL on the corresponding date last year was 51 per cent.

"To chalk out the daily release plans, Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) officials are in touch with the

governments of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi," said a BBMB official adding that due to less rainfall in the last two years and less snow melting in this month, the water levels have dipped more compared to the previous years.

Meanwhile, demand for irrigation water is likely to increase in the coming day as farmers preparing for paddy sowing.



The Hans 30-May-2021

Monsoon to hit Kerala tomorrow

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The duration of its progress from Kerala to Goa can be shorter or longer depending on the conditions, he added. The IMD had announced the Monsoon's arrival in Andaman and Nicobar Islands on May 21. The impact of cyclone Tauktae is over and it will not have any more influence on Goa, the official said, adding that the impact of cyclone Yaas has also ended. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are very likely at isolated places in Goa till May 31, the IMD predicted on Saturday. It also warned fishermen in the state of rough sea conditions for the next five days.

Rajasthan Patrika 30-May-2021

लौकी, तरबूज, तोरई, करेला, टमाटर की करते थे खेती गंगा नदी का पानी बढ़ने से हजारों बीघा फसल जलमग्न, भारी नुकसान

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

फर्रुखाबाद. जिले में अचानक गंगा का जल स्तर बढ़ने से गंगा की रेती में खेती करने वालों पर आफत टूट पड़ी है। गंगा तराई क्षेत्र में सैकड़ों की संख्या में गांव बसे हुए हैं। ज्यादातर लोग गंगा की रेती में लौकी, तरबूज, तोरई, करेला, टमाटर आदि की खेती करते थे। जब 15 जून के बाद बाढ़ आना शुरू होती थी। तब तक फसल खत्म होने की तरफ पहुंच जाती थी लेकिन इस बार समय से पहले ही गंगा का जल स्तर अचानक बढ़ने से किसान समझ नहीं सके। बीते 24 घण्टे में जल स्तर लगभग 5 फुट बढ़ गया है। जो रेती की खेती 10 फीट ऊपर थी लेकिन कटान होने से वह जल में समाहित हो गई है।

पीड़ित किसानों का कहना है कि जिस प्रकार से गंगा का जल स्तर अचानक बढ़ा उससे रेती में खेती करने वाले किसान पर आफत टूट पड़ी है। उनकी सारी फसल जल मग्न हो गई है। जब वह अपनी खेती को उजड़ते हुए की तराई को मन से देखते हैं तो उनकी आंखों से पानी निकलने लगता है। किसान सीलू पठान का कहना है कि वर्तमान समय में तरबूज की खेती खत्म होने की तरफ थी लेकिन अभी रेती में करेला व तोरई की खेती लगभग एक महीने चल सकती थी, लेकिन जल



किसानों का लाखों रुपए का नुकसान

गंगा नदी में बेमौसम छोड़े गए पानी से गंगा के तराई के किसानों की फसलें जलमग्न हो गईं। हालत यह है गंगा के तराई इलाके में मौजूद सैकड़ों बीघा तोरई, लौकी, समेत तरबूज, खरबूजा जैसी रेती की फसल जलमग्न होने से किसानों का लाखों रुपए का नुकसान हो गया। गंगा किनारे खेती करने वालों

किसानों ने मुख्यता सब्जी और तरबूज खरबूजा जैसी फसलों को तैयार किया था लेकिन एक तरफ कोरोना के चलते किसानों को फसल की लागत नहीं निकल रही थी लेकिन इसी बिच गंगा में छोड़े गए पानी ने किसानों के जले पर नमक छिड़क दिया और सैकड़ों बीघा फसल पानी में समा गई।

बढ़ने से सैकड़ों किसानों की अर्थव्यवस्था खराब कर दी है। हमारे जैसे हर किसानों की हजारों बीघा जमीन की फसल गंगा में समाहित हो गई है।

किसान बाबू खान का कहना है कि मेरी 16 बीघा रेती में खेती थी, अचानक जल बढ़ जाने से वह पूरी तरह जल

में डूब गई है। अभी तक किसी किसान को यह नहीं मालूम है कि यह जल स्तर क्यों बढ़ गया है। देखना यह होगा कि सरकार इन गरीब किसानों की किस प्रकार से मदद कर रही है, क्योंकि इन किसानों ने किसी न किसी से उधार की रकम लेकर खेती में लगाया था, आखिर वह यह कर्ज कैसे दे पाएंगे।