

Resolving dilemmas of development: New documentary on Sardar Sarovar dam oustees suggests an answer

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The Sardar Sarovar dam (SSD) spanning the Narmada sparked a blazing controversy when it was built. It became a cause celebre among environmentalists and the Narmada Bachao Andolan, led by Medha Patkar, organised protests against it. Arundhati Roy wrote that big dams such as SSD were "weapons of mass destruction" and "malignant indications of civilisation turning upon itself".

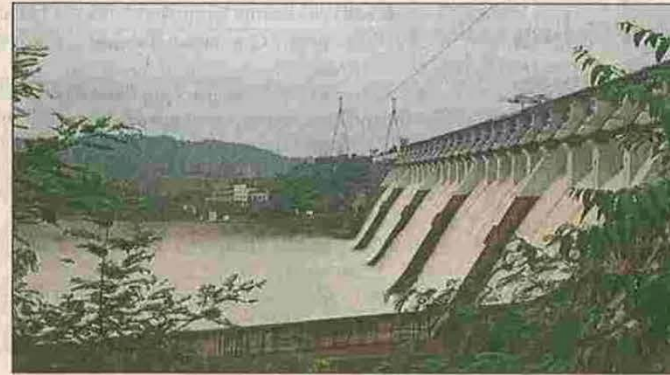
The furore caused the World Bank, which initially advanced funds for the project, to back away. The principal charge against SSD is that it caused the displacement of 32,000 tribal families, who were forced to resettle. A quarter century on, however, how are these families doing? Has their lot improved or deteriorated since their displacement? What does hindsight tell us about the SSD controversy? Light is cast on this topical matter by a documentary currently streaming on Hotstar - 'Dammed But Not Damned', directed by Harshwardhan Varma and based on research conducted by economist couple Swaminathan Aiyar and Neeraj Kaushal.

The topic is an important one not only because of the controversy around SSD, but also because it raises the general question of what happens when tribals move out of their forest habitat and negotiate modernity and the market. This is fraught ideological terrain, but doesn't really have a pat ideological answer. If you ask the Indian Left, they're certain of the outcome: those tribals will end up destitute as they won't have the wherewithal to educate themselves or enter into commercial dealings, and will be easily duped by 'wily upper castes'.

While that can certainly happen, and indeed has happened in many instances - part of what fuels Maoist insurrections - the documentary demonstrates

Far from the romantic notion that contact with modernity is corrupting, and tribals must be kept at arm's length from it, the documentary shows they can adapt quickly to modernity if given a helping hand. They are, indeed, not that different from us

that is by no means an inevitable outcome. Far from the romantic notion that contact with modernity is corrupting, and tribals must be kept at arm's length from it, the documentary shows they can adapt quickly to modernity if given a helping hand. They are, indeed, not that different from us.



Swami and Kaushal surveyed 400 families from each of three groups - those displaced and resettled, their neighbours in villages just above the water line, and other neighbours in the forest interior. Evidence from the survey indicates that oustees are much ahead in ownership of land and consumer durables, access to electricity, roads, banks, schools, hospitals, irrigation (indeed from SSD itself), better houses and advanced agricultural practices

such as use of tractors than the other groups. Ousteers spoken to in the documentary confirm that their living standards have improved.

The documentary also unearths a sociologically interesting nugget: upper caste Patels belied dire predictions and were happy to part with

practices. This process of industrialisation and more productive agriculture has occurred across east Asian countries but has been held back in India - perhaps because India's Left has the wrong sociology.

Certain caveats are in order. One, the doctrine of eminent domain which led to the forced resettlement of tribals is itself problematic even if ultimate outcomes are good; Kaushal is of the view that only exceptionally large public interest can justify it, and even then displacement should be minimised. Two, both governments and NGOs need to lend a helping hand in enforcing and implementing adequate compensation packages. If SSD oustees could successfully modernise, that's because both these components were in place. Which is one reason why regarding NGOs with grave suspicion, and putting the squeeze on them through measures such as the FCRA Amendment Act 2020, isn't a great idea.

In the end, as Swami intones in the documentary, all of us emerged from tribal life at some point in the past, and appear none the worse for it. There's no reason why present-day tribals should be denied that opportunity either - as long as they're adequately empowered to cope with life in the mainstream.

land, which the government bought and transferred to the tribals as part of their compensation. That's because the Patels' sons are attracted by bright city lights, and losing interest in farming.

This suggests a natural process of development, where agricultural communities move to industry and urban occupations, while tribal sharecroppers who may have initially cultivated the land acquire greater stake in it as well as advanced agricultural

The Hindu 16-March-2021

‘Work on canal could cause water shortage’

25% of supply may be affected: Jain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Water will be equally distributed across Delhi in case of shortage that may affect 25% of total supply in the coming days, Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain said on Monday.

The Punjab government has said the water supply coming from Bhakra Dam will be halted, because of which there might be a huge shortage, Mr. Jain told reporters when asked about the effect on supply due to cleaning work on Munak Canal.

“Our team is in Punjab for further deliberations. There cannot be disparity in the sense that specific areas will face shortage. Water is a necessity and we

cannot divide it between the rich and the poor. If a cut-off happens, it will be equally faced by all,” said Mr. Jain, who is also the chairman of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB).

Meanwhile, water supply in around 90% of affected trans-Yamuna areas was restored on Monday even as residents in some colonies complained of dirty water from the taps.

The water supply in many localities in East and North-East districts was affected on the weekend due to repair work undertaken by the DJB.

The DJB officials said water may take some time to reach tail-end areas of the supply system like Mayur Vihar.

Pioneer 16-March-2021

India, B'desh to meet on river water sharing today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Top officials of the water resources ministries of India and Bangladesh will meet here on Tuesday to discuss issues related to river water-sharing and flood forecast, sources said on Monday.

The Indian delegation will be headed by Pankaj Kumar, secretary in the Jal Shakti Ministry. The Bangladesh side will be headed by senior secretary Kabir Bin Anwar, the sources added.

The meeting takes place ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh later this month.

Sources said the two sides

will discuss water sharing of Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dudhkumar and Dharla rivers.

Discussions are likely to take place on further cooperation in the area of flood forecasting, they added.

A system of transmission of flood forecasting data on major rivers like Ganga, Teesta, Brahmaputra and Barak during the monsoon season from India to Bangladesh already exists.

They added that discussions are also expected to take place on drawing water from Feni river for the Sabroom town in Tripura.

Further, talks are also

expected on a possible Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for drawing water from the Surma river.

India and Bangladesh have a robust mechanism in place to address water issues at different levels. An Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) is functioning since 1972. It was established with a view to maintain liaison in order to ensure the most effective joint effort in maximising the benefits from common river systems.

This enables meetings at the ministerial, secretary and at technical experts' level.

The Statesman 16-March-2021

‘Jal Shakti Ministry slow in formulating schemes’

NEW DELHI, 15 MARCH

Several Rajya Sabha members today expressed concern that the Jal Shakti Ministry was slow in formulating schemes and might not be able to spend Rs 60,000 crore allocated to it for the coming financial year.

Initiating a discussion on working of the Ministry, Digvijaya Singh (Congress) said there was non-utilisation of funds as well as lack of monitoring of projects.

He said while problems of water were getting serious, the Ministry failed to spend money given in earlier financial years also. Groundwater issue was getting serious and water harvesting should be made mandatory for all new constructions.

Singh said a water policy for the country was prepared after consultations during the Rajiv Gandhi government and the present government must undertake efforts to update it now.

The first priority should be drinking water, and then agriculture, power and industrial requirements should be met, he said.

BJP's Gopal Narayan Singh said the Modi government had completed several “defunct” water projects started by the Congress governments. Many of these projects were abandoned after completing major parts, he said.

M Shanmugam of the DMK said Tamil Nadu had been denied its share of water from Cauvery despite awards given by tribunals.

SNS

Telangana Today 16-March-2021

New reservoirs ensured irrigation to all farm lands

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

Telangana government has taken up construction of reservoirs with a total capacity of 342.21 tmc after the State formation. Besides completing all the pending and partially completed projects, the State government focused on redesigning and re-engineering these projects to improve the storage capacity, and also supply irrigation water to all the farm lands in the State.

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan said the State government embarked upon constructing major and medium irrigation projects with the objective of creating irrigation facility for one crore acre of land. She recalled that in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, the rulers made no effort to divert the river water to agriculture lands in Telangana region and the entire farm sector in the region suffered severely due to lack of water.

She listed out numerous irrigation projects like Kalwakurthy, Nettempadu,

Bhima, Koil Sagar, Devadula, Mid Manair, Yellampally, Singur and other projects works which were completed on fast track.

Due to the completion of the pending projects, about 20 lakh acres are getting irrigation water in the State and migration has decreased in the State with people returning to cultivation in their native areas. Majority of the projects taken up in the undivided Andhra Pradesh were redesigned to suit the needs of Telangana State. Inter-State disputes were solved amicably and the projects were completed on a war footing. Kaleshwaram, Palamuru-Rangareddy, Dindi, Sitarama Lift Irrigation project are all on the verge of completion. The storage capacity of these reservoirs as a part of the projects on Godavari River was increased from 11.43 tmc to a total 227.77 tmc. Similarly, the storage capacity of the reservoirs for the projects taken up on Krishna River under Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme and other projects

was increased up to 91.52 tmc. The storage capacity of reservoirs under Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme was also increased up to 22.92 tmc.

Mission Bhagiratha

Mission Bhagiratha scheme completely put an end to the drinking water problem faced by the people for decades. The scheme has become a model for the entire country to follow and emulate. As against 5,672 habitations in 2014, about 57.26 lakh households in around 24,543 habitations are now receiving drinking water through tap connections.

Mission Kakatiya

The State government has taken up revival of ancient tanks and also construction of new tanks in the State which has improved the groundwater levels across the State. Under Mission Kakatiya, the State government revived and rejuvenated about 45,000 tanks which in turn improved the groundwater levels in the State. With the revival of tanks, the fishing activity also began on a high note.

Millennium Post 16-March-2021

'No fresh permission to hydel projects in Upper Ganges region in 6 years'

NEW DELHI: The government has not given permission to any new hydroelectric project in the Upper Ganges region in the last six years, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar told Rajya Sabha on Monday.

Replying to supplementary queries during the Question Hour, he said the ministries of Environment, Jal Shakti and Energy have decided not to grant fresh permission to any hydel project in the region, but asserted that hydel projects are required in other parts of the country as it is clean energy.

"In the last six years no fresh permission has been granted to any such projects," he told the House.

"A total of 19 projects are already operational and seven are under construction, of which two are less than 25 MW and six are run-of-the-river projects," he also said.

To a question, the minister clarified that the Chamoli

disaster happened due to a glacier fall that led to flooding in the region killing many people, and was not caused due to hydel projects.

"We must understand that the Chamoli tragedy happened due to the glacier falling down. The flood happened due to the flood caused by the glacier meltdown and not due to the power plant. An inquiry is already on in this regard," he said. Javadekar said there are a total of 37,000 glaciers and some of them are receding and some are increasing.

"In the last six years, the Jal Shakti, Environment and Energy ministries together decided not to grant any fresh permissions to new hydel power projects in the Upper Ganges region. But, we need hydel power in the country as it is clean power. Wherever there is no tinkering with nature, in such areas hydel projects would be set up," he said.

AGENCIES

Millennium Post 16-March-2021

India-B'desh meet on river water sharing on Mar 16

NEW DELHI: Top officials of the water resources ministries of India and Bangladesh will meet here on Tuesday to discuss issues related to river water-sharing and flood forecast, sources said on Monday.

The Indian delegation will be headed by Pankaj Kumar, secretary in the Jal Shakti Ministry. The Bangladesh side will be headed by senior secretary Kabir Bin Anwar, the sources added. The meeting takes place ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh later this month. Sources said the two sides will discuss water sharing of Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dudhkumar and Dharla rivers. Discussions are likely to take place on further cooperation in the area of flood forecasting, they added. A system of transmission of flood forecasting data on major rivers like Ganga, Teesta, Brahmaputra and Barak during the monsoon season from India to Bangladesh already exists.

AGENCIES

Business Line 16-March-2021

Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra lead in usage of drip irrigation

27 States have less than 30% of their farmland watered by micro-irrigation

DATA FOCUS

RADHESHYAM JADHAV

Pune, March 15

Up to 60 per cent of water used for sugarcane, banana, okra, papaya, bittergourd and few other crops could be saved if a drip irrigation system is employed for cultivation. But only four States — Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra — have more than half of the net cultivated farmlands under micro-irrigation. 27 States (including UTs) in India have less than 30 per cent micro-irrigation system out of which 23 have less than 15 per cent micro-irrigation.

Net irrigated area

The data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to the Lok Sabha last month show that the net irrigated area in the country is 68,649 thousand ha.

The agriculture land covered under micro-irrigation is 12,908.44 thousand ha in which drip irrigation is 6,112.05 thousand ha and sprinkler irrigation is 6,796.39 thousand ha. This means that out of total irrigated land in the country only 19 per cent is under micro-irrigation. These figures are from 2005-06 to 2020-21 (as on February 3, 2021).

Interestingly Uttar Pradesh, the largest sugarcane grower, has only 1.5 per cent while Punjab, the major

wheat grower, has 1.2 per cent land under micro-irrigation. Bihar and West Bengal are among the States that have less than 5 per cent micro irrigated land.

Water situation

The figures are a cause for concern against the backdrop of a report of a committee appointed to look into the restructuring of the Central Water Commission and the Central Ground Water Board, painting a grave picture of India's water situation.

The report says that many of the peninsular rivers are facing a serious crisis of post-monsoon flows. "If the current pattern of demand continues, about half of the demand for water will be unmet by 2030. Water tables are falling in most parts of India and there is fluoride, arsenic, mercury, even uranium in our groundwater. We have focused only on the expenditure of vast sums of money for the construction of dams and main canal systems, not on enduring outcomes. Average cost overrun is as high as 1382 per cent in major irrigation projects and 325 per cent in medium projects," the report said.

Impact evaluation

An impact evaluation study of micro-irrigation scheme carried out by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare found that irrigation cost is

Less than one-fifth of irrigated area under micro irrigation

Area covered under micro irrigation*



States with more than 30% of irrigated area under micro irrigation

State	Net irrigated area *	Area covered under micro irrigation*		
		Drip irrigation	Sprinkler irrigation	%
Sikkim	16	6.35	5.26	73
Andhra Pradesh	2,719	1,388.13	519.17	70
Karnataka	3,104	752.82	1,148.70	61
Maharashtra	3,163	1,314.78	561.65	59
Mizoram	16	5.09	2.45	47
Tamil Nadu	2,385	735.81	311.06	44
Gujarat	4,233	852.02	747.75	38

Large States are lagging

State	Net irrigated area *	Area covered under micro irrigation*		
		Drip irrigation	Sprinkler irrigation	%
Uttar Pradesh	14,337	33.52	179.64	1
Madhya Pradesh	9,876	322.27	249.24	6
Punjab	4,128	36.03	13.7	1
West Bengal	3,106	10.32	78.12	3
Bihar	3,101	12.49	106.98	4

Area in thousand hectare

*Net irrigated area includes irrigating by Government canals, private canals, tanks, tube-well, other wells, other sources. #From 2005-06 to 2020-21 (as on Feb 3, 2021)

Source: *Directorate of Economics & Statistics, DAC&FW; Lok Sabha February 2021

reduced by 20-50 per cent with an average of 32.3 per cent in micro-irrigation schemes. Electricity consumption is reduced by about 31 per cent and the saving of fertilizers is in the range of 7 to 42 per cent.

Most importantly, the overall income enhancement of

farmers is in the range of 20-68 per cent with an average of 48.5 per cent.

However, the government data show that very few States have shown enthusiasm to execute micro irrigation systems to save water and add to the farmers' income.

The Hans 16-March-2021

Efforts on to restore pristine glory of Saroornagar lake

MEGHNA NATH
SAROORNAGAR

HYDERABAD'S eminent Saroornagar lake, which was being cleaned by an NGO, will soon get a new look. Beside getting cleaned, the lake is to get a facelift with a floating island and walking tracks.

Almost after a decade's struggle by a city-based NGO Helping Hands Humanity (HHH) to rejuvenate the Saroornagar Lake, which was originally spread across 98 acres, is going to get a facelift in the coming months. A Floating Trash Collectors (FTC) have been deployed as part of the cleaning process.

With the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) authorities joining hands with the NGO, cleaning of the lake is going on for almost one-and-a-half months now. Moreover, a group of 16-20 volunteers along with MLA D Sudheer Reddy aid the cleaning process, every Sunday.

Only after sending several representations to the civic authorities for the restoration of the lake did they start cleaning the lake, informed Kota Saikumar, a volunteer who also thanked LB Nagar MLA for his support.



The NGO while cleaning the lake found that a huge amount of plastic and puja material was being dumped into the lake. They have started an awareness campaign to make residents not to use the lake as a dumping yard.

"For the past 18 months we have been engaged in cleaning the lake, but now with the active support from the MLA and authorities we are hopeful that the

lake would get its past glory. Earlier we were cleaning manually and now with the deployment of equipment to clean the waste we are hopeful that the idea would materialise soon," said Prashanth, a volunteer of Helping Hands Humanity.

To upkeep, protect and clean the Saroornagar lake several measures have been taken, including spraying of mosquito re-

pellent using drones and the two floating islands which would absorb the pollutants like phosphates and nitrates.

"Once the estimated amount gets sanctioned, the floating island and walking track would be developed. It is our responsibility to protect the lake. I also appeal to the locals not to throw trash into the lake," said Sudheer Reddy, LB Nagar MLA.



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- Sudheer Reddy,
LB Nagar MLA



IMD warns of thunderstorms lashing on March 19

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BEGUMPET

THE IMD bulletin on Monday warned that on March 19 thunderstorms with lightning were likely to occur at isolated places over Telangana. It said on Monday that the day temperatures rose appreciably in some parts of the State ranging from 2.1 to 4 degrees Celsius during the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 am. However, there was no large change in most parts. The temperatures in some areas were above normal and normal in others. The highest maximum temperature of 38.2 degrees Celsius was recorded in Nalgonda.

The other day temperatures recorded elsewhere in the State were: Bhadrachalam 37.8, Nizamabad 37.7, Adilabad 37.3, Mahbubnagar 37, Medak & Ramagundam 36.6 each, Khammam 35.8, Hyderabad 35.6, Hanamkonda 35.5, Dundigal 34.9, Hakimpet 34.2.

In Hyderabad the day temper-

Day temperatures rise appreciably

- Highest max of 38.2 deg C recorded in Nalgonda; Bhadrachalam 37.8, Nizamabad 37.7, Adilabad 37.3, Mahbubnagar 37, Medak & Ramagundam 36.6 each, Khammam 35.8, Hyderabad 35.6, Hanamkonda 35.5, Dundigal 34.9, Hakimpet 34.2
- In Hyderabad day temp from March 16-21 likely to be 36, 37, 37, 36, 37 & 36 deg C respectively
- Night temp in State during register an appreciable fall; lowest mini temp of 17.5 deg C recorded in Dundigal; Medak 18, Hakimpet 18.5, Ramagundam 18.6, Hyderabad 19.2, Mahbubnagar 20.1, Nizamabad 20.9, Bhadrachalam 21.8, Adilabad, Hanamkonda & Nalgonda 22 each, Khammam 22.4

atures from March 16 to 21 are likely to be 36, 37, 37, 36, 37 and 36 degrees Celsius respectively, with partly cloudy sky towards afternoon or evening as the outlook. According to the forecast, the corresponding night temperatures would be 20, 19, 20, 20, 21 and 21 degrees Celsius respectively.

Meanwhile, the night temperatures in the State during the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Monday recorded an appreciable fall ranging from -2.1 to -4 degrees Celsius in some parts. They rose markedly by 4.1 deg C or more in some other parts. The lowest minimum temperature of 17.5 degrees Celsius was recorded in Dundigal.

The Hans 16-March-2021



Dying Yamuna needs urgent help, say green activists

BRIJ KHANDELWAL

Ahead of the 'Rivers Action Day' on Sunday, a series of conclaves were held in the holy city of Vrindavan along with meetings of green activists in Agra in Uttar Pradesh against the neglect of the Yamuna river. "Those in power care neither for humans nor for stones," was the general chorus against the neglect of the Yamuna river at the conclaves in Vrindavan, which is now organising the Vaishnav Kumbh.

The angry sants in Vrindavan have demanded immediate steps to restore the Yamuna's pristine glory by releasing fresh water and stopping pollution by industries and continuous discharge of sewage into the holy river. Municipal bodies have failed to stop the drains opening into the Yamuna in upstream urban clusters of Haryana and Delhi, said members of the 'River Connect Campaign' in the Taj city.

"Already one can notice colonies of bacteria in the Yamuna behind the Taj Mahal which is being defaced by green patches at the rear.

Conservationists have also raised an alarm. "The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has promised to clean the marble surface, but when they would act, we do not know. If there had been a continuous flow of fresh water in the Yamuna, this problem which is now a prominent one, would not have arisen," said Shravan Kumar Singh, Vice-President of the Braj Mandal Heritage Conservation Society in Agra.

While a lot of work has been done and substantial amount of funds released for the clean up of the Ganga river, nothing much has been done for the Yamuna which continues to remain dry and heavily polluted, as hundreds of drains are opening into it. "The cruel fact is that the holy Yamuna river has been reduced to a vast sewage canal," Green activist Devashish Bhattacharya, who has filed petitions both at the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Supreme Court, told IANS.

Bhattacharya said, "A National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) team and Environment Lawyer MC Mehta visited Agra last week and have collected valuable inputs which would be placed before the apex court in the next hearing. The SC has suo moto taken up the Yamuna case and has issued notices to both the Delhi and Haryana governments." Members of the 'River Connect Campaign' have demanded a National Rivers Police and constitution of a Central Rivers Authority to manage rivers flowing through more than two states.

At a meeting on Saturday at the Itmad-ud-Daulah View Point Park, the members pointed out that the local administration had neither cleaned up the river bed in the Agra urban limits nor tapped the drains.

The River Police squad was nowhere to be seen and people were still openly defecating in the river, said Pandit Jugal Kishore.

River activists Rahul Raj and Deepak Rajput said the directives of the apex court had not been followed. The 'dhobies' (washermen) were still washing linen from nursing homes just behind the Fort and the Taj. The 100-odd transport companies that had to be shifted outside the city are still hanging on to the Yamuna bank road, adding to the pollution load.

Both the NGT and the Supreme Court have on several occasions directed the Haryana government to continuously maintain a minimum flow of water in the river to sustain aquatic life, but the reality is that the entire supply of water in the Yamuna is being consumed in Haryana alone, a part is diverted to Rajasthan and a small quantity finds its way to Delhi. The share of downstream cities like Mathura, Vrindavan and Agra is held up in Delhi. So how do you expect the Yamuna to be in good health, ask the green activists who point out that all great Mughal monuments are sited along the banks of the Yamuna which must have a sufficient supply of water for the maintenance of these structures.

सहेजना होगा बारिश का पानी

अतुल कनक

जल संकट के कारण पैदा होने वाली सभी अप्रिय घटनाओं से बचने का एक ही मंत्र है कि हम वर्षा जल संग्रहण के प्रति जागरूक हों। इसके लिए जरूरी है कि बड़ी इमारतों में वर्षा जल को संरक्षित करने के लिए अनिवार्य इंतजाम किए जाएं, वर्षा जल संग्रहण के लिए नए तालाब खुदवाए जाएं और जहां कहीं उपलब्ध हैं, प्राचीन कुओं, तालाब, बावड़ियों और कुंडों का संरक्षण किया जाए।

पिछले दिनों दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के उपाध्यक्ष के एक वक्तव्य के बाद दिल्ली की जनता गर्मी के दिनों में जल संकट की आशंका से त्रस्त हो गई। इस बयान में कहा गया था कि भाखड़ा नांगल प्रबंधन 25 मार्च से 24 अप्रैल तक के लिए नांगल जल नहर में पानी का प्रवाह रोकने के प्रस्ताव के मूल में मरम्मत की जरूरत को बताया गया। दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने भाखड़ा नांगल प्रबंधन को एक पत्र लिख कर आग्रह भी किया कि प्रस्तावित अवधि में गर्मी का मौसम शुरू हो जाएगा। ऐसे में पानी की खपत और जरूरत बढ़ जाती है। इसलिए फिलहाल पानी के प्रवाह को रोकने के प्रस्ताव पर पुनर्विचार किया जाए, वरना दिल्ली में अफरा-तफरी मच जाएगी। उल्लेखनीय है कि नांगल नहर से दिल्ली को अपने लिए कुल आवश्यक जलापूर्ति का पच्चीस फीसद हिस्सा प्राप्त होता है। आशंका जताई गई कि यदि प्रस्तावित तरीके से नहर में पानी का प्रवाह रोक दिया गया तो न केवल आम आदमी का जीवन प्रभावित होगा, बल्कि राष्ट्रपति भवन, प्रधानमंत्री निवास, संसद, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय और कई दूतावासों

को भी पानी की आपूर्ति पर प्रतिकूल असर पड़ेगा। उल्लेखनीय है कि दिल्ली शहर पानी की आपूर्ति के लिए इस जल नहर के अलावा यमुना, गंगा नदी और भूजल पर निर्भर है। दिल्ली के आसपास यमुना नदी में बढ़ता प्रदूषण आए दिन चर्चा का विषय बना रहता है। नदियों की शुचिता के प्रति हमारा व्यवहार इसी तरह उपेक्षा भरा बना रहा तो नदियां कब तक सबकी प्यास बुझाने के अपने संकल्प का निर्वाह कर सकेंगी, यह सवाल हर संवेदनशील मन को मथता रहता है। अदूरदर्शी नीतियों के कारण उत्तर भारत के संपूर्ण मैदानी क्षेत्र में भूगर्भीय जल का इतना अंधाधुंध दोहन हुआ है कि कई स्थानों पर हैंडपंप हांकने लगे हैं। केंद्रीय जलशक्ति मंत्रालय न देश के सत्रह राज्यों में ऐसे 1186 ब्लाक चिह्नित किए हैं, जहां पानी का संकट बहुत गंभीर है। योजना है कि इन स्थानों पर वैज्ञानिक भेजे जाएंगे, जो विस्तृत अध्ययन के बाद क्षेत्र विशेष में जल संकट के समाधान का वैज्ञानिक हल सुझाएंगे।

लेकिन किसी भी इलाके में जल संकट का सबसे सटीक समाधान इसके अलावा क्या हो सकता है कि जल का अपव्यय रोका जाए और वर्षा जल का संग्रहण करके भूगर्भीय जलस्तर को बनाए रखने और बढ़ाने की कोशिश की जाए। हमारे पूर्वज इस सत्य को पहचानते थे और इसीलिए कुंओं, तालाबों, कुंडों या बावड़ियों का निर्माण करवाना बहुत पुण्यदायी कार्य माना जाता था। राजस्थान के जैसलमेर में एक तालाब है- गढ़सीसर तालाब। बरसात के दिन शुरू होने के ठीक

पहले इस तालाब की सफाई की जाती थी। यह एक बड़ा अनुष्ठान होता था और स्वयं जैसलमेर शासक इस अवसर पर श्रमदान करते थे। पहली बारिश के बाद इस तालाब में स्नान करना भी अपराध माना जाता था। दरअसल, यह पानी की शुचिता को बचाने का नहीं, जीवन की आशाओं को बचाए रखने का प्रावधान था। जैसलमेर राजस्थान के मरुस्थलीय इलाके का एक शहर है और मरुस्थलवासियों से अधिक पानी के महत्व को कौन समझ सकता है? ऐसा नहीं है कि दिल्ली पानी के महत्व से अपरिचित हो। जहां-जहां भी जीवन है, पानी का महत्व है। तभी तो रहीम ने कहा था- 'बिन पानी सब सून।' रहीम का जन्म इसी दिल्ली में 17 दिसंबर 1556 को हुआ था और वे अकबर के दरबार के इतिहास प्रसिद्ध नौ रत्नों में एक थे। कहते हैं कि अकबर ने जिस फतेहपुर सीकरी को सखाया, मुगलों द्वारा उसे छोड़े जाने के प्रमुख कारणों में एक यह भी रहा कि फतेहपुर सीकरी

में पानी की किल्लत होने लगी थी। क्या रहीम ने ऐसी ही किसी किल्लत से गुजरते हुए 'रहीमन पानी रखिये' जैसा अपना प्रसिद्ध दोहा लिखा था?

प्रारंभ से ही मनुष्य की यह प्रवृत्ति रही कि वह उन्हीं जगहों को अपने आश्रय का स्थान बनाता है, जहां पानी की उपलब्धता सहजता से हो जाए। इसीलिए नदी घाटी सभ्यताएं अस्तित्व में आईं। लेकिन विकास के नाम पर मनुष्य ने पानी के संचय और संरक्षण की आवश्यकता को अनदेखा कर दिया, जो जीवन की मूलभूत आवश्यकताओं में एक था। हम जानते हैं कि तमाम वैज्ञानिक प्रगति के बावजूद हम अपनी समस्त जरूरतों को पूरा करने लायक पानी का निर्माण किसी प्रयोगशाला में नहीं कर सकते। दुनिया के दो तिहाई हिस्से में पानी है, लेकिन अधिकांश पानी समुद्र में होने के कारण मनुष्य



आज भी अपनी जल आवश्यकता के लिए प्रकृति पर निर्भर है। प्रकृति का दिया हुआ जल हमें नदियों के माध्यम से मिलता है या बरसात से। हमारे पूर्वज न केवल पानी के उपयोग के प्रति, बल्कि उसके संरक्षण के प्रति भी संवेदनशील थे। इसीलिए हमारे यहां वर्षा जल संरक्षण के लिए कुएं, तालाब, बावड़ी, कुंड, जोहड़ बनाने की परंपरा रही है। ये जल संसाधन न केवल बारिश का पानी स्वयं में सिंचित कर लेते थे, बल्कि इनसे जमीन में रिसता हुआ पानी भूजल के स्तर को बढ़ाने में भी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका अदा करता था। बारिश के पानी को सहेजना इसलिए जरूरी है कि भारत में हर साल होने वाली औसतन 1170 मिलीमीटर बारिश का अधिकांश पानी वर्षा ऋतु के कुछ ही दिनों में बरस जाता है। पुराने दिनों में बरसाती नदियां भी इस पानी को सहेज लिया करती थीं। लेकिन ये छोटी नदियां भी अनियोजित नगर नियोजन की भेंट चढ़ गईं। पानी के सहज प्रवाह के मार्ग में

बरतियां बसा दी गईं। यही कारण है कि जरा-सी बारिश तेज होते ही कई नगरों में बाढ़ के हालात बन जाते हैं।

कृत्रिम जल संसाधन क्षेत्र बना कर बारिश के पानी को सहेजा जाना चाहिए था। यह नगरीकरण की एक सार्थक नीति होती। लेकिन विकास के नाम पर ऐसे अधिकांश जल संसाधनों को पाट दिया गया। दिल्ली में ही कई प्राचीन कुएं और बावड़ियां थीं। इसका सबसे बड़ा उदाहरण है- खारी बावड़ी। यह नाम अब एक बड़े किराना बाजार का है। दुकानों और अन्य इमारतों को बनाने की होड़ में खारी बावड़ी पाट दी गई। कोटला मुबारकपुर की बावड़ी कहाँ गई, कोई नहीं जानता। कुछ लेखकों ने महरौली की बावड़ियों का शहर कहा है। राजों की बैन, गंधक की बावड़ी, कुतुबशाह की बावड़ी, औरंगजेब की बावड़ी इस

इलाके की प्रसिद्ध बावड़ियां रही हैं। स्थिति यह है कि कनाट प्लेस जैसे चहल-पहल वाले इलाके में स्थित उग्रसेन की बावड़ी भी, जिसे कुछ लोग दिल्ली की सबसे भव्य बावड़ी भी मानते हैं, अपनी गुमनामी पर उदास-सी दिखती है।

तमाम प्राचीन जल संसाधन वर्षा जल को सहेज कर उस भूजल के स्तर को बनाए रखने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका अदा कर सकते हैं, जो आबादी के एक बड़े हिस्से के लिए जरूरतें पूरी करने का सबसे बड़ा साधन है। दिल्ली सरकार ने कुछ समय पहले इस जरूरत को पहचाना और अगस्त 2019 में उत्तर पश्चिम दिल्ली के सुंगरपुर गांव में यमुना किनारे तालाब की खुदाई शुरू करवाई

गई। इस योजना को शुरू करते हुए दिल्ली के मुख्यमंत्री अरविंद केजरीवाल ने कहा था कि पल्ला गांव से लेकर वजीराबाद तक के करीब बीस किलोमीटर के हिस्से में ऐसे तालाब खुदवाए जाएंगे जो न केवल वर्षा जल संचित करेंगे, बल्कि जब यमुना में बाढ़ आएगी तो ये बाढ़ के अतिरिक्त पानी को स्वयं में सिंचित कर लेंगे।

जल संकट के कारण पैदा होने वाली सभी अप्रिय घटनाओं से बचने का एक ही मंत्र है कि हम वर्षा जल संग्रहण के प्रति जागरूक हों। इसके लिए जरूरी है कि बड़ी इमारतों में वर्षा जल को संरक्षित करने के लिए अनिवार्य इंतजाम किए जाएं, वर्षा जल संग्रहण के लिए नए तालाब खुदवाए जाएं और जहां कहीं उपलब्ध हैं, प्राचीन कुओं, तालाब, बावड़ियों और कुंडों का संरक्षण किया जाए। चूंकि यह काम बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है, इसलिए नीति निर्माताओं को इस दिशा में पहल करने के लिए मानसून की दस्तक का इंतजार नहीं करना चाहिए।

Rashtriya Sahara 16-March-2021

नदी जल बंटवारे पर भारत- बांग्लादेश की बैठक आज

नई दिल्ली। नदी जल बंटवारे और बाढ़ के पूर्वानुमान से जुड़े मुद्दों पर चर्चा के लिए भारत-बांग्लादेश के जल शक्ति मंत्रालय के अधिकारी मंगलवार को यहां बैठक करेंगे। भारतीय शिष्टमंडल का नेतृत्व जल शक्ति मंत्रालय के सचिव पंकज कुमार जबकि बांग्लादेश के शिष्टमंडल का नेतृत्व वरिष्ठ सचिव कबीर बिन अनवर करेंगे। यह बैठक इस महीने के अंत में होने वाली प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की बांग्लादेश यात्रा से पहले हो रही है। दोनों पक्षों के बीच मानू, मुहुरी, खावाई, गुतमी, दूधकुमार और धारला नदियों के जल बंटवारे पर चर्चा होगी। उन्होंने बताया कि त्रिपुरा के सबरूम कस्बे से फेनी नदी से पानी लेने के मुद्दे पर भी चर्चा होने की संभावना है।

Haribhoomi 16-March-2021

यमुनापार क्षेत्र के 90 प्रतिशत इलाकों में जलापूर्ति बहाल की गई

एजेसी ► नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली जल बोर्ड (डीजेबी) ने दावा किया कि पाइपलाइन की मरम्मत से प्रभावित यमुना पार के क्षेत्र के 90 प्रतिशत इलाकों में सोमवार सुबह जलापूर्ति बहाल कर दी गई। बहरहाल, कुछ आवासीय कॉलोनियों ने गंदा और बदबूदार पानी आने की शिकायत की है। दिल्ली जल बोर्ड द्वारा पाइपलाइन की मरम्मत की वजह से सप्ताहांत में पूर्वी एवं उत्तर पूर्व दिल्ली के कई इलाकों में पानी की आपूर्ति प्रभावित हुई थी। लक्ष्मी नगर निवासी पवन कुमार ने कहा कि दो दिन बाद पानी की आपूर्ति आज सुबह (सोमवार) बहाल कर दी गई लेकिन गंदा और बदबूदार पानी आ रहा है और पीने लायक नहीं है।



कुछ जगह पानी पहुंचने में समय लग सकता है

दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि पाइपलाइन के अंतिम छोर पर बसे इलाकों तक पानी पहुंचने में कुछ समय लग सकता है। दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया कि प्रभावित 90 प्रतिशत इलाके में पानी की आपूर्ति बहाल कर दी गई है। मयूर विहार जैसे जल वितरण के अंतिम छोर पर बसे इलाकों में पानी पहुंचने में कुछ समय लग सकता है।

Punjab Kesari 16-March-2021

सभी मास्क का ज्यादा से ज्यादा करें उपयोग

दिल्ली में बढ़ सकता है जल संकट

सरकार की अपील, सूखी खेलें होली

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : कोरोना के बढ़ते संक्रमण से निपटने के लिए दिल्ली सरकार ने पर्यावरण के साथ-साथ पानी की बचत के लिए लोगों से समाजिक दूरी के साथ सूखी होली खेलने की अपील की है। होली पर सरकार द्वारा जारी किए गए निर्देशों का जवाब देते हुए स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने कहा की 'सभी लोगों को मास्क का ज्यादा से ज्यादा प्रयोग करना चाहिए।' पर्यावरण के साथ-साथ पानी की भी बचत के लिए लोगों से सूखी होली खेलने के लिए अपील की गई है। इसके साथ ही कहा गया है कि लोगों को ज्यादा से ज्यादा मास्क का प्रयोग करना चाहिए और सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना चाहिए क्योंकि कोरोना ऐसी बीमारी है जो बार-बार लौटकर आती है। इसलिए सभी को सावधान और सचेत रहने की जरूरत है।

उधर दिल्ली जल बोर्ड (डीजेबी) ने दावा किया कि पाइपलाइन की मरम्मत से प्रभावित यमुना पार के क्षेत्र के 90 प्रतिशत इलाकों में सोमवार सुबह जलापूर्ति बहाल कर दी गई। बहरहाल, कुछ आवासीय कॉलोनि



ने गंदा और बदबूदार पानी आने की शिकायत की है। बता दें कि दिल्ली जल बोर्ड द्वारा पाइपलाइन की मरम्मत की वजह से सप्ताहांत में पूर्वी और उत्तर पूर्व दिल्ली के कई इलाकों में पानी की आपूर्ति प्रभावित हुई थी। उधर, लक्ष्मी नगर निवासी कविता शर्मा ने बताया कि दो दिन बाद पानी की आपूर्ति सोमवार सुबह बहाल कर दी गई लेकिन गंदा और बदबूदार पानी आ रहा है और पीने लायक नहीं है। उधर, दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के

अधिकारियों ने बताया कि पाइपलाइन के अंतिम छोर पर बसे इलाकों तक पानी पहुंचने में कुछ समय लग सकता है। दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया कि प्रभावित 90 प्रतिशत इलाके में पानी की आपूर्ति बहाल कर दी गई है। मयूर विहार जैसे जल वितरण के अंतिम छोर पर बसे इलाकों में पानी पहुंचने में कुछ समय लग सकता है। साथ ही गंदे पानी की समस्या को भी जल्द दूर करने पर काम जारी है।

25% पानी की हो सकती है कटौती

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने दिल्ली में हो रहे पानी की समस्या पर पूछे गये प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए कहा कि मयूर विहार क्षेत्र में किसी तकनीकी खराबी के कारण दिल्ली के अंदर पानी की समस्या थी, जिसे दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के कर्मचारियों ने दिन-रात काम करके उसे 48 घंटे के अंदर चालू कर दिया है पानी के लेवल को भरने में थोड़ा समय लगता है। वहीं पंजाब से आने वाले पानी में समस्या को लेकर स्वास्थ्य मंत्री सत्येंद्र जैन ने कहा कि पंजाब के भाखड़ा नहर से आने वाले पानी में चैनल की सफाई में तकरीबन 1 महीने लगेंगे जिससे पूरी दिल्ली के अंदर पानी की समस्या पैदा हो सकती है जिससे दिल्ली को मिलने वाले पूरे पानी में तकरीबन 25% तक की कटौती हो सकती है। पूरी दिल्ली के अंदर पानी की किल्लत हो सकती है। वहीं आज हमारी टीम पंजाब सरकार से बातचीत करने में लगी है और जल्द से जल्द हमारी टीम कोई समाधान निकाल लेगी।