

The Times of India- 02- March-2023

77 new glacial lakes add to flood risk in Kumaon



The lakes formed due to shrinking of snow-covered areas in Gori Ganga

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Dehradun: A field study conducted by a professor of Kumaun University has revealed the presence of 77 new glacial lakes in the Gori Ganga region of the Kumaon Himalayas. The water bodies, situated at an elevation of over 3,500 metres, formed over three decades — between 1990 and 2020 — due to shrinking

of snow-covered areas. The Gori Ganga region mainly consists of Milam, Gonkha, Ralam, Lwan and Martoli glaciers. The largest glacial lake, with a 2.7km diameter, was found in Gonkha.

"Any future geological activities can cause the lake to burst, triggering a flash flood," the study mentioned.

► 'Growing fast', P 14

'Diameter of glacier lakes, formation of new ones growing fast'

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There are several other glaciers, too, which are tributaries of the main glacial bodies, said Devendra Parihar, professor of geography at the Nainital campus of Kumaun University.

"By 2020, a total of 77 glacier lakes (with diameter over 50 metres) were formed. Of these, the maximum, 36 lakes, are

present in Milam, seven lakes in Gonkha, 25 in Ralam, three in Lwan and six lakes in Mertoli glacier. Both the diameter of glacier lakes and formation of new lakes are increasing rapidly in all glacier regions," Professor Parihar said.

The professor told **TOI** that the Gori Ganga watershed, which was his study area, witnessed severe flash floods in the last 10 years, causing huge losses

to property and agricultural lands. The study was conducted using GIS (geographic information system), remote sensing and satellite photographs, which was followed by "ground trothing" (data collection at the site after field trips). The professor also visited Milam and Gonkha glaciers as part of the research.

Due to frequent floods, several villages in the Gori Ganga valley area, including Toli, Lumti, Ma-

wani, Dobri, Baram, Sana, Bhandeli, Dani Bagad, Sera, Ropar, Seraghat, Bagichabgarh, Umadgarh, Bangapani, Devibaghd, Chhodibaghd, Ghattabaghd, Madkot and Talla Mori, have been declared disaster-prone by the district administration.

In November 2021, the year a flash flood in Chamoli killed around 200 people, the Uttarakhand disaster management department had inked an MoU

with the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing to carry out a satellite-based mountain hazard assessment, including monitoring of glacial lakes, glaciers and landslides zones and avalanche-prone areas in Uttarakhand. As per an estimate of the disaster management department, there are over 1,000 glaciers and over 1,200 small and big glacial lakes in the higher mountainous region of Uttarakhand.

The Hindu- 02- March-2023

Water sufficient only for 2 months' power generation

IDUKKI

The water levels in major hydel dams, including Idukki, in Kerala have dipped. According to KSEB officials, the Idukki dam, a major hydel power generation station in the State, has water sufficient for only two more months of power generation. » Page 4

Idukki water only for 2 more months of power

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

The water levels in major hydel dams, including Idukki, in Kerala have dipped. According to Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) officials, the Idukki dam has water sufficient for only two more months of power generation.

The water level in Idukki on Wednesday stood at 2,353.94 ft, which is 49.17% of its storage capacity. The level on the same day last year was 2,376.24 ft (70.08%).

K.K. Sivarajan, executive engineer, dam safety, KSEB, Vazhathope, told



The water level in the Idukki reservoir on Wednesday stood at 2,353.94 ft, which is 49.17% of the total storage capacity.

The Hindu that the available storage in the Idukki reservoir is capable of generating power for only two months. "Over 90 days are left for the next water year (June 2023 - May 2024) in the State. If we do not re-

ceive proper summer rain, it will affect power generation. At present, electricity generation at the Moolamattom power plant follows a moderate rate in order to maintain optimum water level in the Idukki

dam for emergency situations," said Mr. Sivarajan.

"The present storage level is 2,353.94 ft and the minimum draw-down level (MDDL) of the Idukki dam is 2,199 ft. (MDDL is the level below which water will not be drawn in order to maintain a minimum head required in power projects). At present, only 154 ft of water from the Idukki dam can be used for power generation," said Mr. Sivarajan.

Deficit NE monsoon

The absence of a proper northeast monsoon and the release of water from the Idukki dam for main-

taining the rule curve have resulted in the low storage, he pointed out.

According to officials, the present water storage can generate 1077.783 million units of power.

Storage levels in the other major hydel dams in the State too have dipped.

Storage levels in several key hydel dams on Tuesday were as follows: Pampa 57%, Sholayar 90%, Idamalayar 50%, Kundala 94%, Mattupetty 84%, Kuttiyadi 52%, Thariyode 43%, Anayirankal 100%, Ponmudi 55%, Neriyan-galam 56% Peringalkuthu 26% and Lower Periyar 75%.

The Tribune- 02- March-2023

NGT bans building temporary bridges on Yamuna for mining

**CRIMINAL
NEXUS**
BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR
 TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 1

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has barred Haryana from allowing the construction of temporary bridges by mining contractors across the Yamuna for sand mining.

The directions came in a case where the Haryana Government's policy, dated October 19, 2021, for allowing such bridges across the river is under challenge.

During a resumed hearing in the case on February 23, the NGT said, "Section 20 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, inter alia mandates this tribunal to apply the precautionary principle. In view thereof, it is ordered that no further permission for the construction of any temporary bridge across river Yamuna for facilitating any sand mining and allied activities be granted."

SONEPAT RESIDENT HAD MOVED TRIBUNAL

In 2022, a Sonapat resident, Vikas Kumar, had approached the NGT, alleging that the natural flow of the Yamuna had been diverted by constructing an illegal bridge. During the proceedings, Haryana's policy for allowing temporary bridges for mining came under scanner.



The NGT further said that the presence of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the Ministry of Jal Shakti was essential for the just and proper decision of the questions involved in the case. "Accordingly, the MoEF&CC and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, are ordered to be impleaded as respondents..." added the NGT.

Earlier, in 2022, a Sonapat resident, Vikas Kumar, had approached the NGT against M/s Yodha Mines, alleging

that the natural flow of the Yamuna had been diverted by constructing an illegal bridge. During the proceedings, Haryana's policy for allowing temporary bridges for mining also came under scanner.

Commissioner and Secretary to the Haryana Government, Irrigation and Water Resources, Pankaj Agarwal, has submitted before the Tribunal, vide a written reply, dated January 30, that their policy "does not permit any type of construction in the entire breadth of the river

except only in between creeks developed due to the natural flow of the river".

Giving a background of their policy, he told the tribunal that after a request from mining contractors, it was decided at a meeting with Haryana CM on August 20, 2020, that the mining operations in the river-bed areas require the crossing over of the river channel to access different areas included in the mining block and the "irrigation department may undertake the construction of appropriate structures" required for the crossing over of the excavators' transport vehicles etc.

During further deliberations on the issue on February 9, 2021, where officials of the Mining Department, Haryana State Pollution Control Board and the Irrigation Department were present, the CM observed that the construction of the crossover points by the Irrigation Department takes a long time and the utility of such points at a delayed period becomes null.

Navbharat Times- 02- March-2023

यमुना में अमोनिया का स्तर बढ़ा

■ विस, नई दिल्ली: राजधानी में जल संकट गहरा रहा है। बढ़ती गर्मी के साथ जलस्तर में कमी आ रही है। वहीं अमोनिया का स्तर भी बढ़ रहा है। इसकी वजह से कई इलाके प्रभावित हो रहे हैं। आने वाले कुछ दिनों तक यह स्थिति बनी रह सकती है। दिल्ली जल बोर्ड इसे लेकर हरियाणा से लगातार बात कर रहा है। डीजेबी से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार बुधवार सुबह 10 बजे

वजीराबाद वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट ने महज 83 एमजीडी पानी का उत्पादन किया। जबकि इसकी क्षमता 134 एमजीडी की है। वहीं वजीराबाद तालाब का जल स्तर भी 671.8 फीट रहा। जबकि इसका सामान्य स्तर 674.5 फीट है। अमोनिया का स्तर भी बढ़कर 3.5 पीपीएम तक हो गया है। जबकि डीजेबी के ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट 0.9 पीपीएम तक के अमोनिया को ध्यान में रखकर बने हैं।