The Times of India- 15- July-2023

Bhutan dam cleaning floods lower Assam

Guwahati: Excess water released by a dam in neighbouring Bhutan has submerged vast swathes of lower Assam where several rivers, including the Brahmaputra and Beki, are flowing above normal levels.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday tweeted about the release from the Kurichhu dam and hydropower plant, reports **Mukut Das**. "The excess water is being carefully redirected through the gates to control the flow. According to reports, the weather upstream of the plant has improved since yesterday. Therefore, the amount of water coming in may not be huge. We are closely monitoring the situation," Sarma posted.

The Bhutan water release is the result of a reservoir scouring underway at Kurichhu from Friday to remove a huge accumulation of logs, debris and driftwoods clogging the facility after being washed down by rainwater from the vast catchment area.

According to the Central Water Commission, the Beki river is flowing in Barpeta district of Assam at 45.04 metres, almost equal to the danger level (45.1 metres); the Brahmaputra is swirling at 28.83 metres, 0.21 metres above the danger level, in Dhubri district.

In upper Assam, the flood situation remained unchanged. According to the state disaster management authority, over 67,000 people in 17 districts and over 2,700 hectares of crop land have been affected. However, no death was reported Friday and the toll stayed at seven.

The Times of India- 15- July-2023

Big push to irrigation: Kadem, Modikunta get Centre's nod

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Hyderabad: In a further boost to irrigation cover in Telangana, the technical advisory committee (TAC) of Union jal shakti ministry on Friday granted clearance to two major irrigation projects — Kadem (Gudem) Lift Irrigation Project and Modikunta Vagu on Godavari river — that were proposed by the state government.

The TAC approved the projects after Telangana irrigation department submitted detailed project reports (DPRs) and made a presentation before the committee in Delhi.

The latest approval comes after the jal shakti ministry cleared Chinna Kaleshwaram project, Chanaka-Korata barrage and Choutupally Hanmantha Reddy lift irrigation scheme on the Godavari in November last.

The committee led by secretary of ministry of water resources, Pankaj Kumar, and members — additional secretary Debashree Mukherjee and Central Water Commission chairman Kushvinder Vohra, besides chief engineers of CWC were convinced by the project proposals submitted by Telangana, sources said.

State irrigation special chief secretary Rajat Kumar, OSD to CM, Sridhar Rao Deshpande, and senior officials explained the need for the projects and said the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) had already cleared the state's proposals.

▶Continued on P6

The Times of India- 15- July-2023

Sitarama project & Wardha barrage yet to get Centre's nod

▶ From P1

Telangana applied for approvals after the jal shakti ministry asked both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to take permission for any project that is constructed across Godavari and Krishna rivers while taking them over in a gazette notification in July 2021. It had given six months to both the governments to submit DPRs for unapproved projects.

Official sources said some project such as Sammakka-Sarakka, Sitarama, Wardha barrage and Kaleshwaram third tmcft lift scheme are yet to be given approvals by the Centre.

The Kadem project has been planned to provide water to tail end of Kadam left main canal and irrigate about 30,000 acres and also help in recharging ground water. The government also claimed that households in command area of 43 villages will be directly benefited by the project.

The government said the project was taken up in 2008 when the state was united and completed in 2015 at a cost of ₹120 crore. The irrigation department allocated 3 tmcft of total 11.75 tmcft from Kadem Narayan Reddy project to this lift irrigation scheme.

Modikunta Vagu is a medium irrigation project taken up on Modikunta, a tributary of Godavari in Mulugu district. The erstwhile AP government accorded administrative sanction of ₹124 crore for construction of the project in 2005 but the work could not be completed due to forest land acquisition issue.

The construction of a dam across the river requires 499 hectares of forest land and another 427 hectares for submergence at contours. The irrigation department said the project irrigates 5,500 hectares of development command area and improves socio-economic conditions of people in tribal and backward areas in Mulugu region.

The Times of India- 15- July-2023

No new tribunal for Krishna water sharing between AP, T

Centre Delays Move With Eye On State Polls

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Vijayawada: The Centre has decided not to constitute a new tribunal to resolve water disputes among the Krishna basin states. With assembly elections around the corner in AP and Telangana, the Centre has decided to play it safe by not constituting the new tribunal. The Centre has extended the term of the existing Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT-II) headed by Justice Brajesh Kumar till March 2024.

The Telangana government earlier withdrew its writ petition in the SC following an assurance given by the Centre to consider constitution of new tribunal.

EXTENDED TILL MARCH 2024

- Centre wanted to resolve disputes between Telangana and Andhra through new tribunal
- However, with elections approaching, Centre extended the term of the existing tribunal to avoid political complications
- Justice Brajesh Kumar will helm the tribunal till March 2024

Telangana has been demanding 50% share in the quota

- KWDT-II allocated 811 tmc ft water to undivided AP in its draft notification
- AP was given **66%** while TS was granted **34%** of the 811tmc ft

The tribunal was originally constituted in 2004 to mediate water sharing disputes among Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. After hearing lengthy arguments from the three states, the tribunal readied the draft award for publication.

However, the Centre had to put the notification on hold following AP's bifurcation. Subsequently, the Centre mediated between the two Telugu states and made them to agree to share the water allocated to the undivided state of AP between them. While AP has been given 66% quota, Telangana was given 34% share in the quota awarded by the tribunal.

The two Telugu states have been quarrelling over sharing of water from the Krishna since bifurcation nine years ago.

During a meeting of the apex council on the Krishna waters, Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat advised Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao to first withdraw the petition in the SC for the Centre to consider the constitution of new tribunal.

Meanwhile, Shekhawat directed the existing tribunal continue the hearings and ready the report. KWDT-II is currently hearing arguments from AP and Telangana.

Hindustan Times- 15- July-2023

Concretisation key factor in Yamuna's record spree

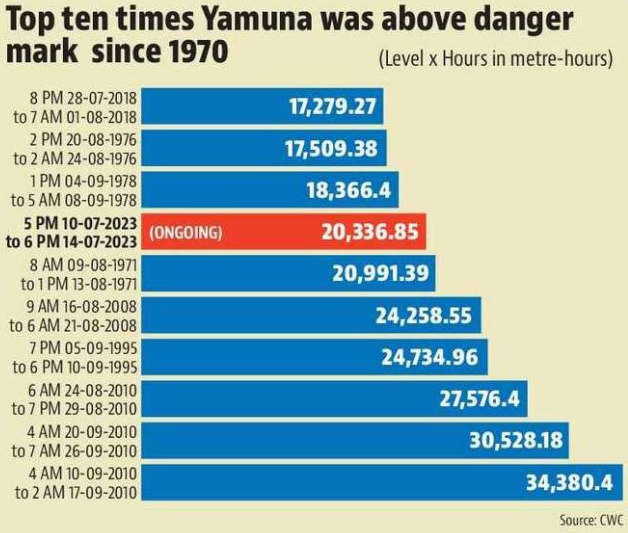
By Abhishek Jha

The Yamuna was flowing almost three metres above the danger mark of 205.33 metres at the Delhi Railway Bridge according to a real-time hydrograph run by the Central Water Commission (CWC) at the location. Although the water level started dipping late night on Wednesday, it is likely to remain above both the danger mark and its previous record (207.49 metres in 1978) even on Saturday, according to CWC's forecast. The immediate cause of this disaster – as HT has explained before – is the release of water from upstream parts of the river after heavy rains. While these heavy rains are also the result of the climate crisis, it is universally accepted that Indians have not had much role to play in this warming – at least thus far. What Indians have had a role in, is making the Yamuna prone to floods – by concretising the area close to the river. Here are some charts that show this.

1 The current flood is one of the worst in Delhi's history

The 2023 flood in Yamuna is far from over. Yet it has already broken some records. It broke the record for the highest ever level the river has reached in Delhi – 208.66 metres on July 13. To be sure, this level was recorded in only three readings taken hourly from 6pm to 8pm.

If one were to multiply the level maintained by the time for which it was maintained for all of the sixty times Yamuna has crossed the danger mark since 1970 in Delhi, the 2023 flood is ranked seventh highest so far, a rank that this flood is likely to better before it is over. The level-hour product for Yamuna was 20,3367 metre-hours as of 6pm on July 14. This number was 20,991 metre-hours for the sixth ranked flood (August 1971) and 34,380 metre-hours for the highest ranked flood by this metric (Sept 2010).



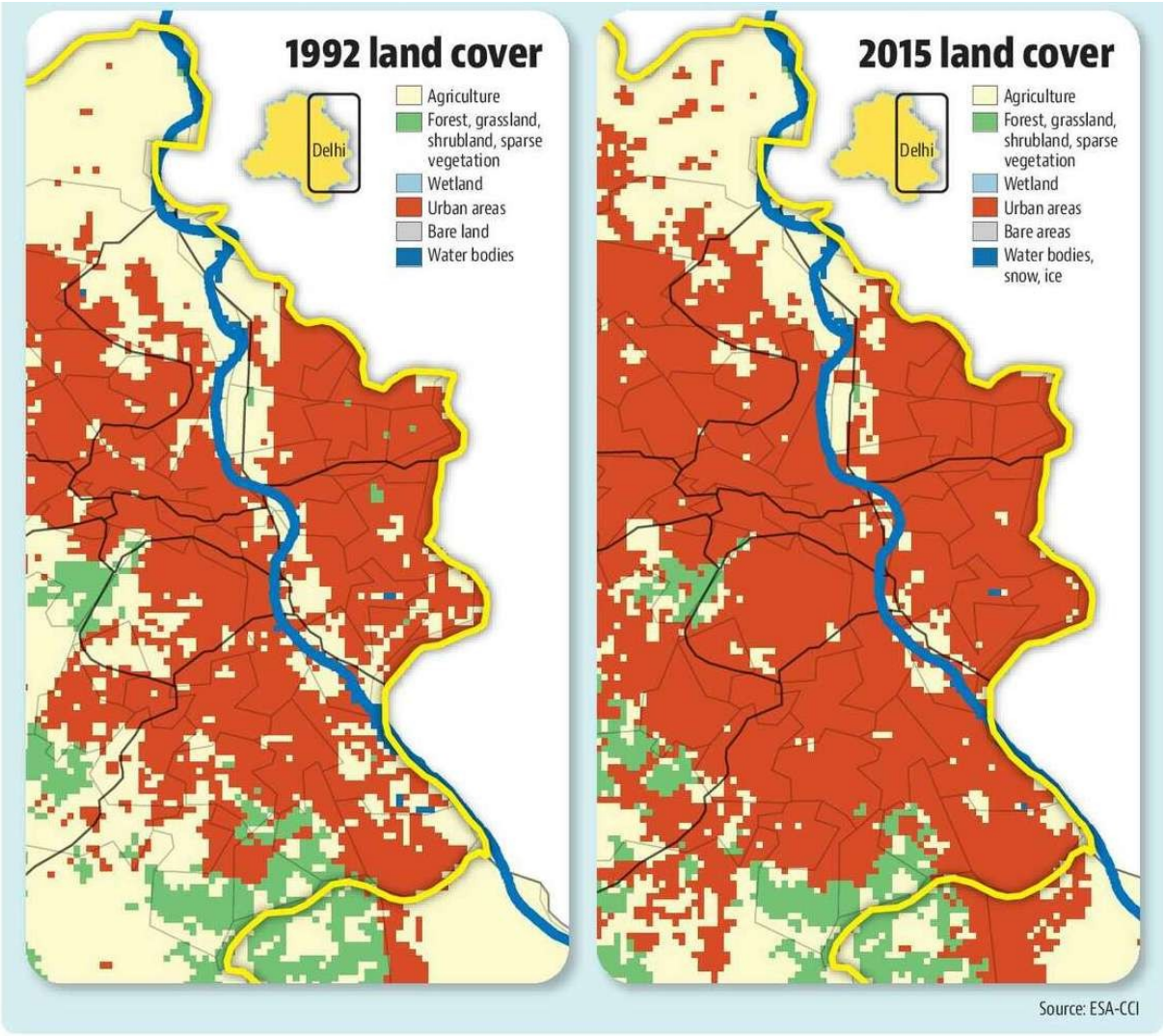
2 And concretisation close to the Yamuna has a role to play in this

The 2023 flood lasting for very long is not an isolated event. As HT explained on July 13, the Yamuna now reaches higher levels than in the past when it goes past the danger mark; and it stays above the danger mark for longer.

A possible reason for this – apart from climatic factors such as rains intensifying in the upstream states – is the concretisation of the area close the river. Concrete close to the river prevents water from being absorbed by the ground when the river overflows. Therefore, it is likely to be one of the factors in Yamuna remaining above the danger mark for longer.

Land cover maps from the European Space Agency's Climate Change Initiative (ESA-CCI) show that urban areas have crept closer to the Yamuna in Delhi over time.

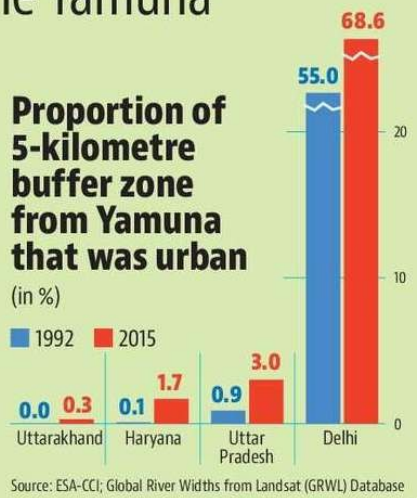
Hindustan Times- 15- July-2023



3 However, urbanisation close to the Yamuna is not limited to just Delhi

While it is Delhi that is facing floods from the Yamuna currently, it is not the case that only Delhi has brought concrete closer to the river. HT created a buffer zone of five kilometres on either side of the Yamuna's path by using a satellite-derived worldwide database of rivers and lakes (none of them are named in the database) created by scientists George H Allen and Tamlin M Pavlesky. It then checked the changes in urban areas in this buffer zone from 1992 to 2015. The analysis shows rapid urbanisation in the past couple of decades in this buffer zone along the river from Uttarakhand to Uttar Pradesh . While half of this buffer zone was already urban in Delhi in 1992, it has now increased to more than two-thirds of the area.

In other states, the urban areas were less than a percent of the buffer zone in 1992, but have since increased very fast: 22 times in Haryana, 3.3 times in Uttar Pradesh, and from 0% to 0.3% in Uttarakhand. This urbanisation upstream and downstream from Delhi also has a role to play in Delhi floods. If the water could get absorbed in the floodplains along the banks more readily, both Delhi and the other states through which Yamuna passes would face a smaller risk of floods.



Source: ESA-CCI; Global River Widths from Landsat (GRWL) Database

NOTE: Buffer zone calculated on both sides of Yamuna on the basis of satellite-derived centre line

ESA-CCI may not detect urbanisation if it is smaller than the majority area of the grids in its data

Hindustan Times- 15- July-2023

Flood puts barrage in eye of political storm

Yamuna water being sent to Delhi, not UP, in organised plan, alleges AAP; barrage officials say water regulated as per rules

Neeraj Mohan
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KARNAL: The Delhi flood has brought into sharp focus the Hathnikund barrage, upstream on the Haryana-UP border, through which the flow of water of the Yamuna is regulated, with the Aam Aadmi Party on Friday alleging it was being deliberately mismanaged to inundate the Capital.

How the barrage works, therefore, is important to understand.

Water regulation through Hathinikund barrage (it is not a dam, and does not have a reservoir or overflow channel) is regulated by the Upper Yamuna River Board, which has representatives of all riparian stakeholders of the river – Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan – ensuring that every state gets the share of the water agreed upon on May 12, 1994.

The agreement was signed under the aegis of the then Water Resources ministry, now Jal Shakti ministry, to resolve a long-pending Yamuna water dispute between different states, and to ensure that the states get adequate water for drinking and irrigation.

A key part of the agreement was to build the Hathinikund barrage, which started in 1996, and was completed in 1998, to replace the Tajewala barrage, 3km downstream, and set up the Upper Yamuna River Board to regulate all water storage and barrages on the Yamuna till Okhla in south Delhi, in consultation with the floodplain states.

Hathinikund Barrage in Haryana's Yamunanagar district. PTI

The Hathinikund barrage (HKB) regulates the flow and distributes share of water from the main stream of the Yamuna, Western Yamuna Canal (WYC) in Haryana and Eastern Yamuna Canal (EYC) in Uttar Pradesh, as per the agreement. Delhi is supposed to get 0.580 billion cubic meter of water every year from Yamuna through Hathinikund.

The barrage in the Tajewala village of Yamunanagar district, from where the Yamuna enters the plains, 172km from its point of origin in Yamunotri in Uttarakhand, ensures a minimum flow of 10 cumec (cubic meter per second) water in the main Yamuna. One cumec is equal to 35.5 cusecs (cubic feet per second).

"The barrage does not stop flow of the water on river Yamuna, it just regulates water flow as per the agreement and water sharing guidelines of the Central Water Commission. The barrage is managed by Haryana government as per the guidelines," said a Jal Shakti ministry official.

AAP's allegation

The AAP, which rules Delhi, on Friday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled Haryana government of releasing all water from Hathinikund to Delhi, and not diverting the excess water to Uttar Pradesh. The party said that had the excess water been diverted to Uttar Pradesh, Delhi would not have got flooded.

"Since July 10, the Haryana government has been releasing water in one direction, whereas it could have been distributed evenly in all three states. The Delhi flood is an organised plan. The BJP has purposely pushed the national capital into this situation and made people suffer because of political reasons," said senior AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh.

Release of water

There is one key condition in the guidelines that monitor the release of water, Haryana irrigation officials said. Sandeep Kumar, executive engineer of Haryana Irrigation and Water Resources Department, said the CWC water sharing-formula is adopted when the flow of water comes down below 100,000 (1 lakh) cusecs. As per the formula, in that scenario, 15,000 cusecs is discharged into western canal and 2,000 cusecs into eastern canal and remaining flows into main Yamuna.

"If the flow of water exceeds 1 lakh cusecs, there will be no flow into the western and eastern canals and the entire water is to be discharged into the main Yamuna as two canals cannot withhold the high flow of water," he said. This is because the higher intensity of water, measured through cusec flow, can damage the man-made canals, he added.

As the water flow at Hathinikund got reduced to 58,495 cusecs at 3pm on Friday, 10,510 cusecs was discharged into western canal, which provides drinking water to northern parts of Delhi, and there was no release of water into the eastern canal. "The UP has not demanded water as there is a breach in the eastern canal in UP and the water will be discharged when the UP government raises demand," an official said.

When contacted, a spokesperson for AAP said: "So the Centre's planning was always that whenever there is a natural calamity in Yamuna, the Delhi side would be overwhelmed. Even if the western and eastern Yamuna canals were made for irrigation, in the event of such a calamity why can't it be opened? And if this all was really true, how come water started being released into both the western and eastern canals today after AAP strongly raised this issue? Did the CWC guidelines change so suddenly?"

Devender Singh, advisor (Irrigation) to Haryana chief minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, said the Hathinikund is a barrage, which regulates water flow and is not a dam, in which water can be stored. "The water discharged into the Yamuna river, for the protection of the barrage, is the water which is constantly coming from Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand these days due to excessive rains," he said in a statement.

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva dismissed AAP's allegations. "Political leaders do not decide when and how much water will be released from any barrage or dam, but technical officers take such a call," he said

(Inputs from Delhi HTC)

The Indian Express- 15- July-2023

EXPLAINED HISTORY

A Flood and Memories

Following very heavy rain, the Yamuna in Delhi temporarily reclaimed parts of the course that it abandoned centuries ago. Delhi has an old history with its river; a relationship that has changed dramatically over time

MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

THE RED FORT on one side and Salimgarh Fort on the other, separated by a braid or spill channel of the Yamuna — a scene from several 19th century paintings of the Mughal city of Shahjahanabad — was recreated on Thursday, albeit during a flood.

What happened

The Yamuna in Delhi, which is for most part of the year no more than a ribbon of polluted water, rose to 208.66 metres on Thursday evening, causing Delhi's worst flooding on record. The river touched 207.49 m in 1978, the year in which records started to be maintained. The danger mark in Delhi is at 205.33 m.

Ring Road was submerged, and water lapped the walls of the Red Fort and Salimgarh Fort. Kashmere Gate, Civil Lines, ITO, and Rajghat were flooded. Delhi government officials said the regulator at the Indraprastha Metro station gave way under pressure from the swollen river, which made its way on to the arterial road.

There was water on the Ring Road and in several residential neighbourhoods during the 1978 flood as well — however, the floodplains of the Yamuna were far less encumbered then. The Akshardham Temple complex, Commonwealth Games Village, Player's Building that houses the Delhi Secretariat, and Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium did not exist.

The Fort and the River

The Salimgarh Fort was built by Salim Shah Suri, son of Sher Shah Suri, in 1546 on a riverine island. The Red Fort came up across what is now the Ring Road, in 1648, on the west bank of a braid of the Yamuna.

A painting in *Reminiscences of Imperial Delhi* — an album of some 130 paintings of views of Mughal and pre-Mughal monuments of Delhi — by Mazhar Ali Khan, commissioned by the colonial administrator Charles Metcalfe, shows the two forts connected by a bridge as the river flows between them. The bridge itself was built by the order of Bahadur Shah Zafar. *(See illustration based on the painting below.)*

The red circle in this 1911 map of Shahjahanabad shows the braid of the Yamuna that flowed between the Red Fort and Salimgarh Fort. The illustration below is based on a painting in *Reminiscences of Imperial Delhi*, now at the British Library, London, which depicted the river and the bridge connecting the two forts. Today, the Ring Road passes where the Yamuna braid flowed. *Map: Wikimedia Commons; Illustration: Shyam Kumar*

Shah Jahan's original city had 14 gates, including the 'water gate', Khizri Darwaza, that opened directly to the river. Only Delhi Gate, Kashmere Gate, Ajmeri Gate, Turkman Gate, and the Nigambodh Gate survive. The rest, including the Lahori Darwaza, Kabuli Darwaza, Lal Darwaza, and Khizri Darwaza are long gone.

Shah Jahan first came to the completed Red Fort by way of the Yamuna, and entered his magnificent new home through its water gate.

"When it was inaugurated, Shah Jahan entered the Red Fort through the Khizri Darwaza. There was a *Jashn-e-Mahtabi*, and the *qila* was illuminated by candles. It is through this same gate that Bahadur Shah Zafar left on the night of September 17, 1857 after the fall of Delhi," historian Rana Safvi said.

The shifting Yamuna

The Yamuna served many needs of the fort.

"The river was instrumental in choosing the location [of the fort]. Not only did it serve as a barrier, but water was required for the growing population. The weather is more clement where a river runs. There was a scheme of water channels inside the fort, the water for which also came from the Yamuna," Safvi said.

Over the decades, the river changed course.

"The Yamuna was to be a defence for the Red Fort. The river began to move away, as rivers do, in the time of Muhammad Shah 'Rangila' (reign 1719–48)," writer and heritage enthusiast Sohail Hashmi said.

According to Hashmi, when the decision was taken to move the capital of the Raj to Delhi, the Coronation Park area was originally suggested as the location for the new buildings. "But in the monsoon of 1911, quite a lot of the Coronation Park-Kingsway Camp area, parts of Civil Lines and Model Town, were flooded," he said.

"These areas were a part of the floodplains. That's why the decision was taken to locate the capital at Raisina Hill," Hashmi said.

Indian Plate and soft soil

Manu Bhatnagar, principal director of INTACH's Natural Heritage Division, said changes in a river's course in the northern part of the country is not unusual.

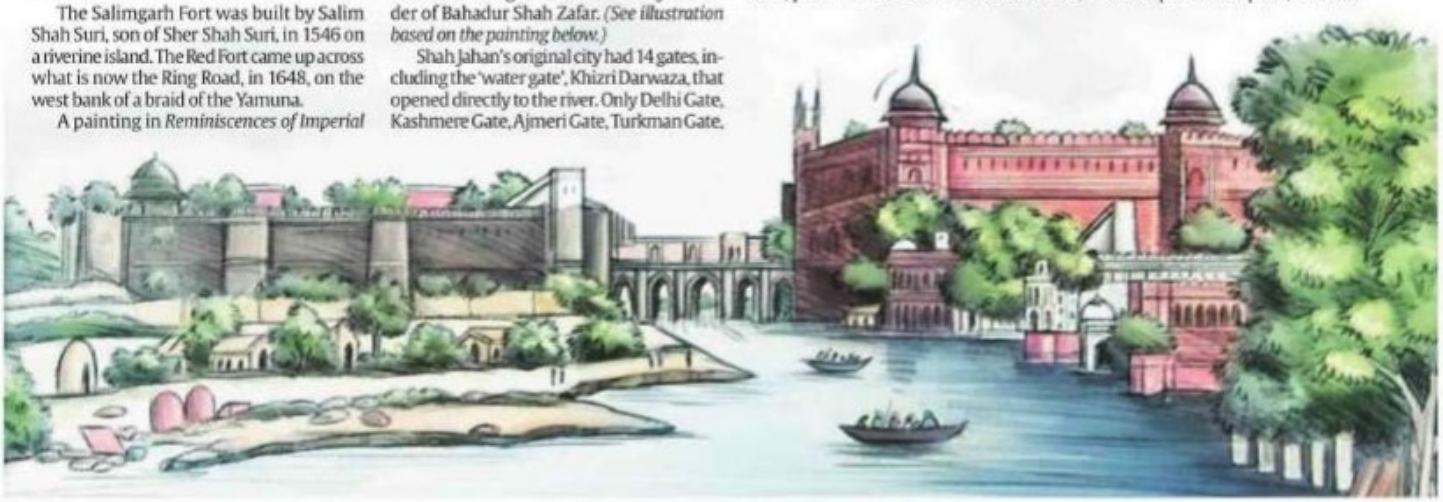
One of the reasons is believed to be the movement of the Indian Tectonic Plate.

"The Plate has been moving northward. That is the reason the Himalayas are rising. One reason for the course of the Yamuna moving eastwards too is believed to be this," Bhatnagar said.

Also, it is more likely for a river to change course in the alluvial plains of North India.

"Alluvial terrain is soft and more amenable to changing river courses. If we look at the course of the Ganga between 1786 and now, there are places where it has changed its course by 34 km," Bhatnagar said. "In Badaun (UP) the river has moved 10 km from where it used to be. At several places along the river, you will find *ghats* but no river. In fact, across the world, you can find bridges that were once built over a river, which later changed course," he said.

Where a braid of the Yamuna flowed, there is the Ring Road now, Bhatnagar said. "The piers of both the bridge built by Bahadur Shah Zafar and the railway bridge that the British built later, have a streamlined shape. This was done to part the water to diminish the impact on the piers," he said.



The Morning Standard- 15- July-2023

Water levels rise in Himachal dams

Bhakra board monitoring situation; flood-hit people to spend nights on rooftops in U'khand

HARPREET BAJWA & NARENDRA SETHI @Chandigarh/Dehradun

AS the gushing waters from rivers, drains and barrages batter north-western belt of the country, the Central Water Commission (CWC) on July 13 revealed that the water levels in the Bhakra, Pong and Kol dams in Himachal Pradesh are almost double than the normal for this time of the year. The combined storage of these three dams is 97% above the past 10-year average.

The water level in Thein Dam in Punjab, too, is 64% more than the decade-long average.

At least 108 persons have died, an equal number of people injured and at least a dozen are missing due to rain-related incidents and road accidents since the onset of monsoon on June 24 till July 13. The bodies of people killed in flash floods are being recovered in Kullu and Mandi districts. So far 53 landslides and 22 flashfloods have hit the state, as per the data released today evening by the Himachal emergency operations centre. The state is likely to get heavy rain at isolated places till July 18 and the MeT office has issued yellow alert.

The CWC data says the total combined capacity of Bhakra, Pong and Kol dams is 12.475 billion cubic metres (BCM) and at present the storage is 7.606 BCM. Last year at this time it was 2.265 BCM and the average storage has been 3.855 BCM.

Anti-clockwise: A bridge collapsed in Haridwar; Punjab CM inspects a waterlogged passage, and a road damaged in flood-hit Kullu | PTI

While yesterday the water level at Bhakra was 497.18 meters against the reservoir level of 512.06 meters. Thus the reservoir of the dam is filled up to 56% of its total capacity this year compared to 21% at the same time last year. The average of the last 10 years is 37%.

The picture is no different at the Pong dam as the water level at the dam was 416.22 m yesterday against the total level of 423.67 meters, thus 67% of the dam is full compared to 15% at the same time last year.

Sources said due to heavy rains in the catchment areas of these dams, the inflow into these dams had been extraordinarily high since last week. The authorities had decided not to release excess water from these dams as already there is a heavy water influx in rivers and streams downstream and many areas are flooded.

INFLOWS INTO DAMS DUE TO RAIN IN CATCHMENTS

The CWC data says the total combined capacity of Bhakra, Pong and Kol dams is 12.475 billion cubic metres (BCM). At present, the storage is 7.606 BCM. Last year at this time, it was 2.265 BCM and the average storage was 3.855 BCM

STATUS OF DAMS

- On Thursday, the water level at Bhakra was **497.18** metres against the reservoir level of **512.06** metres
- How much it is full: The dam reservoir is filled up to **56%** of its total capacity
- How was it last year: **21%** at the same time. Average of the last 10 years is **37%**
- The picture is no different at the Pong dam as the water level at the dam was **416.22 m** on Thursday against the total level of **423.67 metres**

The Bhakra Beas Management Board is monitoring the situation and a decision to release additional water from these dams would be taken in consultation with the partner states depending on the level of inflows and the demand for water, said sources.

The Himachal police are now focusing on inaccessible areas and low mobile connectivity to trace stranded persons. "Rescue operation is on ," said officiating DGP Satwant Atwal.

Dainik Jagran- 15- July-2023

एक लाख क्यूसेक से अधिक हुआ हथनी कुंड में प्रवाह, तो यमुना में ही जाएगा पानी

जागरण टीम, राज्य ब्यूरो/ यमुनानगर: हथनीकुंड बैराज में उत्तर प्रदेश की पूर्वी यमुना नहर की सप्लाई बंद कर यमुना नदी में पानी छोड़े जाने का एक वीडियो प्रसारित हो रहा है। यह वीडियो बनाकर एक युवा ने इंटरनेट मीडिया पर डाला है। वीडियो की शुरुआत में युवक अपने दो साथियों के साथ हथनीकुंड बैराज दिखाता है। वह यमुना नदी के बहाव की ओर इशारा करते हुए कह रहा है कि सारा पानी नदी में छोड़ा जा रहा है। वहां से वह उत्तर प्रदेश की पूर्वी यमुना नहर की सप्लाई बंद दिखाता है। इसके बाद फिर से वह यमुना नदी में हो रहे बहाव को दिखाता हुआ कह रहा है कि यह पानी दिल्ली भेजा जा रहा है। इसे आम आदमी पार्टी के सांसद संजय सिंह ने शुक्रवार को ट्विटर पर साझा करते हुए भाजपा सरकार पर निशाना साधा है। उन्होंने भाजपा पर बिना वर्षा दिल्ली को डूबोने व घटिया राजनीति करने का आरोप लगाया है।

हरियाणा सरकार ने दिल्ली सरकार के नेताओं के उस आरोप का भी पूरे तथ्यों के साथ जवाब दिया है, जिसमें कहा जा रहा है कि हरियाणा सरकार ने दिल्ली की तरफ जा रही यमुना नहर में ही हथनी कुंड का सारा पानी छोड़ा है, जबकि उत्तर प्रदेश की तरफ जाने वाली पूर्वी यमुना नहर और हरियाणा में पड़ने वाली पश्चिमी यमुना नहर में पानी छोड़ा जा सकता था। ऐसे में दिल्ली में आने वाले पानी की मात्रा कम हो जाती। हरियाणा सरकार ने कहा है कि दिल्ली सरकार अपनी नाकामियों को छिपाने को आरोप लगा रही है।

हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री के सिंचाई सलाहकार देवेंद्र सिंह ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि केंद्रीय जल आयोग के दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुसार यदि हथनी कुंड में पानी का प्रवाह एक लाख क्यूसेक से अधिक है, तो पानी पश्चिमी यमुना नहर (जिसमें हरियाणा के हिस्से का यमुना जल आता है) और पूर्वी यमुना नहर (जो उत्तर प्रदेश की ओर बहती है) में बड़े पत्थरों के कारण प्रवाहित नहीं किया जा सकता। ऐसा करने पर बैराज संरचनाओं को नुकसान पहुंच सकता है। देवेंद्र सिंह ने कहा कि किसी भी स्थिति में वर्तमान में पश्चिमी यमुना नहर की क्षमता 17,000 और पूर्वी नहर की क्षमता 7000 क्यूसेक है। लेकिन यह आमतौर पर 4,500 क्यूसेक से अधिक क्षमता नहीं रखती। बैराज के नीचे की ओर कई नाले हैं, जो यमुना नदी में गिरते हैं और जिनसे दिल्ली तक पहुंचने वाले पानी में और वृद्धि होती है।

उप्र की ओर जाने वाली इसी नहर में छोड़ा जाता है यमुना का पानी ● वीडियो ग्रैब

ऐसी परिस्थिति में हमेशा बंद ही रहती है यमुना नहर

हरियाणा जल संसाधन प्राधिकरण के सीईओ एवं सिंचाई विभाग के इंजीनियर इन चीफ डा. सतबीर कादियान का कहना है कि हथनी कुंड बैराज से 2013 और 2019 में आठ लाख क्यूसेक से ज्यादा पानी छोड़ा गया था। इस बार अधिकतम पानी 3.25 लाख क्यूसेक छोड़ा गया है। 7000 क्यूसेक क्षमता वाली पूर्वी यमुना नहर के बंद करने का बहाना बनाया जा रहा है, जिसे ऐसी परिस्थिति में हमेशा बंद किया जाता है ताकि पहाड़ों से आ रही मिट्टी और पत्थरों से नहर बाधित ना हो।