

Hindustan Times- 23- September-2023

Joshimath cracks likely due to constructions in spring zone, says report

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DEHRADUN: The Central Water Commission has attributed the cracks and ground fissures in Joshimath of Chamoli district of Uttarakhand to the rampant construction in the spring zone of the holy town.

The panel's "Hydrological investigation report on land subsidence in Joshimath", submitted before the Uttarakhand high court on Wednesday, said that the construction of buildings stopped the flow of spring water.

"Cessation of spring flow increases the pore pressure which ultimately rendered the burst of groundwater in the form of spring in JP residential premises. In nutshell, construction in the spring zone may be the reason for recent land subsidence," the report said.

The fragile terrain at Joshimath, with a population of around 25,000 people, has over 4,200 structures. Of these, nearly 400 are commercial structures which cater to a large number of pilgrims that visits the town for the Chardham Yatra every year. This year over 4.1 million pilgrims have visited Char Dham so far, including 1.3 million to Badrinath Dham.

"Occurrence of water-saturated formation becomes deeper from Auli Road to JP Colony... Large boulders are embedded in loose material especially in and around Manohar Bagh. Findings of hydrogeological geophysical studies conducted in the area reveals that the thickness of overburden (loose material) and saturated zone are comparatively more in Manohar Bagh-Singhdhar area,



Panel tells HC that construction of buildings stopped the flow of water from springs. AP

which may cause this area to become susceptible to land subsidence. Further, the cracks and subsidence in the area have relation with low resistivity shallow zones with groundwater flow occurring within 50m depth," the report said. HT has seen a copy of the report. It was filed during the hearing of a PIL filed by Almora-based Chipko movement activist and Uttarakhand Parivartan Party president PC Tiwari.

In Joshimath, 868 structures have developed cracks and 181 have been declared unsafe so far. Experts have long held that the fragile Himalayan terrain is being weakened by unplanned and unrestricted construction.

The court expressed displeasure over keeping the technical reports secret so far. The next hearing is on September 25.

HT earlier reported experts have attributed high load of new buildings and seeping of thousands of litres of household wastewater into the ground daily in the absence of a sewerage network as a possible reason for the town sinking slowly.

The Morning Standard- 23- September-2023



K'taka releases 5K cusecs water to TN

KK KARTHIK @ Mysuru

KARNATAKA on Friday evening released 5,734 cusecs of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu from Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) reservoir even as Karnataka and farmers' organisations intensified their protests in the Mandya region.

Though irrigation officials are tight-lipped over the release of water, sources reliably privy to it confirmed that over 5,000 cusecs of water was released in compliance with the direction of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and the Supreme Court.

The release of water has not been made official. But the sources said over 5,734 cusecs of water was released on Friday evening. Of which, 2,503 cusecs was released into VC Canal, 400 cusecs into D Devaraj Urs Canal, 2,673 cusecs into the river flowing towards

Tamil Nadu and the rest into other canals.

An executive engineer of KRS told The New Indian Express on condition of anonymity that they had not received any direction from the State Government to release water to Tamil Nadu. But he was quick to add, "What will be recorded at the gauging station at

Biligundlu is that of leakage or seepage from the reservoir and not exactly the water that we have released."

However, 5,734 cusecs of water 'released' would flow towards the Biligundlu station.

The Karnataka Government has been trying to present its distress situation and inability to release water to Tamil Nadu. But after the SC ruling that Karnataka must comply with the CWMA direction to release 5,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu daily for 15 days, it was left with no option but to do so despite stiff opposition.



Millennium Post- 23- September-2023

INDUS WATER DISPUTE

India, Pakistan attend meeting in Vienna

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: India has taken part in a two-day meeting in Vienna that was part of the proceedings aimed at resolving a dispute between New Delhi and Islamabad on the Kishenganga and Ratle hydro-electric projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting in the Austrian capital city was convened by a neutral expert. Senior advocate Harish Salve was present in the meeting as India's lead counsel in the matter, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

"A delegation from India, led by Secretary, Department of Water Resources, attended a meeting of the neutral expert proceedings in the Kishenganga and Ratle matter at the Permanent Court of Arbitra-

The meeting in the Austrian capital city was convened by a neutral expert

tion in Vienna on September 20 and 21," it said.

The meeting was convened by the neutral expert appointed on India's request under the aegis of the Indus Waters Treaty and was attended by representatives of India and Pakistan, the MEA said.

"India's participation in this meeting is in line with India's consistent, principled stand that as per the graded mechanism provided for in the Indus Waters Treaty, the neutral expert proceedings are the only valid proceedings at this juncture," it added.

Millennium Post- 23- September-2023

Protests over Cauvery water issue spreads in Karnataka

MPOST BUREAU

BENGALURU: Protests continued in various parts of Karnataka on Friday, after the Supreme Court on Thursday refused to interfere with orders of the Cauvery Water Management Authority and the Regulation Committee, directing the state to release 5,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu.

Farmer organisations and pro-Kannada outfits staged protests in the Cauvery river basin districts of Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagara, Ramanagara, Bengaluru and other parts of the state expressing their anger and urging the state government not to release water to the neighbouring state.

Karnataka has been maintaining that it is not in a position to release water, after taking into account its own need for drinking water and irrigation for standing crops in the Cauvery basin areas, as there has been water scarcity due to deficit monsoon rains.

Protests have also spread to districts like Chitradurga,



Protest over Cauvery water issue in Chikmagalur

PTI

Ballari, Davangere, Koppal and Vijayapura. Sloganeering — demanding justice, blocking roads, burning of tyres and effigies marked the protests in various parts of the state.

Karnataka BJP leaders met under the leadership of former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai in Bengaluru to discuss the line of action the party should follow. Party presidents and leaders from Cauvery basin districts were present at the meet.

Stating that it is clear that the government has failed in the Cauvery issue and its consequences are being seen, Bommai said, "I have seen the (court) proceedings and

our lawyers have not argued effectively".

References have not been made by lawyers regarding tribunal orders, importance of Bengaluru's water requirements, forthcoming monsoon rains in Tamil Nadu, and utilisation of water so far by the neighbouring state, he said.

Amid protests in several parts of the state, including Bengaluru, the city police has tightened security, especially in Tamil dominated areas.

The CWMA on Monday asked Karnataka to continue releasing 5,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for another 15 days after the CWRC last week made such a recommendation.

Millennium Post- 23- September-2023

Water warriors of desert

Communities in Rajasthan this year made full use of the very heavy rain that the region saw; there are many lessons to be learnt from this work



SUNITA NARAIN

In the age of extreme weather, people need to learn to capture every drop of rain using decentralised water structures

In our world racked and wrecked by extreme weather events, it is hard to find nuggets of good news. But look hard enough and human endeavour shines through.

Last fortnight, *Down To Earth* published an inspiring report on how communities in the desert of Rajasthan made full use of the very heavy rain that the region saw—it was a deluge, but they decided to store the water and use it.

These people may not know that what they are seeing this year, and now every year in terms of unseasonal events, is climate change. They may not know about climate agreements or adaptation goals, but they have shown us how best to adapt to such a crisis.

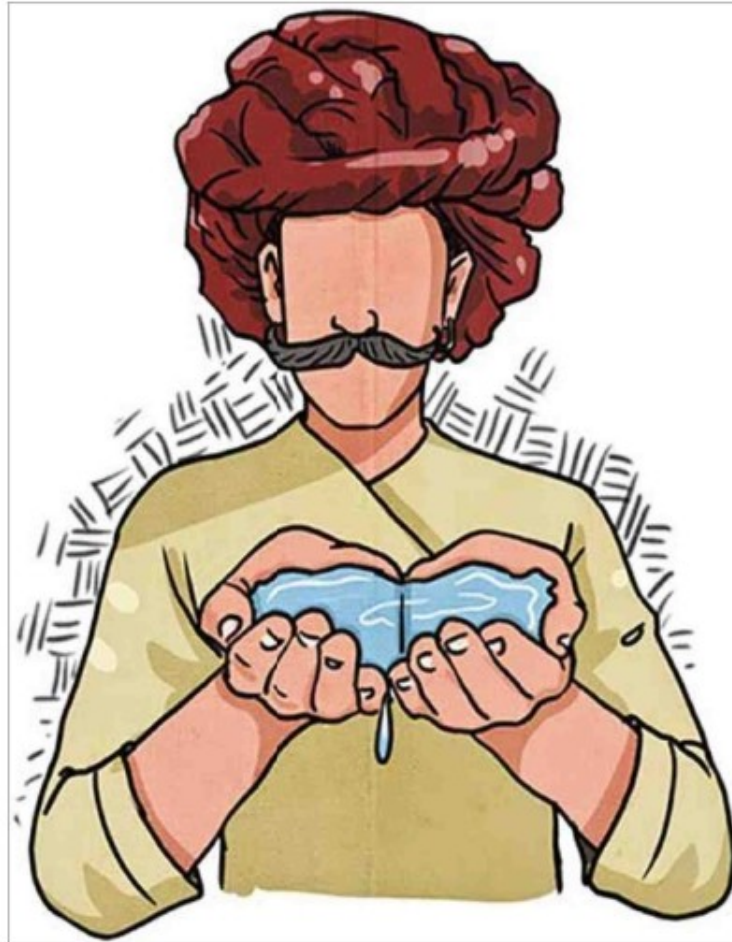
This part of Rajasthan normally receives less than 300 mm of rain annually. But this year, the rain came before time, and it poured. The desert districts saw more than their annual rainfall in a matter of a month.

My colleague Anil Ashwani Sharma travelled to these districts to find out how people were coping with the ravages of the heavy rain and floods. We were expecting him to come back with stories of grief and despair.

Instead, he found how in villages spread across the districts of Beawar, Pali, Barmer and Jaisalmer, communities and individuals had decided to make the best of the rain they received.

They had built, rebuilt and rejuvenated thousands of water structures which could capture every drop of rain. The ponds, he said, were brimming with water and people with joy.

In the village of Sendra in Beawar district, just as the rains came in May, the residents realised the opportunity to repair the existing water structures built using traditional knowledge—from the *talab* (large pond) to the *nadi*



When people make water their business, they create magic

(small ponds in fields) to the *tanka* (tanks collecting rain-water from small catchments) to rooftop collection in every house.

They also expanded and cleaned the catchment of each structure. Then as the rains came in June, all the 320 structures were nearly full; water level in wells had gone up.

But people did not stop there. Overnight, they dug trenches in the hill slope

acjoining their village so that rain would not destroy their crops, but instead percolate into the ground. All this has meant that more water is now available for the next crop.

In Madhasar village of Barmer district, residents constructed 155 ponds in just two months, all to hold the precious rain. And in Sanwata village of Jaisalmer, most of the 400-odd water structures were desilted; people say they carry a stick wherever they go,

so that they can keep digging to improve percolation.

It was no wonder that in each village, there was joy of rain in anticipation of living through the coming drought months with enough water to drink and irrigate crops.

This happened because communities were prepared to bring about change. First, a lot of effort has gone into bringing an appreciation of the value of decentralised water structures, built using

traditional knowledge.

In 1997 when our colleague Anil Agarwal led the work to document traditional water wisdom, there were no takers for this solution. But we persevered and advocated how the knowledge published in our book, *Dying Wisdom*, could be part of water policy.

Then came the government's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which took this knowledge to another level. Under this employment programme, millions of water structures have been built across the country. Many of these structures have fallen into disuse or are just dysfunctional because of poor design. But as this monsoon season has shown, when people make water their business, they create magic.

There are many lessons we must draw from this work. First, we must understand the value of MGNREGA in our climate-risk world. This is perhaps the world's biggest adaptation programme, where labour of people is paid for to provide a social safety net and this labour is used to build ecological wealth, which in turn builds resilience against variable weather.

Second, in the age of extreme weather—witness what is happening in a country like Spain where drought has been replaced by incessant rains—we need to learn to capture every drop of rain using decentralised water structures.

This is where this incredible work of the people of Rajasthan must be understood and emulated. And third, most importantly, we must salute human enterprise; ordinary people who have taken charge of their water future. They are the water warriors showing us the way ahead.

DTE

The writer is the Director-General of CSE and editor of *DownToEarth*. Views expressed are personal

Hindustan- 23- September-2023

इतने नद और नदियां हैं, पर कितनी उनकी इज्जत है



दिनेश मिश्र | जल विशेषज्ञ

सितंबर माह का चौथा रविवार नदियों को समर्पित है। इस दिन विश्व नदी दिवस मनाया जाता है। *विश्वस्य मातरः सर्वाः* का संदेश देते हुए *महाभारत* में एक श्लोक है, जो शुद्धिपिंठ को संबोधित है। इसका अर्थ है, यहां सभी नदियां संपूर्ण विश्व की माताएं हैं और वे सब की सब पुण्य फल देने वाली हैं, यानी हमारे देश में नदियों को माता कहने की परंपरा इतनी पुरानी तो है ही। *वाल्मीकि रामायण* में भी भगवान राम ने 23 बार सरयू को प्रणाम किया है।

भारत में नदियां केवल माता के रूप में प्रकट नहीं हुई हैं, वे पिता और बाबा भी हैं। ब्रह्मपुत्र और सोनभद्र विराट स्वरूप वाले नद हैं, तो अजय, दामोदर आदि छोटे नद हैं। गर्व की बात है कि हमारे पास बड़ी संख्या में नदी और नद मौजूद हैं, मगर हम उनकी कितनी इज्जत करते हैं?

नदियों की व्याख्या हमारे पूर्वजों ने बड़े मनोयोग से

की है। तालाबों वा बड़े सरोवरों से निकलने वाली नदियों को उन्होंने सरोजा कहा, तो पहाड़ों से आने वाली नदियों को गिरिजा। इसी तरह, कई धाराओं में बहने वाली नदियां मुक्त-वेणी कही गईं, जो महिलाओं की मुक्त केशराशि (खुले बालों) की ओर इशारा करती हैं। यदि नदी अपनी धारा नहीं बदलती और एक चुने हुए रास्ते पर ही बहती है, तो उसकी तुलना सुधर चोटी से करते हुए बद्ध-वेणी कहा गया। इसी तरह, अस्थिर, धारा बदलने वाली तथा उछल-कूद मचाने वाली चंचला नदियों को कन्या अथवा अविवाहिता माना गया। बिहार की कोसी भी कन्या नदी है, जो पिछले दो-छाई सौ वर्षों में करीब 120 किलोमीटर पश्चिम खिसक आई है। जो नदियां अपार जलराशि के आ जाने पर भी धीर-गंभीर भाव से अपने रास्ते पर चलती रहती हैं, उनको विवाहित माना गया, उदाहरण के लिए गंगा। आधे रास्ते चलकर गावब हो जाने वाली नदियों को मध्ये-गुप्ता कहा गया, जैसे सरस्वती। कुछ नदियां भुतही भी होती हैं, जिनकी विशेषता होती है कि वे किसी क्षेत्र पर भूत की तरह हमला करती हैं और इसके पहले कि लोग अपनी सुरक्षा का कुछ इंतजाम कर लें, वे गायब हो जाती हैं। बिहार की भूतही-बलान इसी श्रेणी की नदी है।

नदियां प्रकृति का अंग होने के नाते ईश्वर की कृति हैं। उनके साथ छेड़छाड़ करने से पहले हमें यह देख लेना चाहिए कि हमारा मुकाबला किससे है। नदियों से हमारा

नदियां प्रकृति का अंग होने के नाते ईश्वर की कृति हैं। उनके साथ छेड़छाड़ करने से पहले हमें यह देख लेना चाहिए कि हमारा मुकाबला किससे है। नदियों से हमारा व्यवहार मातृवत होना चाहिए।

व्यवहार मातृवत होना चाहिए, तभी वे कल्याणकारी होंगी। हमारी समस्या यह है कि माता के स्थान पर हमने उनको संसाधन बना दिया, जिससे उनके दोहन की प्रवृत्ति बढ़ी, जबकि उनसे हमारी आस्था जुड़ी हुई है। हमारा कोई भी मांगलिक कार्य नदियों के आह्वान से शुरू होता है, जिसमें गंगा, यमुना, गोदावरी, सरस्वती, नर्मदा, सिंधु, कावेरी का नाम लिया जाता है।

क्या कभी हमने सोचा है कि गंगा दशहरा, छठ, भाई-दूज, मकर संक्रांति अथवा ग्रहण के समय आज भी लोग नदी की ओर बिना किसी निमंत्रण या आयोजन के खिंचे चले आते हैं? इस स्वतःस्फूर्त ऊर्जा का उपयोग क्या हम थोड़े से प्रयास से नदी या यूँ कहें कि जल-स्रोत के संरक्षण की ओर मोड़ नहीं सकते? नदियां या ऐसे जल-स्रोत

समाप्त हो जाएं, तो वे उत्सव भी समाप्त हो जाएंगे। हमारी नदी-केंद्रित संस्कृति व कृषि का क्या होगा? यह कल्पना ही भ्रमानक है। समय रहते अगर हम नहीं चेतते हैं, तो हमें गंभीर परिणाम भुगतने की तैयारी करके रखनी होगी।

बेलगाम शहरीकरण ने नदियों से उनके क्षेत्र छीनकर उन्हें सिकुड़ने को बाध्य कर दिया है। और, जब नदियां बदला लेती हैं, तब कोई युक्ति काम नहीं आती। ऐसा हमने इस साल कई राज्यों में देखा है। आशा है, हमारे योजनाकारों को वह बात समझ में आ जाएगी।

नदियों के प्रवाह को अक्षुण्ण और कल्याणकारी बनाए रखने के लिए यह लोक शिक्षण अत्यंत आवश्यक है कि नदियों को प्रदूषित होने से बचाया जाए। यह काम समाज के हर तबके को समझना और करना पड़ेगा कि नदियां परोपकार के लिए बहती हैं और इस काम में बाधा डालना गलत है। अब जरूरी हो गया है कि विपरीत आचरण करने वाले लोगों से सख्त कानून के माध्यम से निपटा जाए। यह मामला केवल लाभ-लागत अनुपात का नहीं है। योजनाएं बनती हैं, तो उसके फलाफल पर भी नजर होनी चाहिए और उसके कथित उद्देश्यों की पूर्ति की जिम्मेवारी भी तब होनी चाहिए। शिक्षण की जरूरत व्यवस्था को भी है। कहीं न कहीं से इसकी सार्थक शुरुआत करनी ही पड़ेगी और यह जितना जल्दी हो, उतना ही बेहतर होगा।

(ये लेखक के अपने विचार हैं)

Rashtriya Sahara- 23- September-2023

कर्नाटक में कावेरी मुद्दे पर प्रदर्शन

बेंगलुरु । उच्चतम न्यायालय के कावेरी जल प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण और नियमन समिति के आदेशों में हस्तक्षेप करने से इनकार किये जाने के बाद कर्नाटक के विभिन्न हिस्सों में शुक्रवार को विरोध प्रदर्शन जारी रहा । उच्चतम न्यायालय ने कावेरी जल प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण एवं कावेरी जल नियमन समिति द्वारा तमिलनाडु को 15 दिन तक प्रतिदिन 5,000 क्यूसेक पानी देने के बारे में कर्नाटक सरकार को दिये गये आदेशों के संदर्भ में बृहस्पतिवार को हस्तक्षेप करने से मना कर दिया था ।