

Telangana Today - 18 June-2024

Atishi urges Haryana govt to release water in Yamuna

NEW DELHI

Delhi Water Minister Atishi on Monday visited the Wazirabad barrage and appealed to the Haryana government to release water in the Yamuna river.

Atishi said the Wazirabad barrage gets water from Haryana which goes to the water treatment plants of Chandrawal, Okhla and Wazirabad.

“If no water is received, how will the water treat-

ment plants work? We appeal to Haryana that the people in Delhi are worried and they should release water in Yamuna river,” she added.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP leaders and MPs along with party workers on Monday staged demonstrations across Delhi slamming the AAP government over the water crisis in the city.

Carrying bottles of dirty water, the BJP protesters raised slogans against the

AAP government and smashed ‘matkas’ (earthen pitchers) as a mark of protest over water scarcity in the national capital. They also alleged that people were getting sick after being forced to drink dirty water from the taps.

At a protest in Geeta Colony, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva claimed that Haryana was releasing Delhi’s full share of water into Yamuna. PTI

I/175651/2024

Millennium Post - 18 June-2024

Water shortages feared as snow persistence in Hindu Kush Himalaya hits record low

Snowmelt contributes 23% to water flow of 12 major river basins originating in HKH region

NEW DELHI: The Hindu Kush Himalaya is experiencing significantly lower snow persistence this year, raising serious concern over water security for downstream communities, according to a new report.

Leading experts from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), a Nepal-based intergovernmental organisation, have urged water management officials to initiate drought management strategies and preemptive emergency water supply measures.

The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region heavily depends on the cryosphere -- frozen water on the Earth's surface, including snow, permafrost, and ice from glaciers, lakes and rivers. This frozen water is a critical source of freshwater for around 240 million (24 crore) people living in the HKH region and has far-reaching benefits for around 1.65 billion people downstream. Snowmelt accounts for around 23 per cent of the total water flow of 12



HKH region's cryosphere is a critical freshwater source for 240 million people, benefiting around 1.65 billion downstream

major river basins originating in the HKH. However, its contribution varies from river to river, representing 74 per cent of the Amu Darya's flow, 77 per cent of the Helmand's flow, and 40 per cent of the Indus' flow.

Monitoring shows snow levels are almost a fifth below normal across the region this year, with the most dramatic declines in the west, where its contribution to water supply is the highest. Snow persistence dropped 17 per cent below normal in the Ganga basin and 14.6 per cent below normal in the Brahmaputra basin, said the Snow Update Report - 2024, released

on Monday.

The Helmand river basin shows the most significant drop in snow persistence at 31.8 per cent below normal. Its previous lowest level was in 2018, with a 42 per cent reduction. The Indus basin has fallen to 23.3 per cent below normal, the lowest level in 22 years. The previous lowest year for this basin was 2018, with a 9.4 per cent shortfall. The Mekong basin had the smallest variation from normal, with snow persistence around 1 per cent below normal.

"We have seen a pattern of decreasing amounts and per-

Closer Look

- » Snow levels almost a fifth below normal this year, with dramatic declines in the west where water supply is highest
- » Ganga and Brahmaputra basins see significant drops in snow persistence, 17% and 14.6% below normal, respectively
- » Helmand river basin shows most significant drop in snow persistence, 31.8% below normal, lowest since 2018

sistence of snow across the Hindu Kush Himalaya, with 13 of the past 22 years registering lower-than-normal seasonal snow persistence," said ICIMOD cryosphere specialist Sher Muhammad, who is also author of the report.

"This is a wake-up call for researchers, policymakers and downstream communities. Lower snow accumulation and fluctuating snow levels pose a serious increased risk of water shortages, particularly this year," he said.

Miriam Jackson, ICIMOD's senior cryosphere specialist, said agencies must take pro-

active steps to address possible drought situations, especially in early summer. "Plans must be updated to accommodate water stress, and communities need to be notified of the risks."

"Beyond that, it's clear that governments and people in this region need urgent support to adapt to changes in snow patterns that carbon emissions have already locked in. G20 countries need to cut emissions faster than ever before to prevent even more changes that could prove disastrous to major population centres and industries reliant on snowmelt in the mountains," she said. AGENCIES