

The Times of India- 24- June-2023

50% of STPs meant to keep rivers clean in Haryana don't do their job

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Gurgaon: Nearly half of the sewage treatment plants (STPs) in the state don't comply with the pollution board's norms for waste processing—a finding that implies most of this toxic water is ending up in Yamuna and Ghaggar rivers.

Seventy-three (46%) of the 156 STPs are not in adherence of the prescribed standards, the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) told the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in a report submitted on May 5.

According to data collected by HSPCB between February and April this year, there are 59 STPs installed in the catchment of Yamuna with a capacity to treat 1,075 million litres per day, but 25 of them don't meet the standards. Most of the STPs in Gurgaon release water into Yamuna.

The figure is 23 out of 62 STPs that are supposed to discharge treated sewage into Ghaggar river. There are another 25 of the 35 remaining STPs that aren't located along any rivers and aren't following



File photo

'73 of the 156 STPs are not in adherence of the prescribed standards'

the proper rules.

The non-compliance was flagged despite a 2015 order by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which had directed CPCB and the pollution boards of UP, Haryana and Delhi to clean up Yamuna waters and set up STPs to ensure untreated waste is not discharged into the river.

One of the most polluted rivers in India, Yamuna ends up as the resting place of wastewater, industrial effluents, pesticide residues, largely from cities in NCR and neighbouring areas. A survey by the CPCB, car-

ried out in Haryana between December 2021 and March 2022, had found that common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) were mixing sewage with chemicals and industrial waste. Before that, an inspection by CPCB officials and other experts in 2018 had concluded that high levels of ammonia were being dumped into the river from drains in Haryana.

Asked about the report, environmentalists said on Friday that untreated or partially treated sewage has been discharged into rivers for decades. "The rivers and other wa-

ter bodies have high toxicity as sewage from these STPs is channelled into them. The same water also percolates into the ground, so it is important that these plants process sewage properly," said Varun Gulati, a Delhi-based activist who has been tracking Yamuna pollution for years.

HSPCB chairperson P Ravendra Rao told TOI on Friday that the board has stepped up inspections of STPs and it is monitoring polluting industries. He said HSPCB has also asked regional officers to visit and submit reports on any deficiencies in the working of STPs within their areas.

Apart from that, 25 STPs are set to be upgraded by December 2025, and the state is planning to build infrastructure that would allow them to reuse treated sewage from 34 STPs by October 2025.

"In 2020, the prescribed standards for STPs were modified. They were made stringent and the present STPs were constructed before the modifications of the norms. That's why these aren't in compliance of the norms," Rao added.

Gujarat to seek hike in Narmada water share

NWDT To Review Allocation Of Water In 2024

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Gandhinagar: As the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) prepares to review the allocation of Narmada water to stakeholder states in 2024, the Gujarat government has initiated a crucial process to determine the state's water requirement.

With the last NWDT award dating back to over four decades to 1979, Gujarat aims to secure a significant boost in its share of Narmada water, considering the substantial growth in irrigation area and the doubling of the state's population.

Under the 1979 award, the total water availability in the Narmada basin from July 1 to June 30 stood at 28 million acre-feet (MAF), with Gujarat receiving 9MAF, Madhya Pradesh getting 18.25MAF, and Maharashtra and Rajasthan being awarded 0.25MAF each.

"However, the Narmada



With the last NWDT award dating back to over four decades ago, to 1979, Gujarat aims to secure a significant boost in its share of water

canal network has increased substantially and the area under Narmada irrigation has also increased. Similarly, the population has doubled since the NWDT pronounced its last award. A substantial hike in water allocation for the state will be demanded," said a source in the state government.

To streamline the process, the state Narmada, water resources, and water supply department has instructed all field and constituent offices to compile correspondence files from various stakeholders. The matter is periodically reviewed by the state

chief secretary and top officials. Officials of the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited have been directed to provide original copies of correspondence related to the NWDT award to the head office.

Established by the Centre on October 6, 1969, the NWDT was tasked with resolving the Narmada water-sharing dispute. The tribunal's award, announced on December 7, 1979, was subsequently notified by the Union government, making it binding on the disputing parties: Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.

Millennium Post- 24- June-2023

Assam

with 80,061 and Barpeta with 73,233.

Altogether 35,142 people are now staying in 140 relief camps, while another 75 relief distribution centres are also functional.

The administration took the help of the State Disaster Response Force, local people, trained volunteers and civil defence personnel in rescue operations in different districts. Altogether, 10,782.80 hectare of cropland has also been inundated so far, the ASDMA bulletin said.

An embankment was breached in Biswanath, while damage to other such structures was also reported from the same sub-division as well as from Darrang and Kokrajhar districts.

Damage to roads and bridges was reported from several districts, including Bajali, Baksa, Barpeta, Cachar, Chirang, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Goalpara, Karimganj, Kokrajhar, Majuli and Nalbari.

Reports of erosion have been recorded in Baksa, Biswanath, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Dibrugarh, Sivsagar, Sonitpur, South Salmara, Udalguri and Tamulpur.

The ASDMA report said that landslides have also been reported from Karimganj.

A Central Water Commission report on Friday evening said the Brahmaputra was flowing over the danger level in Nematighat (Jorhat).

The water level of the Puthimari and Pagladiya rivers have breached the red mark in Kamrup and Nalbari respectively, it added.

The Regional Meteorological Centre here has issued a 'yellow' alert for Friday, asking people to be on watch and remain updated for heavy rainfall and thunderstorm in some parts of the state.

Assam flood situation grim, death toll at 2

MPOST BUREAU

GUWAHATI: The flood situation in Assam continued to remain grim on Friday with the death toll rising to two and over 4.88 lakh people reeling under the deluge across 16 districts, according to an official bulletin.

Several major rivers, including the Brahmaputra, were flowing above the danger level at different places as the state has been witnessing heavy rain for the last few days.

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin said one

person was killed in flood water in Ghograpar in Nalbari district in the last 24 hours, taking the toll to two so far.

Altogether, 4,88,525 in 16 districts and three sub-divisions (independent) are currently reeling under the deluge, it said.

The number of people affected by the flood was 4.95 lakh in 16 districts and four sub-divisions (independent) on Thursday.

Bajali sub-division remained the worst hit with 2,67,253 people affected, followed by Nalbari

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The Hindu- 24- June-2023

WRD plans to take up study to link Kosasthalaiyar and Araniyar rivers

The idea is to transfer floodwater across the basin to manage extreme weather events. Sources say flooding in Chennai cannot be tackled in isolation and river basins in neighbouring districts will need to be connected for better conservation

K. Lakshmi
CHENNAI

The Water Resources Department (WRD) is planning to take up a study on the possibility of linking Araniyar and Kosasthalaiyar rivers to mitigate urban flooding.

The idea is to transfer floodwaters across the basin to manage extreme weather events. Sources said a technical feasibility study is being considered to provide a link between the rivers. Flooding in Chennai cannot be tackled in isolation. River basins in the neighbouring districts of Tiruvallur and Chengalpattu will have to be connected for better conservation of floodwater.



A study carried out with numerical groundwater flow modelling predicted that linking the rivers will help decrease the extent of seawater incursion by about one km by 2030. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

A link channel is being provided in the middle reach of the waterways near Vadamadurai, Tamaraiakkam check dam or near Karanodai Road to drain the surplus water whenever either of the riv-

ers swell and the other has deficit flow. This will sustain flow in the rivers and help arrest seawater intrusion, the officials said.

The proposal was discussed at a recent stakeholders' meeting with the Eu-

ropean Union (EU) delegation to India and India-EU Urban Partnership on urban sustainability and smart city.

A study authored by L. Elango, visiting professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT-Madras, along with S.P. Rajaveni and Indu S. Nair, had assessed the feasibility and impact of linking these rivers to reduce seawater incursion in coastal aquifers north of Chennai.

The study, covering an area of 554 sq. km., had suggested forming a channel to link the rivers near Karanodai-Puduvoyal Road or near Vengal, Panchetti to moderate floods in the basin. This would improve groundwater ta-

ble and also recover aquifer where the water had turned saline.

Prof. Elango said seawater had intruded nearly 15 km inland till Panchetti where wells had been sunk to provide drinking water supply to the city. The groundwater table in Minjur is over-stressed and saline. The study carried out with numerical groundwater flow modelling had predicted that linking the rivers would help decrease the extent of seawater incursion by about one km by 2030.

Check dams could also be built in the confluence points of the rivers with the link channel to sustain flow in the channel and recharge groundwater.

The Tribune- 24- June-2023

Homage to our dams, the modern temples

RN MALIK

PEOPLE praise Jawaharlal Nehru the most for his strict adherence to democratic values and laying the foundations of modern India by initiating many mega projects, like the steel plants in Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur. But his greatest contribution has been to boost India's agricultural production by building massive multipurpose storage dams across major rivers of India.

Nehru realised that our canals carried full discharge of water during three months of the rainy season, but a scanty discharge during the dry period of nine months — and only by building storage reservoirs, with the help of big dams, could floodwaters be stored, to be later used for irrigation round the year.

Accordingly, he directed the Central Water and Power Commission to take up these projects urgently. This drive resulted in the construction of a large number of dams across India, such as Bhakra Dam, Nagarjuna Sagar Dam and Hirakud Dam, to name a few. These dams proved to be a boon for the farmers of India, later heralding the arrival of the Green Revolution in the 1960s, besides generating a substantial amount of hydropower as a byproduct. Imagine, the total hydropower generation capacity in India in 1947 was only 1350 MW!

Nehru took a special interest in the construction of Bhakra Dam, visiting the site 13 times to streamline the progress, for it was going to be the highest concrete gravity dam in the world — a total height of 550 ft from the riverbed, plus a foundation depth of 190 ft. Finally, he extolled the greatness of this mighty project at the time of its inauguration in October 1963, remarking: "Bhakra Nangal project is something tremendous. Bhakra, the new temple of resurgent India, is the symbol of India's progress."

The PMs who succeeded Nehru did not show a keen interest in similar projects and after his death in 1964, only four storage dams were constructed — the Narmada Dam, Indira Sagar Dam, Ranjit Sagar Dam and Tehri Dam. Haryana was very unfortunate as the construction of the Kesao Dam across a major Yamuna tributary could not start during Nehru's time. As a result, almost the entire flood flow of the Yamuna is moving wastefully into the sea.

Being a civil engineer, I too look at storage dams as temples of modern India. Consequently, this month I revisited the three dams in Punjab — the Bhakra Dam across the Sutlej, Ranjit Sagar Dam across the Ravi and Pong Dam across the Beas river — to pay my obeisance at the altars of these great temples.

The panoramic view from the tops of the three dams, presenting the vast stretch of reservoirs and the surrounding hills, is simply unbelievable. *Devta* represents a deity who gives you some bounty. Likewise, the great dams of India give us great bounties — irrigation water, electricity, groundwater recharge, fish culture, tourism, freedom from floods and moderation of temperature. It is because of these bounties or benedictions that these dams are deemed as the great temples of resurgent India.

Business Line- 24- June-2023

Kharif sowing down 5% on delayed rains

SLUGGISH TREND. Paddy acreage down 34.6% at 10.77 lh, while oilseeds area has dropped by 3.3% at 9.21 lh

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Even as the monsoon deficit has narrowed to 31 per cent of the normal as on Friday from 47 per cent a week earlier, the progress of sowing has reported further decline as rainfall was mainly confined to Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and some parts of east and north-east regions. Areas under cotton, which was higher from year-ago until last week, dipped for the first time as planting has been affected in Maharashtra due to deficient monsoon.

The total area under kharif-sown crops is down 4.5 per cent at 129.52 lakh hectares (lh) as of June 23, as against 135.64 lh in the corresponding period last year, official data on the agriculture ministry portal show.

CEREALS UP

Acreage of paddy, the main kharif cereal, is down 34.6 per

cent at 10.77 lh, while all pulses combined reported 3.8 per cent higher at 6.54 lh and oilseeds acreage dropped by 3.3 per cent at 9.21 lh. The sowing area under nutri and coarse cereals, however, has been reported 37.9 per cent higher at 18.45 lh due to higher planting of bajra. Sugarcane acreage is a tad higher from year-ago and reached 50.76 lh. However, sources also said that there may be an upward revision on cane area to 56.76 lh if some data from States are found to be correct.

COTTON DECLINES

Among the pulses, tur has been sown in 0.62 lh until June 23 (against 1.8 lh year-ago), moong 3.83 lh (2.72 lh) and urad in 0.55 lh (0.79 lh). In the oilseeds category, groundnut sowing is reported in 7.68 lh (6.78 lh) and soyabean in 0.99 lh (1.55 lh). In coarse cereals, maize area reached 7.59 lh (9.78 lh), bajra 9.91 lh (2.26 lh) and jowar 0.31 lh (0.54 lh). Cotton acre-



LAGGING. The total area under kharif-sown crops stands at 129.52 lh against 135.64 lh in the corresponding period last year. G N RAO

age which took a lead this year, has declined 14.2 per cent to 28.02 lh from 32.67 lh as planting is down in Maharashtra, Punjab and Karnataka. But, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have reported higher acreage under cotton. Jute and mesta acreage reported a fall of 12.2 per cent at 5.77 lh.

Central Water Commission data showed the storage

A slow start

(as on June 23) (lakh hectares)

	2023	2022	% chg
Paddy	10.77	16.46	-34.6
Pulses	6.54	6.30	3.8
Coarse cereals	18.45	13.38	37.9
Maize	7.59	9.78	-22.4
Oilseeds	9.21	9.52	-3.3
Sugarcane	50.76	50.74	0.0
Jute & Mesta	5.77	6.57	-12.2
Cotton	28.02	32.67	-14.2
All Crops	129.52	135.64	-4.5

Source: Agriculture Ministry

level in the 146 major reservoirs in the country was at 26 per cent of the total live storage capacity of 178.185 billion cubic metres (BCM) as on June 22. This was two percentage points lower than the same period a year ago, but higher than normal.

The sowing activities are set to pick up next week, particularly in those States where monsoon reached on Friday, officials said. Monsoon has covered more areas in Maharashtra and Madhya

Pradesh on Friday, earlier than the official prediction.

"Conditions are favourable for further advancement of Southwest Monsoon over some more parts of south Peninsular India, remaining parts of Odisha, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar and some parts of Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh during next 2-3 days," India Meteorological Department (IMD) had said June 22. By June 25, monsoon normally covers all States except, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. Even half of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat will also be covered by then.

Friday's Bulletin showed, monsoon has further advanced into some more parts of Karnataka, Telangana, remaining parts of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha, some parts of Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and east Uttar Pradesh.

Jansatta- 24- June-2023

ब्रह्मपुत्र समेत राज्य की प्रमुख नदियां विभिन्न स्थानों पर खतरे के निशान के ऊपर बह रही हैं असम में बाढ़ से पांच लाख लोग हुए प्रभावित

गुवाहाटी, 23 जून (भाषा)।

असम में बाढ़ की स्थिति गंभीर बनी हुई है और करीब पांच लाख लोग इसकी चपेट में हैं। बाढ़ की वजह से एक व्यक्ति की जान जा चुकी है। अधिकारियों ने शुक्रवार को यह जानकारी दी।

उन्होंने बताया कि ब्रह्मपुत्र समेत राज्य की प्रमुख नदियां विभिन्न स्थानों पर खतरे के निशान के ऊपर बह रही हैं। मौसम विभाग ने अगले कुछ दिन भारी बारिश का अनुमान जताया है जिससे जलस्तर और बढ़ने की आशंका है। असम राज्य आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (एएसडीएमए) की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, गुरुवार शाम तक बाढ़ से 4.95 लाख लोग प्रभावित थे। उदलगुरी जिले के तामुलपुर



असम के बक्सा जिले के कुमरीकाटा में बाढ़ के कारण कंक्रीट पुल ढह गया।

में बाढ़ से एक व्यक्ति की मौत हुई है। केंद्रीय गया है कि ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी नेमतीघाट (जोरहाट) जल आयोग (सीडब्ल्यूसी) की रिपोर्ट में कहा और धुबरी में खतरे के निशान के ऊपर बह

मौसम विभाग ने अगले कुछ दिन भारी बारिश का अनुमान जताया है जिससे जलस्तर और बढ़ने की आशंका है।

रही है।

खतरे के निशान के ऊपर बह रही अन्य नदियों में पुथिमारी (कामरूप), पगलागिया (नलबाड़ी) और मानस (बारपेटा) शामिल है। क्षेत्रीय मौसम विज्ञान विभाग ने लिए 'येलो अलर्ट' जारी किया है और लोगों से राज्य के कुछ हिस्सों में भारी बारिश एवं गरज के साथ बारिश को लेकर सतर्क रहने एवं अद्यतन सूचना से अवगत रहने को कहा है। अब तक कुल 16 जिले और चार अन्य उपमंडल बाढ़ से प्रभावित हुए हैं।