

Telangana Today- 11- January-2023

Man-made disaster

The land subsidence leading to wide cracks in roads, homes and fields in Uttarakhand's temple town of Joshimath, a spiritual doorway to the holy shrines in the Himalayas, is the result of a man-made disaster. Unbridled construction activity and commercialisation of the geologically fragile region have resulted in an environmental crisis. All developmental projects must be halted and a comprehensive assessment of the environmental impact must be undertaken immediately to arrest further damage. Amidst growing alarm, over 4,000 people have already been evacuated from the 'sinking' town. In fact, scientists and geologists have been sounding the alarm for decades. Way back in 1976, a panel, set up under the chairmanship of Garhwal Commissioner Mahesh Chandra Mishra, had recommended that major construction works should not be carried out in the city and in the Niti and Mana valleys as these areas are situated on moraines — a mass of rocks, sediment, and soil transported and deposited by a glacier. Joshimath, a strategic pitstop for the pilgrims bound for Badrinath, Kedarnath and other temples, is located on the site of a landslide and cannot support a high rate of building activity. The location is also significant since the Army Cantonment here is close to the China border. Despite the warnings from experts, the region has been witnessing haphazard construction activity including, the hydropower projects and the widening of the national highway for the ambitious Char Dham project. The entire region from Chamoli to Joshimath had faced disasters in the past. The floods of 2013 and 2021 caused major devastation.

Joshimath comes as a grim reminder of how governments messed up with the environment to an extent that it has become irreversible

A glacial lake-burst two years ago led to the loss of 204 lives, mostly migrants working on a hydropower project. An Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) study flagged that perennial streams, snow in the upper reaches and highly weathered rocks with low cohesive characteristics made the area prone to landslides, a vulnerability further worsened by several floods in recent years and bursts of torrential and unseasonal rainfall. There are demands from citizens and experts alike for assessment of the rock strength, seismic microzonation of the town, re-planning of its drainage system and rainwater outlets, and even shelving an under-construction power project. Joshimath is also prone to sinking due to tectonic activity. That adds to the urgency of taking remedial measures. Keeping in view the present crisis, there is a need for mapping other hill towns facing a similar situation and a relook at the demand for the creation of eco-sensitive zones in Uttarakhand's valleys. The crisis in Joshimath comes as a grim reminder of how successive governments messed up with the environment to an extent that it has become irreversible now. The land subsidence in the region must be declared a national calamity and all developmental projects be halted till a report by experts and environmentalists is submitted on the issue.

Deccan Herald- 11- January-2023

Delay in notifying Krishna award major blow to K'taka, SC told

'Infrastructure built at over Rs 13k cr may deteriorate'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Karnataka, on Tuesday, informed the Supreme Court that it had already invested Rs 13,321 crore for infrastructure to utilise its share of water in Krishna river basin area and any delay in publication of final award

of the Krishna water dispute tribunal would be a major blow to the state as its infrastructure will deteriorate.

"Karnataka has developed infrastructure at a cost of Rs 13,321 crore and is in a position to utilise 75 tmcft of water out of 130 tmcft allocated to upper Krishna project by the Krishna

Water Dispute Tribunal-II, for irrigating 60% of the planned 5.94 lakh hectares. If the water is not used, the infrastructure may deteriorate on account of various reasons, including siltation and weed growth," senior advocate Shyam Diwan argued on behalf of Karnataka. A bench of Justices Suryakant and V Ramasubramanian started hearing Karnataka's plea for a direction to the Jal Shakti ministry to issue notification of the final award of the tribunal.

The utilisation of 75 tmcft of water requires advance preparation, which may take three

to four months on the ground. Hence, an early hearing and decision on Karnataka's plea for publication of the award is necessary, the state said.

The farmers in the region are eagerly waiting for the release of water. These areas lie in the chronically drought-stricken area of the Deccan belt. The entire command area is drought prone. Out of seven districts of the command area, four districts - Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur and Koppal - are in special need of economic upliftment, the counsel argued.

The Krishna Water Dispute

Tribunal passed its final award in November 2013.

In the Kaveri water dispute, despite the pendency of petitions questioning the allocations made by the tribunal, the Supreme Court has allowed the Jal Shakti ministry to issue notification of the final award.

Since the situation is similar in the Krishna water dispute, the Supreme Court should issue directions to the ministry to notify the final award of the Krishna water dispute at the earliest, Karnataka's counsel said. The arguments are likely to continue on Wednesday.

The Tribune- 11- January-2023

Joshimath a policy disaster

Bigger projects being allowed with little regard for environmental fallout



DINESH C SHARMA
SCIENCE COMMENTATOR

JOSHIMATH is sinking. Over 600 houses have developed cracks. Dozens of families have been rendered homeless. Some commercial buildings like hotels are precariously leaning on each other. The town located at 6,000 feet above sea level is the gateway to the holy shrine of Badrinath — one of the Char Dhams — as well as the Sikh pilgrimage centre at Hemkund Sahib and the skiing attraction of Auli. Joshimath forms part of an ecologically sensitive zone in the Himalayas. The geology of these relatively young mountains is different from others and it varies a great deal within the region. While the nearby Hathi Parbat and Auli are situated on stable rocks, Joshimath lies on weathered and unsettled boulders which form part of an ancient landslide. This makes it a landslide-prone area and construction activities like blasting and tunnelling can disturb the ground.

Since 1970, when a large boulder got detached from the hill and fell into the Alaknanda river near Marwari, dozens of scientific studies and expert committees have concluded that increased construction activity and growing population pressure are responsible for landslides and slips in this region. A reasonable amount of construction activity like roads for local people, water supply, drainage systems and small hydropower for local consumption is necessary and may be justified. Successive governments, however, have pushed bigger projects — highways, hydropower, infrastructure development and so on — with little regard for environmental fallout.

It is futile to blame nature, climate change or local people for disasters, like the one unfolding in Joshimath.



ALARMING: There is a deliberate dilution of environmental norms for projects. **PN**

When the PM and PMO are monitoring projects like Char Dham, the buck should stop with them for the sinking.

These are all policy-led disasters made in New Delhi, for the following reasons. First, the unbridled support of the Centre to large hydropower projects even after the 2013 Kedarnath tragedy. It was clear that the high sediment load in paraglacial zones was a serious problem for the longevity of the existing and under-construction hydel projects in Uttarakhand. Given this, a Supreme Court-appointed expert group suggested that 'the terrain above the Main Central Thrust (MCT) in general, and above the winter snowline in particular, should be kept free from hydropower interventions.' In an affidavit in December 2014, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change concurred that there was a direct and indirect impact of hydropower projects in the aggravation of the floods in 2013' and that 'it is essential to demarcate areas in the higher Himalayan region that are naturally unstable' for hydropower projects. The Ministry of Water Resources too told the apex court in 2016 that a review of such projects was essential to protect the safety of people living in these areas. All these affidavits from the ministries have remained on paper as no hydropower project has been reviewed

or scrapped since 2013.

As if the hydropower assault on the Himalayas was not enough, the Centre in 2016 launched the Char Dham Highway Project to construct 800 km of four-lane highway in the hills. The project followed the same road design as in the plains — 12-metres-wide 'double lane with paved shoulder'. This meant widespread cutting of trees, destabilisation of valley slopes, destruction of natural springs, and dumping of muck and debris in valleys below. A high-powered committee appointed by the SC to appraise the project felt that the width of the road was directly proportional to the ecological destruction and that the damage could be minimised if the road width was slashed. The Ministry of Road Transport could have done this easily, since in 2018, a circular was issued prescribing a different design for roads in hills — an intermediate carriageway of 5.5 metres. But it not only chose to disregard its own rules but also concealed the 2018 circular from the court-appointed panel. The ministry allowed ecological destruction by insisting on a wider highway in the fragile hills.

The second reason is the deliberate dilution of environmental norms for projects. All large projects are subject

to Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and must have an Environment Management Plan (EMP). For road projects, the EIA threshold is 100 km. To escape this regulatory requirement, the Char Dham Project was broken up into 53 projects of less than 100 km each. So, despite being contiguous and having cumulative impacts on the environment, the project got away with no regulatory scrutiny and the need for a remedial EMP. The larger issue is that way the government is diluting environmental norms for the sake of ease of doing business. Between March 2020 and 2022, as many as 123 regulatory changes were made in environmental rules, as a study by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy found. Almost three-fourths of these changes were meant to relax rules and give exemptions from the statutory requirements.

The third reason is the unabashed promotion of tourism in ecologically sensitive areas with no regard for their carrying capacities, in the name of religious tourism. In addition to the highway project, the government has plans to introduce train service and ropeways in the Char Dham region. PM Modi declared during his last visit to Kedarnath that 'rail, roads, and ropeways bring employment with them and make life easy and empowered' and that they 'enhance tourism and make transportation easy in the hilly area'. Official agencies use his frequent visits to the region to promote tourism. The meditation cave, in which PM Modi spent 17 hours in solitude, has become a centre of attraction for devotees. It has become popular among Indian and international pilgrims, says a government handout. As a result, three more such caves are being built for tourists.

The government response, even after the unfolding disaster in Joshimath, is superficial. At a meeting called by the PMO, it was mentioned that only a strip of 350 metres was affected. When the PM and PMO are monitoring projects like Char Dham, the buck should stop with them for the sinking. It's time for remedial action and not window-dressing.

Priority should be Complete and Safe Evacuation: Gauba

'Studies, investigations should be completed in a coordinated and time-bound manner'

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: Union cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba on Tuesday stressed that the immediate priority should be complete and safe evacuation of all residents in Joshimath. "Priority may be accorded to demolition of vulnerable structures in a safe manner. All the studies and investigations including geotechnical, geophysical and hydrological, should be completed in a coordinated and time bound manner," noted a statement released after the meeting.

Gauba heads the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) which met today and reviewed the situation in Joshimath. Uttarakhand chief secretary informed the NCMC that residents of severely damaged houses are being

shifted to safe places. "Relief shelters have been identified in Joshimath and Pipalkoti to accommodate the affected families. Appropriate compensation and relief measures are being provided by the State government," the statement added.

NDRF and SDRF have been deployed to help district administration in their relief and rehabilitation efforts. Gauba assured the Chief Secretary that all Central agencies will continue to be available for necessary assistance. The meeting was attended by the union home secretary Ajay Bhalla and top officials from power ministry, information broadcasting ministry, MHA's border management, water resources, mines, besides members of NDMA.

The chief of integrated defence staff to the Chairman, chiefs of staff committee, scientific secretary to Chairman ISRO, Chairman Central Water Commission, DG-NDRF, DG- Geological survey of India, Scientist(SG)-National Remote Sensing Centre, CMD-NTPC, Director, National Centre for Seismology and DG Border Road Organization were also part of the review.

Hindustan Times- 11- January-2023

Varanasi leg of Run Blue campaign for water conservation set to begin

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The third leg of the India chapter of the Run Blue campaign will kick off in Varanasi on Wednesday to raise awareness about water conservation and impact of expansion and urbanisation on the banks of the river Ganga.

The campaign is being organised by pharma and agri major Bayer, in partnership with water advocate and ultramarathon runner Mina Guli, across five cities in the country. It aims to organise 200 marathons across the world in the run-up to the first global United Nations 2023 Water Conference scheduled to be held in New York from March 22 to 24.

Guli, who has been leading the marathons, has already completed 153 of the 200 marathons so far.

As one of the oldest cities on the banks of the river Ganga, Varanasi has been a symbol of Indian culture and history. The city's life is intertwined with that of the Ganga, a river that holds great economic, social and spiritual importance for India.

The expansion and growing urbanisation of cities on the banks of the river and the discharge of industrial waste have impacted the river and pollution is a major challenge today, Bayer said in a statement.

In 2014, the Union government initiated the Namami Gange project, an integrated conservation project, with budget outlay of ₹20,000 crore to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of the river Ganga. According to information available on the National Mission for Clean Ganga website, the main pillars of the project are sewerage treatment infrastructure, river-front development, river-surface cleaning, biodiversity, afforestation, public awareness, industrial effluent monitoring and Ganga gram.

"Countries such as Australia, United Kingdom, Germany, Finland, Israel, etc have shown interest in collaborating with India for Ganga rejuvenation. Memorandums of Understanding were signed with various Central Ministries..." the website said.

The United Nations (UN) has recognised the Namami Gange



The campaign aims to organise 200 marathons across the world in the run-up to the first global UN 2023 Water Conference scheduled to be held in New York from March 22 to 24.

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initiative to rejuvenate the river as one of the top 10 World Restoration Flagships to revive the natural world, according to a statement issued by the jal shakti ministry last month.

In its statement, Bayer said that Guli hopes to reinforce the importance of using water judiciously and cleaning up the rivers through the marathon in Varanasi. Guli and Bayer aim to advocate the conservation and rejuvenation of rivers by working in partnership with the government and civil society, the statement added.

The statement also said that with the realisation that worldwide water consumption will be 40% greater than the availability by 2030, the Run Blue initiative will play a critical role in addressing the water crisis.

The India chapter of the campaign was flagged off by India's G20 Sherpa and former Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Sunday from New Delhi. As part of the campaign, similar runs will be conducted in Varanasi, Thane, and Mumbai.

Flagging off the run in the national capital, Kant said: "Climate change is having a huge impact on countries around the world and especially on develop-



ing countries like India. Its adverse effects on agriculture, water resources, forests, etc are quite evident. Coupled with the rapid depletion of many critical natural resources, we face a challenging future. Hence, it is imperative for countries to come together to achieve the sustainability goals set by the United Nations." "India has continuously met its nationally defined contribution targets on sustainability and the government's efforts at rapidly increasing access to clean water are bearing fruit. But water conservation will also require a collaborative effort among companies, government, and civil society and Run Blue can be an important catalyst in building up this coalition," he added, asserting that the initiative will "inspire people and encourage social transformation for a better tomorrow".

Kick-starting her run from New Delhi's Nehru Park, Guli high-

lighted the need to protect and restore the rivers, lakes, and wetlands, asserting that the world is experiencing acute water shortages and "more than two billion people are without access to safe drinking water".

Talking about Bayer's vision behind the Run Blue initiative, the company said it aims to encourage businesses and motivate individuals worldwide to come together to "spread awareness, generate urgency, and spur action around water".

Bayer said it has made conscious business choices in tandem with its commitment to water conservation and sustainable growth. One such example is the 'Better Life Farming' initiative in which Bayer is working with like-minded partners within the agricultural industry to promote efficient water management systems and a sustainable ecosystem among smallholder farmers in India, the statement said.

Dainik Bhaskar- 11- January-2023

केन-बेतवा लिंक प्रोजेक्ट • 14 गांव खाली कराए जाएंगे पन्ना नेशनल पार्क की भूमि के बदले 4208 हेक्टेयर जमीन देगी सरकार

भास्कर न्यूज | भोपाल

केन-बेतवा लिंक प्रोजेक्ट में डूब रही पन्ना नेशनल पार्क की 6017 हेक्टेयर भूमि (जंगल) के बदले राज्य सरकार सिर्फ 4208 हेक्टेयर राजस्व भूमि देने जा रही है। इस राजस्व भूमि पर बसे 14 गांवों को विस्थापित किया जाएगा। शेष 1809 हेक्टेयर भूमि को लेकर राज्य सरकार ने भारत सरकार से छूट दिए जाने की मांग की है। इसके बदले में मप्र शासन के बिगड़े वनों की भूमि पर दोगुना प्लांटेशन कर क्षतिपूर्ति वनीकरण का प्रस्ताव दिया है। वन विभाग के सूत्रों के मुताबिक पन्ना नेशनल पार्क का 4141 हेक्टेयर कोर एरिया दौधन बांध में डूब जाएगा। इसके अलावा बफर एरिया की भी 1314 हेक्टेयर जमीन डूब जाएगी। इसके अलावा पार्क के बाहर की भी कुछ वन भूमि डूब रही है। इसके बदले में क्षतिपूर्ति वनीकरण के लिए वन विभाग को इतनी ही जमीन देने के साथ ही करीब 6 हजार करोड़ रुपए बतौर मुआवजा मिलेगा।

क्या है केन-बेतवा लिंक

प्रोजेक्ट... कटनी से निकलने वाली 470 किमी लंबी केन ऐसी नदी है, जिसके बेसिन में 1074 एमसीएम सरप्लस वॉटर है, लेकिन पानी का इस्तेमाल नहीं हो सका है। अब पन्ना के दौधन बांध बनाकर और 221 किमी नहर बनाकर बेतवा बेसिन में पहुंचाया जाना है। केंद्र, मप्र, यूपी के बीच हुए त्रिपक्षीय समझौते से दौधन से वर्षाकाल में मप्र के 2350 एमसीएम और यूपी को 1700 एमसीएम पानी सालाना मिलेगा।

कुल 9 हजार हेक्टेयर जमीन डूब में आएगी... इस प्रोजेक्ट के लिए नेशनल वॉटर डेवलपमेंट एजेंसी द्वारा गठित केन-बेतवा लिंक प्राधिकरण का गठन कर दिया गया है। प्राधिकरण के कार्यकारी अभियंता एनपी साहू के मुताबिक इस प्रोजेक्ट में कुल 9 हजार हेक्टेयर जमीन डूबेगी, जिसमें 5,258 हेक्टेयर वन भूमि है।

Punjab Kesari- 11- January-2023

जोशीमठ पर एनसीएमसी की बैठक

धंसते शहर से लोगों को सुरक्षित निकालना होगा

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): राष्ट्रीय संकट प्रबंधन समिति (एनसीएमसी) ने मंगलवार को जोशीमठ की स्थिति की समीक्षा की जहां इमारतों और अन्य ढांचों में दरारें आ गई हैं तथा इस बात पर जोर दिया कि तत्काल प्राथमिकता प्रभावित क्षेत्र से पूरी तरह से एवं सुरक्षित निकासी सुनिश्चित करने की होनी चाहिए। एक आधिकारिक बयान में कहा गया है कि एनसीएमसी की एक बैठक में कैबिनेट सचिव राजीव गौबा ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि संवेदनशील ढांचे को सुरक्षित तरीके से गिराने को भी प्राथमिकता दी जानी चाहिए। एनसीएमसी ने कहा कि भू-तकनीकी, भूभौतिकीय और हाइड्रोलॉजिकल सहित सभी अध्ययनों तथा जांचों को एक समन्वित एवं समयबद्ध तरीके से पूरा किया जाना चाहिए। उत्तराखंड के मुख्य सचिव ने एनसीएमसी को वर्तमान स्थिति के बारे में जानकारी दी और बताया कि गंभीर रूप से क्षतिग्रस्त मकानों के निवासियों को सुरक्षित स्थानों पर स्थानांतरित किया जा रहा है। बयान में कहा गया है कि प्रभावित परिवारों को समायोजित करने के लिए जोशीमठ और पीपलकोटी में राहत आश्रयों की पहचान की गई है तथा राज्य सरकार द्वारा उचित मुआवजा एवं राहत उपाय प्रदान किए जा रहे हैं।

मुख्य सचिव ने समिति को अवगत कराया कि जोशीमठ-औली रोपवे का संचालन बंद कर दिया गया है और जोशीमठ नगर पालिका क्षेत्र तथा उसके आसपास के निर्माण कार्यों को अगले आदेश तक रोक दिया गया है। जिला प्रशासन को उनके राहत और पुनर्वास प्रयासों में मदद करने के लिए राष्ट्रीय और राज्य आपदा मोचन बलों को तैनात किया



टीमों ने किया था जोशीमठ का दौरा

राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (एनडीएमए) के सदस्य सचिव ने समिति को सूचित किया कि केंद्रीय भवन अनुसंधान संस्थान (सीबीआरआई), भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण (जीएसआई), वाडिया इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ हिमालयन जियोलॉजी, राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन संस्थान (एनआईडीएम) और राष्ट्रीय जल विज्ञान संस्थान ने स्थिति का आकलन करने के लिए 6-7 जनवरी को प्रभावित क्षेत्रों का दौरा किया। टीम ने जिला प्रशासन से भी उनकी जरूरतों को समझने के लिए बातचीत की। केंद्रीय गृह सचिव अजय मल्ला ने समिति को बताया कि सीमा प्रबंधन सचिव के नेतृत्व में गृह मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों की एक उच्च स्तरीय टीम वर्तमान में स्थिति के आकलन के लिए जोशीमठ में है।

गया है। कैबिनेट सचिव ने मुख्य सचिव को आश्वासन दिया कि सभी केंद्रीय एजेंसियां आवश्यक सहायता के लिए उपलब्ध रहेंगी।

Rashtriya Sahara- 11- January-2023

तलछट का संकट

बि जली-पानी का संकट दूर करने के लिए बनाए जा रहे जलाशय और बांध कुछ समय तक तो बड़ी राहत देते हैं। कालांतर में ये संकट का सबब बन सकते हैं। दरअसल, ऐसी योजनाओं की परिकल्पना करते समय भविष्य में इनसे होने वाली समस्याओं का बिलकुल ध्यान नहीं रखा जाता। इस बात का आभास हालांकि हाल के वर्षों में होने लगा था कि हमारे जलाशय तलछट और गाद से भर रहे हैं अब संकेत बड़ी आपदा के मिलने लगे हैं। अध्ययनों से पता चला है कि भारत में लगभग 3,700 बांध तलछट भरने के कारण 2050 तक अपनी कुल भंडारण क्षमता के एक चौथाई का नुकसान उठाएंगे। इससे भविष्य में जल सुरक्षा, सिंचाई और बिजली उत्पादन के लिए मुश्किलें पैदा हो सकती हैं। यह अध्ययन संयुक्त राष्ट्र के जल,



पर्यावरण और स्वास्थ्य पर विश्वविद्यालय संस्थान (यूएनयू-आईएनडब्ल्यूईएच) ने कराया है, जिसमें यह बात सामने आई है। केंद्रीय जल आयोग पहले ही बता चुका है कि देश में 50 साल से अधिक पुराने 140 बांधों में से एक-चौथाई अपनी भंडारण क्षमता का 30 प्रतिशत गंवा चुके हैं। जमा हुई तलछट ने पहले ही दुनिया भर में लगभग 50,000 बड़े बांधों को उनकी भंडारण क्षमता का 13 से 19 प्रतिशत नुकसान पहुंचाया है। अध्ययन

की मानें तो 150 देशों में 47,403 बड़े बांधों में 2050 तक 6,316 अरब घन मीटर की आरंभिक वैश्विक भंडारण क्षमता घटकर 4,665 अरब घन मीटर रह जाएगी। इस तरह 26 प्रतिशत भंडारण क्षमता का नुकसान होगा। यानी करीब 1,650 अरब घन मीटर भंडारण क्षमता का नुकसान होगा और यह मात्रा भारत, चीन, इंडोनेशिया, फ्रांस और कनाडा के संयुक्त वार्षिक जल उपयोग के बराबर है। सबसे अधिक नुकसान एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में होगा जहां दुनिया की 60 प्रतिशत आबादी रहती है। अनुमान है कि भारत में लगभग 3,700 बांध 2050 तक अपनी भंडारण क्षमता का औसतन 26 प्रतिशत हिस्सा खो देंगे। यह बात स्पष्ट हो चुकी है कि तलछट के जमा होने से किसी भी बांध या जलाशय की क्षमता साल-दर-साल कम होती जाती है। दुनिया के कई देशों में तो तलछट भरने के कारण बांधों और जलाशयों का फिर से खेती के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जाने लगा है। भारत के लिए स्थिति चिंताजनक इसलिए भी है कि हम जल्दी ही आबादी के मामले में चीन को पीछे छोड़ने वाले हैं। बिजली-पानी के लिए बड़े बांधों और जलाशयों पर हमारी निर्भरता भी काफी ज्यादा है।

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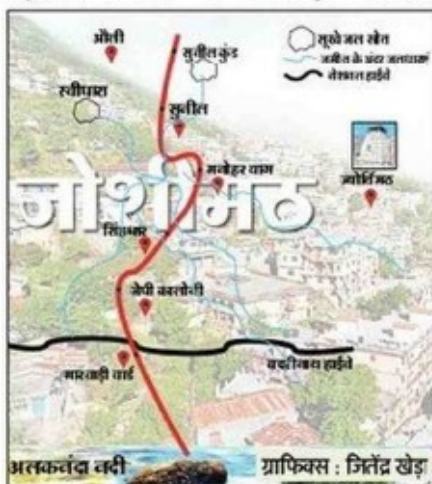
प्राकृतिक जलस्रोतों का बदला रास्ता और सूखते कुंड हो सकते हैं तबाही की वजह

दरकता जोशीमठ... वैज्ञानिकों ने जताई आशंका, एनआईएच को सौंपी गई है जांच दयाशंकर शुक्ल सागर

जोशीमठ। अनियंत्रित निर्माण कार्यों से जोशीमठ और उसके आसपास के कई प्राकृतिक जलस्रोतों ने अपना रास्ता बदल लिया है। इससे जोशीमठ के कई प्राकृतिक कुंड सूख गए हैं, जो स्थानीय लोगों की प्यास बुझाते थे।

वैज्ञानिकों को आशंका है कि कहीं यही प्राकृतिक जलस्रोत अपना रास्ता बदलकर जोशीमठ की जमीन के नीचे नया रास्ता बनाकर वर्तमान संकट का कारण तो नहीं बन गए हैं। जोशीमठ में हुई वैज्ञानिकों की बैठक में पहली आशंका यही जताई गई। इसकी जांच का जिम्मा राज्य सरकार ने रुड़की के नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ हाईड्रोलॉजी (एनआईएच) को सौंपा है।

जोशीमठ शहर ढलान पर बसा है। इस ढलान का सबसे ऊपरी हिस्सा सुनील नाम की जगह है। यह गांव औली और जोशीमठ के बीच बसा है। सुनील के कुछ घरों में भी दरारें दिखी हैं। सुनील के गांव वालों ने बताया कि यहां ऊपर एक जलकुंड था। एनटीपीसी की तपोवन-विष्णुगढ़ जल विद्युत परियोजना के तहत जब सुनील के करीब टनल बनने का काम शुरू हुआ तभी से सुनील कुंड का पानी सूख गया। ये कुंड बरसों से गांव की न केवल प्यास बुझाता था, बल्कि पानी से जुड़ी सारी जरूरतें पूरी करता था। जोशीमठ के ऊपरी क्षेत्र में स्वीधारा नाम के तीन अन्य प्राकृतिक स्रोत थे जो सूख गए। अब लोगों ने वहां अपने घर बना लिए।



असुरक्षित घोषित किए गए भवनों के बाहर लगाए गए निशान। एनईसी

उमा भारती ने एनटीपीसी टनल परियोजना को बताया आपदा

देहरादून/जोशीमठ। भाजपा की वरिष्ठ नेत्री व पूर्व केंद्रीय मंत्री उमा भारती ने एनटीपीसी की तपोवन-विष्णुगढ़ परियोजना को डिजास्टर करार देते हुए कहा कि मैंने आवाज उठाई तो मेरा विभाग बदल दिया गया था। मैं बोलती रही। मंगलवार को जोशीमठ पहुंची उमा भारती ने निरीक्षण के बाद मीडिया से बातचीत में भू-धंसाव के कारणों पर खुलकर बात की। उन्होंने कहा, दिल्ली में बैठे नियम बनाने वालों को कहा, वे न तो टनल में मरते हैं और न ही इधर आते हैं। आते भी हैं तो हेलिकॉप्टर से आते हैं। ब्यूरो

ये जियो टेक्निकल और जियो फिजिकल जांच से ही पता चलेगा कि जमीन के अंदर किस जलस्रोत ने रास्ता बदला है। जो काम हमें सौंपा गया है उसके परीक्षण में वक्त लगेगा। -डॉ. गोपाल कृष्ण, वैज्ञानिक, एनआईएच रुड़की

वैज्ञानिक जांच पूरी होने तक इस अज्ञात जलस्रोत के बारे में निश्चित तौर पर अभी कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता। इसके वैज्ञानिक परीक्षण का काम हमने एनआईएच के वैज्ञानिकों को सौंपा है। -डॉ. रंजीत सिन्हा, आपदा सचिव, उत्तराखंड

भू-धंसाव का खास सीढ़ीदार पैटर्न

वैज्ञानिकों ने जांच के दौरान यह भी पाया कि ताजा भू-धंसाव का एक खास सीढ़ीदार पैटर्न है। अमर उजाला की टीम ने भी देखा कि सुनील के ठीक नीचे मनोहरबाग है जहां सबसे ज्यादा घरों में दरारें पड़ीं। उसके ठीक नीचे जेपी कॉलोनी है जहां सबसे ज्यादा और गहरी दरारें पड़ीं। वहां अज्ञात जलस्रोत पिछले आठ दिन से लगातार बह रहा है। इसके नीचे मारवाड़ी बाई है जहां कई घरों में दरारें हैं। इस तरह जोशीमठ शहर के ऊपर से लेकर नीचे तक तकरीबन एक किमी के क्षेत्र में एक खास पैटर्न देखने को मिल रहा है।