

I/73643/2021

The Asian Age-10 October 2021

Hyderabad flooded after heavy rain

Hyderabad: Several low-lying areas in Hyderabad witnessed inundation on Saturday following heavy rain in the city. Lingojiguda ward office at Saroornagar in the city received 131.5 mm of rainfall, while downpour was also recorded in a number of other locations here during 0830 hours on Friday to 0600 hours on Saturday, according to the data of Telangana State Development Planning Society. Rainwater entered homes in different residential colonies at Hayat Nagar, where some residents complained that their household items were washed away. A man fell in a drainage along with his bike at Chintalkunta late on Friday night and rescue and relief personnel made efforts to trace him. The man, however, reached home safely. Many two-wheelers parked at a cinema theatre were damaged Friday night after a wall collapsed on them. — PTI

Deccan Chronicles (Chennai)-10 October 2021

Seminar on 'climate-resilient agriculture' held in Nilgiris dt

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, OCT 9

The Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation and Research Centre (IISWC) here organised a farmer-scientist interaction on "Climate-resilient agriculture and organic farming", under 'Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav programme', at Madithorai village near here recently.

S. Shibhila Mary, deputy director of horticulture in Nilgiris, in her inaugural address stressed the need for organic farming for climate-resilient agriculture. She spoke about the need to protect soil quality through the application of organic manures as soil health is paramount for good productivity.

Dr. K. Kannan, head of IISWC here, emphasised the need for utilising government schemes and urged the farmers to take maximum benefit out of it.

Dr. P. Raja, principal scientist at IISWC here, dealt in length on the effects of climate change and global warming and how it impacts crop management, soil and water con-

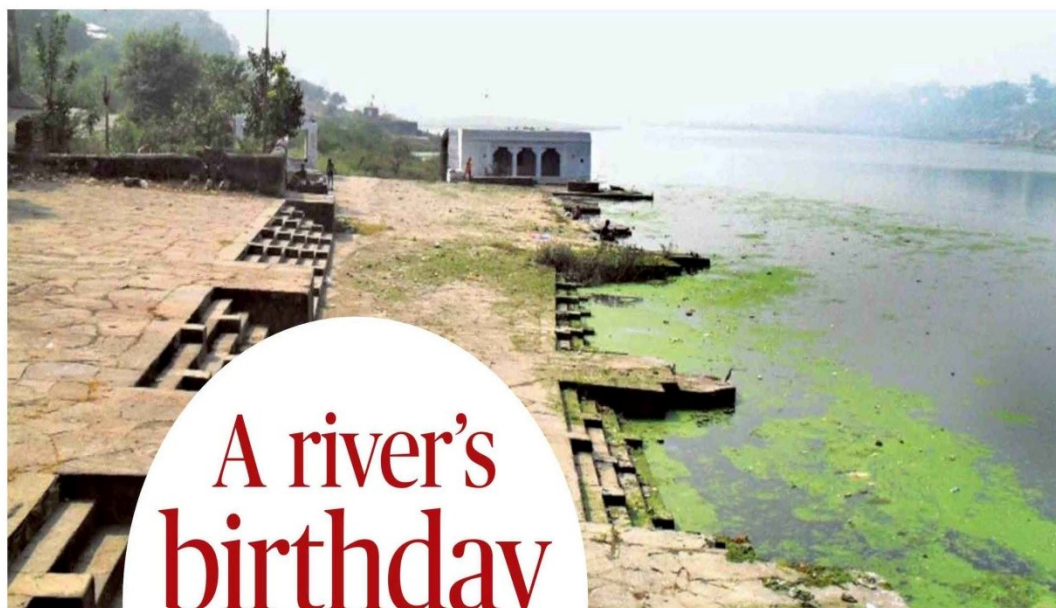
servation. He pointed that extremities in the weather and rainfall pattern, flooding are found to be impacts of climate change in the recent era. So the proper approach to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and global warming is to look at the avenues for climate-resilient agriculture that would help plan agriculture sustainability by wise use of existing natural resources, crop and livestock production systems to achieve good farm productivity and farm sustainability and income in the midst of variability of climate in specific regions. .

Scientist Dr.S.M. Vanitha explained the importance of conservation agriculture for improving farming income. Dr. P. Sundarambal, principal scientist, Dr.Sudheer Kumar Anneppu, scientist of the IISWC also spoke.

As a part of the programme, grass varieties hybrid napier were distributed to interested farmers and a field demonstration was also conducted for grass cultivation.

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The Hindu-10 October 2021



Polluted river An ancient ghat of the Chambal.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A river's birthday

Why not celebrate it, if it leads to its conservation?

Atul Kanakk

Rivers gave birth to civilisation. But their birthdays are unknown and seldom celebrated. Those such as the Ganga are exceptions, as mythological tales speak about their appearance on earth. People residing by a small river, the Thapana, in Haryana celebrate the last Sunday of September as its birthday.

Though COVID-19 has affected the grandeur of the celebration, people visit the river with great faith.

The Thapana is a 15-km tributary of the Yamuna. It's a low-flow river. Small rivers in much of the country are facing an unfortunate end. Ignorance of responsible people initially converts them into a big drain and gradually they die. The Thapana was also moving in that direction. But people came to its rescue in 2012, when a drought created apprehensions.

At that hard time, farmers were asked to fetch water from only those points of the riverbed which were deeper and had sufficient water so that fish and other creatures in the shallow regions could be saved. The farmers agreed, considering that

saving a life is a holy deed. They also wanted to contribute a little to save it as rivers are highly revered in India. It's believed that the Thapana flows underground for a short stretch to nurture crops.

The river was rescued that year. A team of volunteers associated with the Yamuna Jiyo Abhiyaan (Live Yamuna Movement) came forward to help the people. Two committees of friends of river (Nadi Mitra Mandala) were constituted to save the river and to create awareness. These volunteers trained 500 workers from nearby villages to prevent its pollution and to plant saplings on its banks.

When the matter reached the Thames River Trust of London, it also came to help the people. Initiatives were made to increase the people's association with the river. It worked and the Thapana was saved.

An inspiration

This tale may work as an inspiration for all concerned about the condition of small rivers. Unplanned development, irresponsible attitude of authorities and the greed of the land mafia have destroyed several small rivers across the country, which has

a rich tradition of worshipping rivers. Even mighty rivers are shedding tears over their condition.

The Chambal river is mentioned in several ancient texts. The mythological King Rantidev had his kingdom by the river. Kalidasa gave it the epithet of *Rantidevasya Kirtim*, or flag-bearer of the glory of King Rantidev, in his most celebrated work *Meghdootam*. The Chambal is also addressed as *Sadaa Salila* (a river which always has a great flow) in ancient literature. But today, it's struggling for its existence at several points during its journey between Mhow in Madhya Pradesh and Etawah in Uttar Pradesh, where it joins the Yamuna.

A recent survey found that the level of pollution at several points is so high that drinking its water is unsafe. If this is the tale of a *Sadaa Salila* river, the plight of low-flow rivers may be imagined.

But where there is a will, there is a way. The rejuvenation of the Thapana has proved it. The tale of the Kali Bein has also set an example. The river has a historic background. It flows into the confluence of the Beas and the Sutlej at Harik. It is believed that Guru Nanak performed holy *shabdas* on its banks. Some statements say he even attained enlightenment after taking bath in this river. However, in the wake of the

Green Revolution, it became progressively polluted. Even it converted into a drain, when Saint Balbeer Singh Seechewal noticed its plight and committed himself to its rejuvenation. His efforts succeeded, and today, the Kali Bein is considered one of the most holy places of pilgrimage associated with Sikhism.

Almost 150 years ago, governments were not responsible for providing water supply. People had to arrange water on their own. Though this system led to several social collisions, to fulfil their personal interests, people used to be sensitive towards the care and maintenance of waterbodies. But when water became easily available, it pushed wells, step wells, lakes, tanks and even small rivers into a bad shape. Big buildings have been constructed on the path of rainwater and this is the reason that big cities face floods. Water is essential for life, and rivers are the big source of it. Small rivers, or tributaries, help major rivers maintain their flow throughout the year. They should be saved and the rejuvenation of rivers such as the Thapana and the Kali Bein shows that they can be saved by developing a feeling of belongingness in the masses. Even celebrating the birthday of a river may work in developing this association.

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Small rivers in much of the country are facing an unfortunate end. Initially, they degrade into a big drain and gradually die

I/73643/2021

The Statesman-10 October 2021

NGT issues notice on Kharasrota drinking water project

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, 9 OCTOBER:

The National Green Tribunal, eastern zone branch, Kolkata has issued show cause notices to the centre and the Odisha government on the alleged non-compliance of environment and social impact assessment for the Rs 892 crore worth mega drinking water project in Odisha's Kendrapara district.

Acting on a petition moved by Kshitish Kumar Singh, a division bench of NGT comprising Justice Amit Sthalekar

and judicial member Saibal Dasgupta issued notices returnable within four weeks by ruling that 'the matter requires consideration'.

"The affidavit filed before the tribunal by the Principal Secretary, government of Odisha's water resources tribunal has misled the tribunal as well as the people. The EIA study in the mega drinking water project is not done at all as it had been earlier stated by the government agencies', the petitioner's counsel Anshuman Nayak submitted before the NGT.

Further, the monitoring committee for the Bhitarkani-

ka National Park eco-sensitive zone was constituted without proper quorum as it had been envisaged in a 2015 notification by the Central Government. The monitoring committee held its meeting on 15 December 2020 in which it was decided to go ahead with the project based on the EIA report, the counsel Nayak said adding that the government's posture was misleading as the project was carried out despite massive public protest without proper EIA.

The eco-sensitive monitoring committee reported that a study on Environment and

Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was conducted by the Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad prior to the commencement of the project work. However the IIT panel had never visited the site and the study report was based on secondary data only.

It may be recalled here that the Rs 892 crore Buxi Jagabandhu Assured Water Supply to Habitations (BASUDHA) water project by diverting water of Kharasrota River in Rajkani-ka block of Kendrapara had evoked angry protests across Kendrapara district since past

two months.

The project will provide safe drinking water to villages in Bhadrak district. The project requires 105 million litre per day and less than 4 percent of water inflow of the river will be diverted for the mega project, the government officials however claim.

On the other hand, conservationists apprehend that the water level will fall drastically due to the project and it will adversely affect farming and ecology of the nearby Bhitarkanika National Park, which is home to the country's second largest mangrove cover, he said.

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The Times of India-10 October 2021

Corpn clears the way for Roshanara Bagh Lake 2.0

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Photos: Tarun Rawat

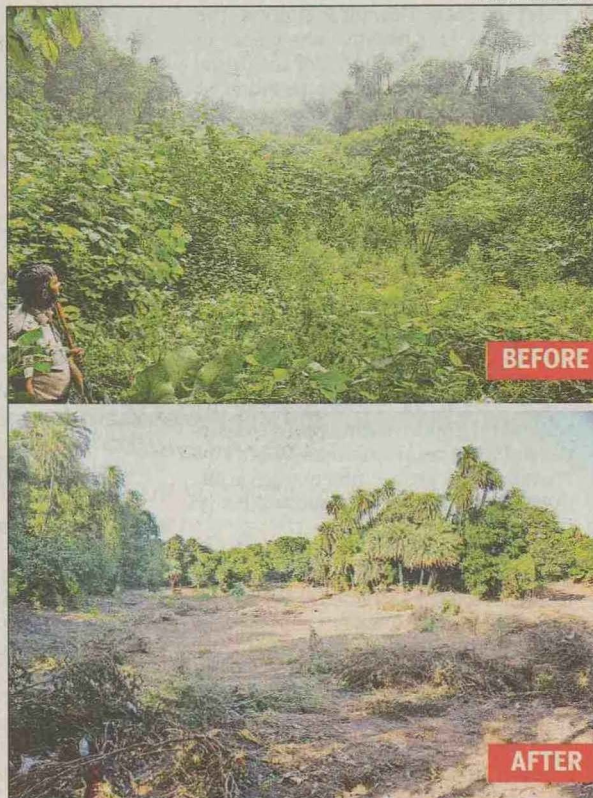
New Delhi: North Delhi Municipal Corporation carried out a drive to clear plants from the dried-up Roshanara Bagh Lake on Saturday. The civic body officials said that this would help Delhi Jal Board initiate the establishment of a new sewage treatment plant (STP) for reviving the lake by the end of the month. The STP will have the capacity to generate 6-7 million litres daily of treated water — sufficient to fill the pond and irrigate parks within the 57-acre lake premises.

A DJB official said, "While the tendering process for the restoration of the lake has been completed, work couldn't start on time due to administrative reasons. As soon as the final budget is approved, we will issue a formal letter to the contractor selected to begin work at the site, possibly by the month-end."

The official explained, "We will tap water from the neighbouring sewer lines and treat it properly at the plant before utilising it. As for the north corporation clearing the weeds, they do it annually, as they did last year too."

The municipal corporation has also established a Jal Shakti Kendra where methods of water conservation and rainwater harvesting are being displayed through various mediums for the knowledge of the citizens. It will be inaugurated on Monday.

Horticulture director Ashish Priyadarshani said the kendra would help resolve



North Delhi Municipal Corporation carried out a drive to clear plants from the dried-up Roshanara Bagh Lake on Saturday

people's queries about rainwater harvesting systems and other water related issues. "The initiative is a part of the Centre's Jal Shakti Abhiyan. We are also exploring ways in which we can reach the maximum number of people," Priyadarshani said.

The concessionaire finalised by DJB will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the estimated Rs 11-crore STP plant for 15 years. The Roshanara Bagh la-

ke has dried up because there is no channel for water supply. For some time, it was fed by rainwater and channels from Najafgarh drain. "But because of a change in the slope of the surrounding area and increased concretisation, it has been dry for a long time, except in 2012-14, when a railway underbridge was constructed nearby and water from the excavation site diverted here," revealed a corporation official.