

Millennium Post- 12- December-2021

## PM launches Saryu Canal Project in UP, bats for natural farming



*The project had been pending since 1972 when it was first approved*

### MPOST BUREAU

**BALRAMPUR (UP):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday exhorted farmers to adopt natural farming saying it will help not only save water but also produce better crops, and invited them to join a mega programme on it on December 16 as it would prove beneficial for them.

He was addressing a rally in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh's Balrampur after inaugurating the Saryu Canal National Project, which will provide assured water for irrigation to over 14 lakh hectares of land and benefit about 29 lakh farmers.

It is worth mentioning that the project had been pending since 1972 when it was first approved.

The Prime Minister remarked: "When the project was launched five decades ago, its cost was less than Rs 100 crore and on completion, the total cost of the project is around Rs 10,000 crore. This huge difference in the cost of the project is the result of neglect by previous governments. Had it been completed earlier, its cost would have been far less with less burden on people, while farmers would have started benefitting from it already, filling the state's coffers."

He added: "We are making every effort to ensure that every piece of land gets water and inadequacy of water does not hamper the growth of the state. The interlinking of the five rivers, namely Ghaghra, Saryu, Rapti, Banganga and Rohin will

### Takeaways

- » The nine districts to benefit from the Rs 9,802 crore Saryu Canal National Project are Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Gonda, Siddharthnagar, Basti, Sant Kabir Nagar, Gorakhpur and Maharajganj
- » The Prime Minister also took a jibe at Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav who has often claimed that the works of his government are being projected as the achievements of the BJP government

ensure that there is no shortage of water in the nine districts for irrigation purposes."

The nine districts to benefit from the Rs 9,802 crore Saryu Canal National Project are Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Gonda, Siddharthnagar, Basti, Sant Kabir Nagar, Gorakhpur and Maharajganj.

Modi said a big event on natural farming is being organised on December 16 and requested farmers across the country to connect either through TV or Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Noting that one Subhashji of Maharashtra has initiated the idea of zero budget natural farming, he said it saves earth and water and the crop produced through it is also better.

**Continued on P4**

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## PM launches Saryu Canal

The Prime Minister also took a jibe at Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav who has often claimed that the works of his government are being projected as the achievements of the BJP government, saying that he was waiting if anyone will claim the credit for the Saryu Canal National Project. "When I started from Delhi, I was waiting for someone to say that he had cut the ribbon of this project and started this scheme. This is the habit of some people, maybe in their childhood they had cut its ribbon," he said, without taking any names.

"For some people cutting ribbon is the priority while for us completing schemes in time is the priority. In 2014 when I came to power, I was amazed to see that 99 irrigation projects were lying (incomplete) for decades in the country," he said.

Speaking about the unnecessary delay in the Saryu Canal National Project, the Prime Minister said: "Most painful is the waste and misuse of the country's money, time and resources and its humiliation. This thinking is the biggest hurdle in the balanced development of the country and this thinking has also stalled the Saryu Nahar project."

PM Modi said that the style of functioning of the Yogi government is quite different from the previous governments. "The previous governments helped mafias encroach properties while today's Yogi government fines them and bulldozes their illegal assets. During earlier regimes, women and girls hid themselves inside their houses for security whereas today criminals are taking refuge in jails for fear of state machinery. That's why people say: 'Fark to saaf hai (the difference is clear).'"

Mentioning the Central government's schemes, Modi informed that 30 lakh people in UP have got houses under the PM Awas Yojana, adding that an additional Rs 2 lakh crore has been sanctioned to provide houses to more and more people under the initiative.

He said that the UP government was also providing ownership papers to rightful owners of properties under Swamitva Yojana, pointing out that special attention was being given to provide ownership papers to women in order to protect their interests.

Paying his glowing tributes to former Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat on his tragic demise in an air crash, Modi said that he would be watching India grow with pride from heaven.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that his government has completed at least 17 of the 18 agricultural projects that had been pending for decades in the last four-and-a-half years while work is underway on the 18th, the Madhya Ganga Project.

Yogi said that the government has ensured irrigation facility for a total of 22 lakh hectares of land during the period. Thanking the Prime Minister for his unique initiative to support farmers through commissioning of the Saryu Canal National Project, he said that more than half of the work on the project has been done in the last four-and-a-half years.

He said: "I was born in the year 1972 when the project was approved. However, the project could not be completed even after several decades. It's after Modi took the initiative to complete 100 such projects, which would have far-reaching impact on lives of common people, that work was started on war-footing on these projects."

Yogi said the enhanced irrigation facility will not only boost agricultural productivity and thereby prosperity for

Purvanchal, doubling farmers' income as per the PM's wish, but also help stop migration of youth from the region for jobs.

Yogi said that the interlinking of rivers such as Ghaghra and Saryu will also help to develop neighbouring areas as tourist spots with an increase in natural beauty of the places.

The Saryu Canal National Project will facilitate irrigation of about 15 lakh (14.04 lakh) hectares of arable land while offering a permanent solution to the problem of floods in certain areas of Purvanchal by linking main and tributary canals to the barrages built on rivers Ghaghra, Saryu, Rapti, Banganga and Rohin. The barrages are called Girija, Saryu, Rapti, and Banganga.

The Hindu- 12- December-2021

# Groundwater law may cover commercial users

The term 'commercial users' refers to industrial units and those engaged in the transportation of groundwater

T. RAMAKRISHNAN  
CHENNAI

The proposed law on groundwater development and management, being fine-tuned by the State Government, essentially seeks to cover every commercial user of groundwater in the State.

The term "commercial user", though not explicitly defined in the draft legislation, being debated among departments of the Government, however, refers to industrial units, regardless of their size, and those engaged in the transportation of groundwater. Among the construction and infrastructure projects that may be covered are resorts, theme parks, hotels, educational institutions, marriage halls, malls, farmhouses and residential buildings with over six dwelling units.

Among the purposes exempted from the purview of the legislation are agriculture, horticulture and dom-

**Water table** | The annual extractable groundwater resources in the State went down from 20.76 billion cubic metre (BCM) in 2004 to 17.69 BCM in 2020. Here's a look at its extraction and use over the last few years:

Year	Extractable groundwater resource*	Extraction for irrigation	Extraction for industry	Extraction for domestic sector	Total extraction	Stage of groundwater extraction (in %)
2017	18.2	13.06		1.67	14.73	80.94
2020	17.69	13.52	0.17	0.99	14.67	82.93

(All figures are in BCM) | \*Excludes 10% natural discharge

estic consumption. In the case of domestic consumption, wells or structures using pump sets of not more than 3 horse-power capacity will not come under the coverage of the proposed law.

The formulation of the law is in tune with the announcement made in June by the then Governor, Banwarilal Purohit, in the Assembly. It is also in pursuance with the directions of the Madras High Court in October 2018, in a case concerning a group of packaged drinking water units, which had challenged the government's regulations of July 2014 on ground-

water extraction and the issue of no-objection certificates (NOC)/licences.

In addition to the 2014 regulations, Chennai city and 302 revenue villages in the neighbouring districts are covered exclusively under the Chennai Metropolitan Area Groundwater (Regulation) Act, 1987. Eight years ago, the then AIADMK regime had repealed a law on groundwater use, which was brought in 2003, when the same party was in power. The 2003 Act was found to be not workable due to a variety of reasons. If the draft law gets fructified, it will ap-

ply to the entire State.

Apart from the court's directions, the DMK regime has taken the initiative, keeping in mind that all other southern States and Puducherry have specific laws to handle the matter. Besides, Goa, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are implementing similar laws. In addition, the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) is regulating extraction in 23 States and Union Territories. In Andhra Pradesh and Telengana, the CGWA is looking after water mining projects.

As for the need for the proposed law, the annual ex-

tractable groundwater resources in the State went down from 20.76 billion cubic meter (BCM) in 2004 to 17.69 BCM in 2020. The stage of groundwater extraction has gone up from 60% to about 83% over the years. Another factor is the geological formation of the State, which is not conducive to groundwater recharge, as 73% of the State is covered with hard rocks that have low potential for recharge.

## A groundwater authority

The draft law has proposed the creation of the Tamil Nadu Groundwater Authority, to be headed by Secretary, Water Resources Department. Apart from officials from different departments, the authority will have a member who is not an official, but an expert.

Every existing commercial user of groundwater has to apply to the authority concerned for an NOC. If any new well is to be sunk or

groundwater transported, a permit has to be obtained. Those extracting groundwater of less than one million gallons a day (MGD) or about 4.55 million litres a day (MLD) will have to approach the chief engineer of the State Groundwater and Surface Water Resources Data Centre, and for others, the authority. Offences and penalties have been proposed for violators of the law.

Commercial, industrial, infrastructural and bulk users, withdrawing groundwater of two lakh litres a day, will be mandated to recycle water. The installation of sewage treatment plants will be mandatory for all residential apartments where groundwater requirement is more than 20 cubic metre a day or 20,000 litres a day.

A senior Water Resources Department official said a few more stages would have to be passed before the legislation is presented as a Bill to the Assembly.

Financial Express- 12- December-2021

## ● FARMERS' WELFARE

# Modi inaugurates Saryu canal project

**Invites farmers to watch Dec 16 programme on natural farming**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Balrampur (UP), December 11

**PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA** Modi on Saturday invited farmers across the country to watch a mega programme on natural farming on December 16, saying it would prove beneficial for them.

Addressing a rally in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh's Balrampur after inaugurating the Saryu Canal National Project, he paid tributes to Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat and said his demise is a great loss to the nation. The prime minister also prayed for the early recovery of Deoria-born Grp Capt Varun Singh, the lone survivor of the Wednesday helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu that killed 13, including Gen Rawat, his wife and 11 armed forces personnel.

In an apparent dig at the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the Saryu Nahar National Project in Balrampur on Saturday PTI

Samajwadi Party (SP), Modi said for some the priority is to cut ribbons at inauguration, while for "us the priority is completion of projects on time."

Modi's remark came in the backdrop of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's claim that it is not under the BJP government in the state but under his rule that major works of the Saryu Canal irrigation project were done.

"The country has to pay 100 times more the price due to laxity of previous governments," the prime minister said.

The canal project will provide assured water for irrigation to over 14 lakh hectares of land and benefit about 29 lakh farm-

ers, mainly in eastern Uttar Pradesh. The project has been completed at a cost of over ₹9,800 crore, of which more than ₹4,600 crore was provisioned in the last four years.

Uttar Pradesh governor Anandiben Patel, chief minister Yogi Adityanath, Union minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya were among those present at the project inauguration programme.

The Saryu canal project also involves interlinking of five rivers — Ghaghara, Saryu, Rapti, Banganga and Rohini — to ensure optimum usage of water resources of the region.

Asian Age- 12- December-2021

# 'Gwalior-Chambal stares water crisis'

**RABINDRA NATH  
CHOUDHURY**  
BHOPAL, DEC. 11

Gwalior-Chambal region in Madhya Pradesh is staring an acute water crisis by 2035 owing to fast shrinking of groundwater level in the belt.

The warning was issued by eminent conservationist Dr Rajendra Singh, known as waterman of India. "Sufficient water was available at the sub-surface (three meters below ground level) in Gwalior-Chambal region around five decades back. But, the groundwater has gone down to 40 meters below the ground level now in the region", Dr Singh told this newspaper on Saturday.

The situation in Gwalior

**SOME RIVERS** in the basin are either almost dead or reduced to streams, according to him. Morar and Swarnarekha rivers in Gwalior basin have reduced to streams threatening to cause a serious water crisis in Gwalior district.

basin, comprising around two dozen rivers, is very alarming, he said.

Some rivers in the basin are either almost dead or reduced to streams, according to him.

Morar and Swarnarekha rivers in Gwalior basin have almost reduced to streams threatening to cause a serious water crisis in Gwalior district in coming years, he warned.

Dainik Jagran- 12- December-2021

## सरयू परियोजना का 80% से अधिक काम योगी सरकार में

जासं, बलरामपुर: पूर्वांचल एक्सप्रेसवे के बाद सपा ने सरयू नहर परियोजना पर भी दावा ठोका है। प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा इसके लोकार्पण के बाद सपा प्रमुख अखिलेश यादव ने ट्वीट किया कि इस परियोजना का तीन चौथाई काम उनकी सरकार ने किया था। अखिलेश के ट्वीट के पहले पीएम चुटकी ले भी चुके थे कि हो सकता है कि बचपन में किसी ने इसका शिलान्यास कर दिया हो।

इस परियोजना की यात्रा पर नजर डालें तो वर्ष 1971-72 में स्वीकृति मिली थी। उस समय इसकी लागत मात्र 78 करोड़ थी। वर्ष 1978 में बहराइच व गोंडा (तब बलरामपुर गोंडा में था) जिले में सिंचाई क्षमता में विस्तार के लिए योजना शुरू की

2015 में पीएम कृषि सिंचाई योजना में शामिल हुई परियोजना, तराई और पूर्वांचल के 30 लाख से अधिक किसानों को लाभ होगा

गई थी। पहले परियोजना का नाम घाघरा कैनाल था। 1982-83 में इसका विस्तार पूर्वांचल के ट्रांस घाघरा-राप्ती-रोहिणी क्षेत्र में करते हुए सात अन्य जिलों को भी शामिल किया गया। तभी केंद्र सरकार ने इसका नाम बदलकर सरयू नहर परियोजना रख दिया। 2015 में भाजपा की केंद्र सरकार ने इसे पीएम कृषि सिंचाई योजना में जोड़ा और प्रदेश में भाजपा सरकार आने के बाद इसे गति मिली। 2017 में इसके लिए बजट मिला।

Hindustan- 12- December-2021

प्रधानमंत्री ने यूपी के बलरामपुर में सरयू नहर परियोजना देश को समर्पित किया

# विपक्ष ने पूर्वांचल के किसानों का अरबों का नुकसान किया : मोदी

**निशाना**

बलरामपुर | विशेष संवाददाता

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने शनिवार को बलरामपुर में सरयू नहर राष्ट्रीय परियोजना को राष्ट्र को समर्पित करते हुए विपक्षियों पर जमकर निशाना साधा। उन्होंने कहा कि 50 साल पहले शुरू की गई इस परियोजना की लागत सौ करोड़ भी नहीं थी। अब इसे 10 हजार करोड़ में पूरा किया गया है।

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि पहले के लोगों की लापरवाही की कीमत देश के किसानों को 100 गुना ज्यादा चुकानी पड़ी है। अगर सिंचाई की यह सुविधा 20-30 साल मिलती तो किसानों का जीवन बदल गया होता। यह पैसा आपका था, जिन्होंने आपके पैसे का समय पर उपयोग नहीं किया, वह आपके गुनहगार हैं। इन्हें आप सजा दीजिए। समय पर पानी पहुंचा होता तो किसान देश का खजाना भर देता। यहां के किसानों का अरबों-खरबों का नुकसान हुआ है। उन्होंने कहा, ज्यादा तकलीफ इसी बात से है कि देश के धन, संसाधनों और समय का दुरुपयोग किया गया। योजना को लटकाए रखकर पूर्वी यूपी के लाखों किसानों का अरबों-खरबों का नुकसान भी पूर्व सरकारों ने किया। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि 2014 में जब उन्होंने सत्ता संभाली तो देश में 99 सिंचाई



बलरामपुर में शनिवार को सरयू नहर राष्ट्रीय परियोजना के उद्घाटन के मौके पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी। साथ में उत्तर प्रदेश की राज्यपाल आनंदीबेन पटेल, मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ। • प्रेस

परियोजनाएं अधूरी पड़ी थीं। सरयू नहर परियोजना में कई जगह नहरें आपस में जुड़ी नहीं थीं। पानी अंतिम छोर तक पहुंचाने की व्यवस्था नहीं थी। सरयू नहर परियोजना में जितना काम पांच दशक में नहीं हुआ, उससे ज्यादा काम हमने पांच साल से पहले कर दिखाया है।

**कुछ लोगों का काम केवल फीता काटना :** सपा अध्यक्ष अखिलेश यादव दिल्ली से यहां आते वक्त सोच रहा था कि कोई आएगा और कहेगा कि मोदीजी इस योजना का फीता तो हमने काटा था। हो सकता है कि बचपन में उन लोगों ने इसका फीता काटा हो।

## बुंदेलखंड का जल संकट खत्म होगा

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने कहा, योगीजी की सरकार जब से आई है, तब से गन्ने के भुगतान में भी बहुत तेजी आई है। उन्होंने ने कहा कि हमारी सरकार वर्षों पुराने सपनों को साकार कर रही है, इसका एक और उदाहरण केन-बेतवा लिंक परियोजना भी है। सालों से इसकी मांग हो रही थी। कैबिनेट ने इसे मंजूरी दे दी है। इस पर 45 हजार करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए जाएंगे। यह परियोजना बुंदेलखंड को जल संकट से मुक्ति दिलाने में बड़ी भूमिका निभाएगी।

## ट्विटर पर चला हैशटैग यूपी की सिंचाई क्रांति

सोशल मीडिया पर शनिवार को सरयू नहर परियोजना से जुड़े ट्वीट ट्रेंड करते रहे। मोदी के बलरामपुर पहुंचते ही भाजपा की ओर से #यूपीकीसिंचाईक्रांति हैशटैग पर ट्वीट किए जाने लगे। शाम तक यह एक बार टॉप ट्रेंड की सूची में पहले नंबर पर आया। यह काफी देर तक पांच नंबर पर रहा। इस हैशटैग पर 56 हजार ट्वीट किए गए। दूसरी तरफ कीबर्ड की सूची में 'सरयू नहर राष्ट्रीय परियोजना' टॉप 30 की सूची में 20 से 23 नंबर के बीच ऊपर नीचे होता रहा।