

I/178906/2024

Telangana Today- 19- July-2024

Heavy rains: Floodwaters fill reservoirs



Water level in River Godavari at Bhadrachalam has been increasing with floodwaters from its tributaries flowing into it.

STATE BUREAU
Kothagudem

With intermittent rains, water bodies in the district have been receiving floodwaters, and roads in agency villages turned muddy causing inconvenience to the villagers.

The district's average rainfall was 24.6 mm with 23 mandals in the district receiving light to heavy rainfall in the past 24-hours, during which Chandrugonda mandal in the district received a heavy rainfall of 6 cm. Heavy rainfall of 10.9 cm

and 8.6 cm was recorded in the Aswaraopet and Dammamet mandals respectively on Thursday. Coal production in SCCL open-cast mines in the district was also affected due to the rains. The meteorological department issued a warning of very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall from Thursday to July 20 in the Kothagudem and Khammam districts.

Irrigation officials have lifted 12 gates of the Taliperu project discharging 14,474 cusecs excess water in the morning and at 5 pm

closed six gates reducing the discharge of water to 7483 cusecs. The water level in river Godavari at Bhadrachalam was increasing slowly with floodwaters from its tributaries flowing into it.

Floodwaters have been flowing into Kinnerasani reservoir in Paloncha and the water level was 402 feet in the morning. Officials alerted the residents on the banks of Kinnerasani not to cross the river as there was a possibility of releasing excess water. Superintendent of Police B Rohith Raju ad-

vised people to be alert while crossing the roads on foot and with vehicles as roads and bridges would be overflowing with floodwaters. The district police and other departments have been taking measures to prevent accidents due to rain.

The DDRF team has already been formed by the district police and it would be available round the clock to carry out rescue operations. If people face any dire situations, they could call 100 to get the services of the police.

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Hindustan Times- 19- July-2024

Flooding, management both vital for Kaziranga

There is scope for putting Kaziranga's annual flooding in its right ecological place. From replenishing channels between wetlands to aiding natural selection of a healthier stock as weak animals perish, floods serve a vital purpose

The edges of the country boat nearly kissed the flooded water of Sohola beel in Assam's Kaziranga National Park (KNP) as the forester-boatman kept pulling the oar. A male rhino on the little grassy patch lifted its heavy head, responding to our smell carried by the wind. Another rhino pulled through the deep waters, flapping its ears and snorting. A couple of hornbills frolicked through the woods and a grey-headed fish eagle on a tree meditated along the edge of the wetland. Despite these animals making the ambience lively, an eerie silence enveloped the horizon. It was marked by the vastness of Brahmaputra's silt-laden water. The beel (wetland) merged with the mighty Brahmaputra to form an inland ocean.

Flooding in KNP is an annual ritual, reflecting the hydrological adventures of the Brahmaputra, a transboundary river springing from the Angsi glacier in southern Tibet. Before entering Assam, it flows through a tectonically

complex region of steep slopes and intense rainfall. A high amount of sediment generation and transportation occurs. The abrupt decline in its slope, a little before entering Assam, causes massive sediment deposition and braiding. Landslides during the 1950 earthquake considerably raised the riverbed of Brahmaputra through the immense silt deposits and substantially lowered its drainage capacity. The result is periodic and predictably precarious flooding.

KNP, spread across Golaghat, Karbi Anglong, Nagaon, and Biswanath districts of Assam, has been a World Heritage Site since 1985. The Indian rhinoceros, Bengal tiger, Asian elephant, wild water buffalo, and eastern swamp deer collectively comprise Kaziranga's Big Five. The vast expanse of grasslands, ~200 wetlands, diverse patches of woods, sandbars and Brahmaputra's waters make KNP a unique habitat at the junction of two biodiversity hotspots — eastern Himalaya and Indo-Burma.

Preparations start around three months before the anticipated flooding. The KNP authority calls for a multi stakeholder meeting consisting of civil and police administrations from the districts, grassroots NGOs, rural institutions, ecotourism operators, media representatives, and independent conservationists. The meeting gives people a free voice. Resource allocation and delegation of duty are key areas addressed during such meetings. A roadmap to face the flood is inked.

The park's southern boundary is dotted by over 70 villages, where more than 50,000 people and their livestock

live. An active interface exists at KNP's fringe, where the livestock share space and food with wild herbivores, potentially creating an opportunity for pathogen sharing. A mass immunisation of livestock against infectious diseases like foot and mouth disease (FMD), hemorrhagic septicemia (HS), and black quarter (BQ) is undertaken jointly by the state animal husbandry department, NGOs and KNP.

The linearity of KNP's boundary has its advantages and disadvantages. While it makes patrolling and surveillance efficient, the highway bordering KNP in the south (NH 715) bisects the park with its saviour, the Karbi Hills.

As the water level rises inside the park, the wild animals start a temporary, short-duration migration to the Karbi Hills. With the mushrooming of facilities like schools, resorts, restaurants, newer settlements and rising vehicular traffic load, small pockets of functional corridors exist where wild animals rush through the tarmac.

Elephants use their feet and trunk to assess safety when on the road. Hog deer don't do very well on the tar road, and they are seen skating, rolling, kneeling and fearfully rushing through the road. Rhinos are unpredictable. Some animals stray into human settlements, and some young ones get separated from their mother. Such incidents call for rescue teams, and the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) helps. By July 15, a fortnight into flooding, CWRC released 133 animals back into the wild out of 154 rescued. During the same period, sadly, 195 animals perished due



Hog deer don't do very well on the tar road, and they are seen skating, rolling, kneeling and fearfully rushing through it during floods

ANI

to drowning. Flood weeds out the sick and senile.

While wild animals head South to Karbi Hills, hundreds of villagers from the fringe of the park carry their belongings and settle down on the highway. Highlands built by The Corbett Foundation in four villages help livestock keepers to safely station hundreds of livestock and their fodder on the highlands. However, not all villages have such highlands. Most conservation narratives worldwide are woven by depicting community and conservation as two opposite poles. However, Kaziranga presents a different story. The local community sometimes protects wild animals independently and often assists the forest department despite their occasional differences. This is organic in evolution and grounded in practice.

Sonali Ghosh, the park's director, explains that road traffic accidents have always been a concern. Animal Sensor System integrated with traffic control, diverting commercial vehicles through NH 329, regulated speed of all vehicles through a pilot-led mechanism, deployment of infrared drones, and deputation of additional 100 cadets of the 3rd Assam Forest Battalion to form a human chain in strategic locations helped drastically reduce the number of wild animals accidents. From 17 and 22 cases of vehicles hitting wild animals in 2017 and 2020, respec-

tively, the number came down to two deer getting hit as of July 15. A low number of accidents signifies safer animal passage.

Structural measures like embankments, elevated roads, and highlands have limited value in exceptionally high floods. Non-structural measures like afforestation and wetland protection beyond the boundaries of Kaziranga will help as wetlands act like sponges to soak up flood waters.

Floods weed out invasive species like *Eichhornia crassipes* (water hyacinth). New layers of fertile alluvial soil deposited by floodwaters coat paddy fields, enhancing productivity. Sick, senile and sapped wild animals perish, facilitating natural selection and population control. The communication channels between wetlands inside the park are restored, vital for water availability around the year. Floods also recharge groundwater. There is scope for putting Kaziranga's annual flooding in its right ecological place amongst common people. A floodplain, like the Okavango Delta in Botswana, the Mekong Delta in Cambodia and Kaziranga in India, survives only if there is recurring flooding. Not all flooding is bad!

Naveen Pandey is deputy director, The Corbett Foundation, Kaziranga, and research scholar at IIT Guwahati. The views expressed are personal



Naveen Pandey

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Deccan Chronicle- 19- July-2024

Polavaram: Probe into seepage from upper cofferdam

**SAMPAT
G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, JULY 18**

The Water Resources department has begun an inquiry into the reasons for seepage of Godavari floodwater from the upper cofferdam of Polavaram irrigation project in Eluru district. The probe is being done on the basis of recommendations of the international experts committee that recently visited the project site.

Officials said it was very important to identify a dry area for construction of the diaphragm wall and the earth-cum-rock-fill

dam on top of it, this being the main dam of the Polavaram project.

"We are trying to stop seepage of water from both the cofferdams located upstream and downstream of the river, with the diaphragm wall and the ECRF coming up in between the two cofferdams," they said.

The authorities have dug up nearly 17 holes along the upper cofferdam and are going to fix piezo meters in five to six holes to gauge the pressure, the depth of the water etc. Once they identify the reasons for the seepage, this would help prepare

designs to further strengthen the cofferdam and check the problem of water seepage. This would help construction of the proposed D-wall across the river, officials said.

The authorities are also facing seepage issue from the lower cofferdam downstream of the river mainly due to the backwaters. They do an investigation to identify the reasons for seepage and address it.

Polavaram project chief engineer in-charge Narasimha Murthy said, "The panel of international experts has recommended some steps to identify the reasons for seepage from

the upper cofferdam, so that designs will be developed accordingly. We are expecting the interim report from the committee by the end of July."

The four-member experts panel that inspected the project and took stock of the damaged components like upper and lower cofferdams, the D-wall and other components and held discussions with experts from the Polavaram Project Authority, the Central Water Commission and other stakeholder agencies. Following this, they gave the interim report on how to overcome the crisis.

As the TD led government is committed to expedite the project execution, a series of studies are going on to expedite the works and complete the project at the earliest. This would benefit cultivation of crops in large tracts of land and supply of water for drinking in erstwhile Godavari districts and also for industrial needs in Visakhapatnam.

The authorities have ruled out any hurdle to continue their works at Polavaram project even as Godavari's water level is rising following the heavy rainfall in its upper catchment areas.

Mint- 19- July-2024

Water levels in India's 150 major reservoirs had rise to 52.72 billion cubic metres. AFP

Water reservoir levels rise to 29%

Water levels in the country's 150 key reservoirs which had remained significantly depleted for more than three years have risen following excess rainfall in central and south India.

This brings relief to not only the agriculture sector, which accounts for 18% of the economy, but also to sectors that are heavy water consumers, such as coal power generators and steelmakers. These sectors rely on the southwest monsoon, which delivers nearly 70% of the rainwater India needs for its farms and to replenish reservoirs and aquifers.

The southwest monsoon this year hit the Kerala coast and northeast India earlier than the scheduled date on 30 May, but lost momentum after 9 June. It reached northwest India on time by 29 June, before unleashing Delhi's highest single-day June rainfall in 88 years. Mumbai was no different. Water levels in India's 150 major reservoirs had risen to 52.722 billion cubic metres (BCM), or 29% of their total live storage capacity, by Thursday. This improved from last Thursday's 26%, according to the central water commission (CWC). **PUJA DAS**

The Economic Times- 19- July-2024

So, the Seine's Now Clean, Ganga, Anyone?

Cleaning up large rivers is never easy. Proving they are clean and restoring citizen confidence in them is even tougher. Ask Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo. Earlier this week, she got into the Seine to take a well-publicised swim to prove that the city's most famous river had been cleaned up enough for Olympic swimmers to swim in later this month. Swimming in the Seine had been banned since 1923 due to high pollution levels. Since 2015, organisers invested \$1.5 bn to prepare it for the Olympics and to ensure Parisians have a cleaner river after the Games. It seems Parisians now have a river to swim in without worry.

The questions raised about Seine's cleanliness provide a good opportunity to check the status of India's lifeline and most famous, the Ganga. Three mega projects have been launched since the 1980s — Ganga Action Plan (1985), National Ganga River Basin Project (2008), and Namami Gange Programme (2014). According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), around ₹20k cr was spent on cleaning the Ganga between 1986 and 2014. Since 2014, another ₹13k cr has been allocated and spent by October 2022.



But we don't yet have a clear answer to any progress made. In Parliament last year, Jal Shakti ministry said that the river has seen 'varying degrees of improvement' in water quality and that the number of polluted stretches has come down. However, news reports point out that the CPCB report quoted by the ministry didn't mention what he had said. Cleaning the river, the ministry added, is a continuous process, and National Mission for Clean Ganga is implementing several conservation and rejuvenation initiatives for the Ganga and its tributaries. That's good. But nearly 25 years on, one would have expected better results for a river we consider 'sacred'.

Business Line- 19- July-2024

Water storage lower than normal in 13 States

UP FOR 3RD STRAIGHT WEEK. Level in 150 major reservoirs rises to 29 per cent of capacity

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

The water storage level in India's 150 major reservoirs improved for the third week in a row though it declined in the northern region, data from the Central Water Commission (CWC) showed.

At least 13 States have storage lower than normal, though the number of reservoirs that had gone dry has decreased to three from seven a month ago, CWC's weekly bulletin on live storage status of 150 reservoirs said.

The reservoirs had a level of 29 per cent (26 per cent last week) of the total capacity of 178.784 billion cubic metres (BCM) at 52.722 BCM.

Of the 150 reservoirs, the storage in 119 is still below 50 per cent of the capacity. The level in 95 of the 119 is

below 40 per cent of the capacity.

EXCESS RAIN

The storage in the reservoirs improved following nine per cent excess rainfall in the first half of July after a 11 per cent deficiency in June. Though the South-West monsoon slowed in the second week, it is expected to intensify in the second half of the month.

According to CWC weekly status of reservoirs, the storage in the southern region improved to 34 per cent (28 per cent) of the 53.334 BCM capacity at 17.965 BCM.

However, barring Kerala (13 per cent above normal) and Karnataka (25 per cent above normal), the level in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is lower than usual.

KARNATAKA BENEFITS

A significant feature is that the situation in Karnataka is

better than last year (51 per cent of capacity vs 20 per cent).

Of the 42 reservoirs in the southern region, the level in 26 is below 50 per cent of the capacity. All the 10 reservoirs in the northern region are filled less than 50 per cent of the capacity.

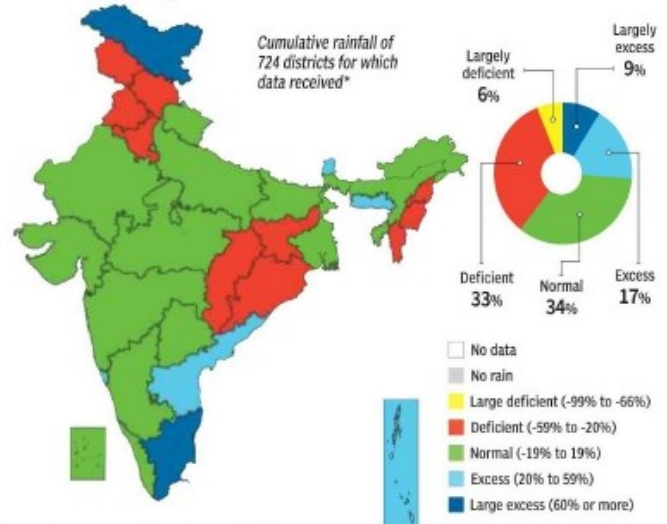
However, there are no concerns over the kharif crops since these States are served well by canal irrigation.

In the central region's 26 reservoirs with a capacity of 48.227 BCM, the storage was 28 per cent at 13.445 BCM. The level in 20 of the reservoirs was below 40 per cent of capacity.

Of the 49 reservoirs in the western region, the level in 33 was below 40 per cent of capacity and in 11 below 50 per cent.

In the eastern region's 23 reservoirs, the level was 21 per cent of the 20.430 BCM capacity at 4.201 BCM.

Steady progress



Source: IMD *Cumulative (June 1 to July 18)

Haribhoomi- 19- July-2024

राजस्थान के जल संसाधन मंत्री ने किया मध्यप्रदेश का दौरा सिंचाई के क्षेत्र में मप्र के नए प्रयोग को गुजरात सरकार भी अपनाएगी

मंत्री सिलावट से गुजरात के जल संसाधन मंत्री बावलिया ने की मुलाकात

हरिभूमि न्यूज ॥ मोपाल

मप्र में सिंचाई के क्षेत्र में हो रहे नए प्रयोग को गुजरात सरकार भी अपनाएगी। इसके तहत गुजरात सरकार के अधिकारी उन परियोजनाओं का दौरा कर रिपोर्ट तैयार करेंगे, जिसमें मप्र सरकार को बड़ी सफलताएं मिली हैं। इसमें भी मोहनपुरा कुंडलिया प्रेशराइज्ड पाइप सूक्ष्म सिंचाई परियोजना को प्राथमिकता में लिया गया है। अपर मुख्य सचिव (मुख्यमंत्री व जल संसाधन) डॉ. राजेश राजौरा ने इसका एक विस्तृत खाका तैयार किया है। इस आधार पर परियोजनाओं का अध्ययन किया जाएगा।

गुजरात के जल संसाधन मंत्री कुंवरजी भाई मोहन भाई बावलिया ने बुधवार को जल संसाधन मंत्री तुलसीराम सिलावट से उनके निवास पहुंचकर मुलाकात की। दोनों मंत्रियों ने दोनों राज्यों की सिंचाई परियोजनाओं और आपसी सहयोग पर विस्तार से चर्चा की। गुजरात के मंत्री बावलिया ने कहा कि सिंचाई के



क्षेत्र में मप्र नित नए क्रीर्तिमान स्थापित कर रहा है। यहां की मोहनपुरा कुंडलिया और केन बेतवा लिंक परियोजनाएं न केवल भारत में अपितु विश्व की सिंचाई परियोजना में महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रखते हैं।

उन्होंने बताया कि मैं यहां मध्यप्रदेश की मोहनपुरा कुंडलिया प्रेशराइज्ड पाइप सूक्ष्म सिंचाई परियोजना और अन्य परियोजनाएं देखने आया हूँ। सिंचाई के क्षेत्र में मध्य प्रदेश में किए जा रहे नए प्रयोगों को गुजरात सरकार भी अपनाएगी।

पीएम मोदी शीघ्र केन बेतवा लिंक परियोजना का भूमिपूजन करने आएंगे

मंत्री सिलावट ने बताया की मप्र में सिंचाई क्षेत्र में अमृतपूर्व वृद्धि हुई है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी शीघ्र ही केन बेतवा लिंक परियोजना का भूमि पूजन करने के लिए मध्यप्रदेश आने वाले हैं। यह परियोजना प्रदेश के बुंदेलखंड क्षेत्र की तस्वीर बदल देगी। मोहनपुरा कुंडलिया प्रेशराइज्ड पाइप सूक्ष्म सिंचाई परियोजना विश्व की अनूठी सिंचाई परियोजना है। इस परियोजना के लिए मप्र को केंद्र सरकार से पुरस्कृत भी किया गया है। इन परियोजनाओं की वजह से आज मप्र का सिंचाई का रकबा बढ़कर लगभग 50 लाख हेक्टेयर हो गया है। उन्होंने बताया कि हमारा लक्ष्य वर्ष 2025 तक इसे 65 लाख हेक्टेयर और वर्ष 28-29 तक इसे 100 लाख हेक्टेयर तक पहुंचाना है।

गुजरात की साबरमती रिवरफ्रंट और अन्य योजनाएं देखने आने का न्यौता

गुजरात के जल संसाधन मंत्री बावलिया ने सिलावट को गुजरात की साबरमती रिवरफ्रंट व अन्य योजनाएं देखने का आमंत्रण भी दिया और गांधी आश्रम की प्रतिकृति स्मृति चिह्न के रूप में भेंट की। इस मौके पर मप्र के जल संसाधन मंत्री सिलावट ने मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. यादव के नेतृत्व में प्रदेश में चलाए गए जल गंगा संवर्धन अभियान और अन्य जल संरक्षण और संवर्धन संबंधी कार्यों की जानकारी दी। उन्होंने इस संबंध में एक पुस्तिका भी भेंट की। इस अवसर पर विभाग के अपर मुख्य सचिव डॉ. राजेश राजौरा, प्रमुख अभियंता शिरीष मिश्रा एवं अन्य अधिकारी उपस्थित थे।