

Telangana Today- 27- September-2021

[Monsoon Fury]

Red alert across State

Officials on alert after IMD forecasts heavy rainfall in several districts of Telangana

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The India Meteorological Department on Monday issued a red alert for the third time this monsoon for Telangana with a forecast of heavy to very heavy rains at a few places and extremely heavy rains at isolated places in several districts of the State.

The weatherman had earlier issued red alert for the State in July and September first week. Following the latest red alert, Telangana is all set to witness another bout of torrential downpour over the next 48 hours with the deep depression in the Bay of Bengal intensifying into cyclonic storm 'Gulab' on Sunday morning. Cyclone 'Gulab' has made landfall in north coastal Andhra Pradesh and south coastal Odisha, the IMD said.

Under its influence, heavy to very heavy rains with extremely heavy rains are likely to occur at isolated places in the districts of Nizamabad, Jagtial, Rajanna Sircilla, Mahabubabad, Warangal (Warangal Rural), and Kamareddy, over the next 48 hours. The State is likely to witness moderate to heavy rains at many places with very heavy rains at isolated places till Tuesday morning. The districts of Adilabad, Kumaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Nirmal, Karimnagar, Peddapally, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu,



With Medak district witnessing heavy rains, floodwater from Singur entered Edupayala Temple, on Sunday — Photo: M Kumar Goud

Heavy rain forecast for Hyd today

HYDERABAD: Heavy to very heavy rains are expected in most areas of Hyderabad on Monday. As cyclone 'Gulab' made landfall in north coastal Andhra Pradesh, the weather forecast for city looks at heavy to very heavy rains in several areas. The city on Sunday witnessed drizzles at various parts of the city while on Saturday, the city received a cumulative rainfall of 44.7 mm.

(REPORT PAGE 3)

Bhadradi Kothagudem, Hanamkonda (Warangal Urban), Janagaon, Siddipet, Sangareddy and Medak districts, are likely to witness heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places. The remaining districts of Khammam, Suryapet, Yadadri Bhongir,

Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal Malkajgiri and Vikarabad, will experience heavy rains till Tuesday.

The Met officials issued an orange alert for Sunday as well as a red alert for Monday indicating widespread rains after the cy-

clonic system makes landfall late on Sunday night. They advised people not to venture out. They cautioned that thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and wind speed of 30-40 kmph, was very likely to occur at isolated places in many districts of Telangana State.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar has placed the entire State administration on alert and urged the district administrations to take all measures to ensure safety of people's lives and properties as a precautionary measure in view of the red alert issued by the IMD for Telangana State in the wake of Cyclone 'Gulab'.

(REPORT PAGE 5)

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278 tmc water released from SRSP

M SRINIVAS
Hyderabad

Since June 1, as much as 278.785 tmc of water has flowed down to Godavari River from Sriram Sagar project near Pochampad in erstwhile Nizamabad district.

This is only the second time that water in such huge quantity was released downstream of the project, which is considered as the lifeline for several parts of north Telangana, officials said. The reservoir was filled to its full capacity of over 1,091 ft for the first time in 1983, prompting officials from the Irrigation department to discharge over 1,000 tmc of water downstream into Godavari then.

After 1983, this is the first time after Statehood that officials are now releasing water from the project in such large quantities since it was receiving huge inflows from the upstream areas and



Record outflows

- Total project capacity : 90.313 TMC
- Total gates : 42
- Gates opened : 32
- Outflows till 7.30 pm (Sunday) : 1.99 lakh cusecs
- Total inflows from June 1, 2021 : 350.111 TMC
- Total outflows from June 1, 2021 : 278.785 TMC
- Power generation : 36 MW

neighbouring Maharashtra. The total inflows received by the project with gross storage capacity of 90.313 tmc since June 1 was 350.111 tmc while total outflows were 278.785 tmc so far.

The water released from SRSP flows into Yellampally project. On Sunday at 7.30 pm, 1.99 lakh cusecs of water was discharged through 32 of the 42 gates that were

raised up to four feet height. Officials are constantly monitoring the water levels in the reservoir since India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast more rains due to the impact of cyclone 'Gulab'.

"We are ready to deal with any situation, even if we receive three lakh cusecs of inflows because of the cyclone impact," K Ravi Kotha,

Project Assistant Executive Engineer told *Telangana Today*.

Officials said some more gates would be opened if the upstream areas of the project get heavy rains in the next few days. The alert has been issued asking local shepherds not to venture downstream areas of Godavari would continue for the next few days.

Telangana Today- 27- September-2021

[High Alert]

State gears up to tackle Cyclone Gulab effect

CS holds teleconference with officials, directs them to set up control rooms

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar has placed the entire State administration on alert and urged the district administrations to take all measures to ensure safety of people's lives and properties as a precautionary measure in view of the red alert issued by the IMD for Telangana State in the wake of Cyclone Gulab.

Somesh Kumar, who is in New Delhi with Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao on an official visit, held a teleconference with the State and district officials on Sunday. The officials were directed to establish control rooms in all district collectorates to mitigate the threat posed by the cyclonic storm and evacuate people residing in low-lying areas in coordination with the police department.

The irrigation department officials were advised

Irrigation projects receive copious inflows

MANCHERIAL: Irrigation projects in the district received copious inflows following rains in upstream areas on Sunday. Sripada Yellampalli at Gudipet village in Hajipur mandal received inflows of 1.91 lakh cusecs due to rains in the upstream areas and catchment.

Surplus water discharged downstream of the project built across Godavari River by lifting 24 crest gates. The water level reached 19.28 tmcs as against storage capacity

of 20.175 tmcs, according to a bulletin.

Meanwhile, Kadem Narayan Reddy Project had inflows of 3,540 cusecs. One gate was lifted to release 6,231 cusecs of water. The water level was 6.978 tmcs as against storage capacity 7.603 tmcs. Kumram Bheem project at in Kerameri mandal had inflows of 1,445 cusecs. The reservoir has 9.277 tmc at present against its gross storage capacity of 10.393 tmcs.

to constantly monitor the irrigation projects as well as tanks which are full to their capacity and overflowing due to increased inflows. He wanted the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and also the State DRF to

join the relief and rescue operations.

Due to heavy rains since Saturday evening, life came to halt in several parts of the State. Torrential downpour lashed several places in the districts of Hyderabad,

Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy, Nalgonda, Yadadri Bhongir, Sangareddy, Rajanna Siricilla, Suryapet, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Siddipet, Medak and Karimnagar.

Road connectivity was snapped in many places in rural parts of the State due to overflowing streams and canals. Power supply was disrupted throughout the night in several places. However, it was restored on Sunday morning.

The officials have been put on alert and were asked to extend all help to the people living residing in low-lying areas in their respective districts.

Mamakannu in Gundala mandal of Bhadradi Kothagudem witnessed the highest rainfall of 12.3 cm in the State, followed by Pochampalli in Karimnagar district with 6.3 cm. Kunaram in Peddapalli district and Avunuru in Rajanna Siricilla recorded 6 cm rainfall.



The now-revived Naganathi flows throughout the monsoon and a few months afterwards | EXPRESS

HOW NAGANATHI CAME BACK TO LIFE

A inspiring tale of how concerted efforts can work wonders

SHYAMSUNDAR N @ Vellore

OVER the past several days, these columns have been carrying reports on the sorry state of rivers in Tamil Nadu and how it impacted the lives millions of people. But, the story of Naganathi is a shining example of how concerted human effort can resurrect a dead river and its ecosystem.

Naganathi originates in Amirthi near Jawadhu Hills in Vellore and flows 30 km through the district before its confluence with Kaman-dalanathi at Sambuvarayanallur in Tiruvannamalai.

By the turn of the century, the river started drying up and villages and towns along its banks started facing acute water shortage, making them dependent on bore-wells. "The groundwater table lay so low that even a 500-foot bore-well didn't fetch water," said a resident of a village in Kaniyambadi block.

In 2014, Art of Living Foundation, an NGO, launched a 'Naganathi River Rejuvenation Project' to improve groundwater table, and revive the river. Conservation of rainwater began and recharge wells, known as *urai kinaru*, were sunk. "Five wells were sunk at Salamanatham in Vellore in 2014 on pilot basis. An impact study two months later revealed that groundwater table and water level in farm wells rose to a 10-year high," Chandrasekaran Kuppan, director of the project and an



PM lauds workers

The story of the revival of Naganathi and the women workers who pulled off the Herculean task were one of the topics that Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about during his radio programme *Mann Ki Baat* on Sunday. He praised the women workers and lauded the water conservation efforts

Art of living teacher, told *TNIE*. "We submitted a report to the then district collector, requesting the implementation of the project, he added. In 2014-15, the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) started implementing the project under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme.

Women power

Under the MGNREGA an army of women workers was raised to sink the wells on the riverbed. The wells, 20-foot deep and six-foot wide, had been designed to collect water from rivulets formed during the rains, thereby raising the water table, said the project director, adding that 354 recharge wells were built in 24

panchayats in the Kaniyambadi.

"The project offered work to hundreds of women in the villages. They worked throughout the day and helped rejuvenate the river," said Vidhya Baskaran, the then field supervisor, MNREGA, Kaniyambadi block. "Before the wells, villages in the Kaniyambadi block didn't have enough water. Within two years of sinking the wells, however, our area flourished and water table rose," said a villager.

In a few years, rivulets started flowing on the once bone-dry rivebed. According to sources, the river now flows throughout the monsoon and a few months afterwards. Green cover along its banks has also increased.

The same river-rejuvenation model is being implemented in the State's nine other districts – Ranipet, Tirupathur, Tiruvallur, Sivaganga, Dindugal, Krishnagiri, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, and Salem – by engaging over 42,000 workers, largely women. So far, 5500 wells have

been sunk under the project, said Chandrasekaran.

"In Vellore and Tiruvannamalai, this model is be-

ing implemented in the Palari tributaries of Saraswathi Nathi, Malattaru, Koundinya Mahanathi, Agaram, and Ponnai River. Similar work is underway in Thenpennai tributaries," he said.

In this series, *TNIE* looks at the problems plaguing the rivers flowing through TN.



The Hindu- 27- September-2021

Flood management that cannot be watered down

For a lasting solution to the India-Nepal floods, an intergovernmental panel must be formed with local representation



ATUL K. THAKUR

Over the years, many of Bihar's districts have been facing serious challenges with recurrent and massive flooding. This year too, it has been a double whammy – of flooding and the novel coronavirus pandemic. It is the right time to look at some of the key aspects of India-Nepal flood management under the existing arrangements of India's federal system that offers enough room for better coordination between the Centre and State governments. The background: some of Nepal's biggest river systems originate in the Himalayan glaciers which then flow into India through Bihar. During the monsoons, these river systems flood causing many problems for Bihar. It is a necessity that there is process-driven coordination between the Centre and the Government of Bihar to handle the flooding in Nepal's Terai and North Bihar (largely the Mithilanchal region).

Still pending

As part of the long-term measures to address the problem of massive and recurrent floods in Bihar, the Joint Project Office (JPO), Biratnagar, was established in Nepal in August 2004 to prepare a detailed project report to construct a high dam on the Nepal side (on the Kosi, Kamla and Bagmati rivers). The

Government of Bihar has raised the matter at regular intervals. The Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), Government of India, convened a special meeting of the joint team of experts (India side) on February 10, 2020 at New Delhi to ascertain the status of the detailed project report. A group of officers formed by the CWC has to work on various aspects of the detailed project report and propose an action plan for its early completion. The Water Resources Department, Bihar has repeatedly requested the MoJS (most recently, through Letter no. 295, dated August 2, 2021) to expedite the progress of the detailed project report. Despite the best efforts made by the Government of Bihar, the task remains unaccomplished even after 17 years.

The Minister of Water Resources Department, Bihar, Sanjay Kumar Jha, met the Minister of External Affairs, S. Jaishankar, in September 2020 to highlight long-standing water sharing issues with Nepal. The crucial matter of water sharing with Nepal has been flagged by India officially as well. What is evident is Nepal's lack of prompt reciprocation. It is essential that Nepal shows the required will to find a long-term solution with India in ending a perennial disaster.

Flood protection work

As in the existing India-Nepal Agreement on water resources, the State government is authorised to execute flood protection works up to critical stretches inside Nepal territory along the India-Nepal border. In recent years,



all such flood protection works have had to be carried out in the face of increasing local resistance. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar, was intensively engaged at two levels: with local Nepalese authorities and through appeals to the Central government for carrying out flood protection works in 2020. After sustained coordination between the Centre and the State (Bihar) and expedited interventions by India with Nepal, Kathmandu gave its conditional permission for manpower and machinery operation in the Nepal area of Kosi basin. Accordingly, 21 out of the 22 works could be completed. Also, some progress was made to facilitate the smooth movement of manpower, machinery and flood control materials across the Gandak and Kamla rivers situated on the Nepal side to carry out flood protection work during the flood period of 2020.

But despite the requisite permission for movement on the Kosi barrage and associated embankments, the movement of departmental vehicles and work activities did not draw the attention of the Kosi Project Authority, Biratnagar, for various reasons. Since bilateral cooperation remains the

fulcrum of water sharing and water management between the two countries, Nepal must play its part in ensuring a sustainable way forward.

As in the figures shared by the Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar, a total of four new flood protection works in the Gandak basin area were proposed before the floods of 2020. A request was made on June 22, 2020 by the Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar, to the Government of India for entry into the Nepal region for execution of these flood protection works and for maintenance works of the Gandak Barrage Structure located in Valmikinagar. After receiving conditional permission from Nepal, maintenance work of the structure and components of the Gandak barrage (Valmikinagar), top regulator gates, Right Afflux Bund, and three of the proposed works in the Gandak basin were completed.

During the strengthening work proposed on the right marginal bund on the Lalbekia river, the local Nepali administration claimed that the said bund area fell in no man's land. This is notwithstanding the fact that the embankment was built by India 30 years ago and there has not been any dispute regarding its maintenance all these years. Breach closure/protective work of right guide bund of the Kamla weir remains incomplete due to the lack of permission. However, resolution of the impasse is awaited. This is another important matter to be looked at.

Aware of the operational impasse during the flood season in 2020, Bihar's Chief Minister Nitish

Kumar visited the Jainagar weir site in Madhubani, and upon sensing the seriousness of the situation, instructed the Water Resources Department to explore converting the weir on the India-Nepal border into an efficiently operated barrage. It is evident that Nepal's attitude towards mutual issues (water sharing, flood control, etc.) has been short of collaboration, unlike in the past.

An alternative paradigm

In the best spirit of friendship, Nepal and India should restart the water dialogue and come up with policies to safeguard the interests of all those who have been affected on both sides of the border. It is time the two friendly countries come together and assess the factors that are causing unimaginable losses through flooding every year. Optimisation of the infrastructure will be decisive in finding an alternative paradigm of flood management. Moreover, it is also linked to how the Himalayan glaciers and the green cover are managed.

Water cooperation should drive the next big India-Nepal dialogue, and despite the challenges, wisdom should prevail to turn the crisis into an opportunity, for the sake of development and environmental protection. Water resources are priceless assets. By controlling the flooding and using the water resources for common developmental uses such as hydroelectricity, irrigation and waterways, India-Nepal relations can be strengthened even further.

Atul K. Thakur is a policy analyst and columnist

The Hans- 27- September-2021

WAKE UP TO PLIGHT OF RIVERS

Another World River Day came and went, but there has not been even a whimper from the government or any other organisation. Even a minuscule portion of the publicity that was given to the meeting of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao had with Union Jal Shakti Minister was not there for the World River Day nor was any programme taken up to create awareness on the need to protect the rivers.

While the Telangana government which has been expressing concern over losing its control over river waters did not deem it fit to highlight the need to protect the rivers which have been constantly mistreated by humans, the media which is supposed to be a watchdog did not even wag its tail.

Human negligence has made the rivers face a massive challenge and their degra-

dation threatens the very existence of human civilisations. Most of the rivers are high on pollution and have been calling for urgent action. Unfortunately, no one is talking in terms of saving them. Reports suggest that around 80% of India's water is severely polluted because of direct dumping of raw sewage, silt, garbage, and highly toxic industrial discharges into rivers and lakes. A stellar example of this is the pollution of the Ganga river due to growing urbanisation and industrialization along its banks.

In the two Telugu states, the plight of rivers Godavari and Krishna is no different. This has worsened the current national challenge of providing clean and safe drinking water to all citizens. This problem is not unique to India; it is estimated that by 2025, two-thirds of the world's population may face water short-

ages. Rivers have always been a fresh and healthy source of water that provide us with ample resources such as energy, food, crops, drinking water and more. People in rural areas in particular used to wake up early, go to the river, take a bath without using pollutants like soap etc and bring water in vessels. There were no RO plus UV with mineral guard technology water purifiers in houses. The water used to be pure and fresh. Now, if anyone tries to take a dip in river waters, he/she would get e-coli infection or skin problems. Still no one is bothered to talk about the importance of rivers or need to protect them. We hold seminars, lectures and produce tonnes of research papers on the subject but do nothing at the ground level.

With the advent of climate change and the increase in global warming, rivers

hold great value in restoring the climate of the planet and balancing the ecosystem. If we continue to pollute the rivers, the ecosystem around them will collapse and, perhaps, we will lose one of the most important water units of the world. But the political executive does not seem to be bothered even a bit. One wonders why the bureaucracy does not create awareness among the political executive on such issues.

According to Mark Angelo, the founder and Chair of World Rivers Day, World Rivers Day is a timeous opportunity for millions and millions of people across the globe to come together and commemorate the importance of healthy thriving waterways. It's time to commit ourselves to proactively protect and preserve the Earth's waterways. Will the governments open their eyes at least now? 'Jago Re.'

Two gates of Sagar dam lifted



Two gates of Nagarjuna Sagar dam were lifted on Sunday

HANS NEWS SERVICE NAGARJUNA SAGAR

NAGARJUNA Sagar dam officials on Sunday released 16,116 cusecs of water through two crust gates. The present water level in Sagar reservoir is 310.8498 tmc at 589.60 feet against full tank level 312.4050 tmc at 590 feet.

6,556 cusecs of water was released through the left canal, 8,144 cusecs through the right canal, 1,800 cusecs through the SLBC and 32,480 cusecs through the main hydropower plant.

There is no release of water through the flood canal. The outflow of 65,096 cusecs from Nagarjuna Sagar reservoir is at the same level as the inflow.

Act now to save Punjab on the water front

RANJIT SINGH GHUMAN

Shifting a substantial area from under paddy would require a compatible policy intervention both by the Central and state governments. For optimum and sustainable use of water, Punjab must have comprehensive agricultural, industrial and water policies and effective and result-oriented implementation thereof. All stakeholders must join hands to address the issue so as to save Punjab from approaching desertification.

THE Punjab Government has at last acknowledged that reckless abuse of groundwater, non-harvesting of rainwater and wheat-paddy crop rotation would result in desertification of the state in the next 15-20 years. However, given the track record of successive governments in Punjab, there is little hope that the problem will be addressed in an effective and sustainable manner. For the past about four decades, governments conveniently ignored the ever-growing problem of water scarcity in Punjab. They refused to read what was written on the wall. The only significant step taken to save groundwater was the Punjab Preservation of Sub-soil Water Act, 2009, enacted by the Assembly. The effective implementation of this Act did postpone the extraction of groundwater from May 15 to June 15 — a very hot and dry period during which there is a very high level of evapo-transpiration.

The Vidhan Sabha panel's report is not the first to highlight the depleting water table and impending water scarcity. Some expert committees and several experts have been pointing to the unsustainable overexploitation of groundwater since the mid-1980s. Johl Committee-1 (1986) and II (2002), constituted by the state government for restructuring and diversifying agriculture, made significant recommendations for shifting a substantial area (20 per cent) from under paddy, but these did not cut any ice. Instead, the area under paddy increased from 3.9

SHIFT IN CROPPING PATTERN IN PUNJAB ('000 hectares)				
Crop	1990-91	2000-01	2010-11	2018-19
Paddy	2,015 (47.77)	2,612 (61.46)	2,826 (67.96)	3,103 (75.35)
Wheat	3,273 (77.60)	3,408 (80.19)	3,510 (84.41)	3,520 (85.48)
Cotton	701 (16.62)	474 (11.15)	483 (11.62)	268 (6.51)
Sugarcane	101 (2.39)	121 (2.85)	70 (1.68)	95 (2.31)
Maize	188 (4.46)	164 (3.86)	133 (3.20)	109 (2.65)
Total oilseeds	104 (2.47)	86 (2.02)	56 (1.35)	39.7 (0.96)
Total pulses	143 (3.39)	55 (1.29)	20 (0.48)	10.1 (0.24)
Potatoes	23 (0.55)	64 (1.51)	64 (1.54)	130 (3.16)

SOURCE: GOVT OF PUNJAB, STATISTICAL ABSTRACTS PUNJAB (VARIOUS ISSUES), FIGURES IN PARENTHESES INDICATE PERCENTAGE SHARE OF THE NET SOWN AREA.

lakh hectares (9.62% of the net sown area) in 1970-71 to 31.03 lakh hectares (75.35% of the net sown area) in 2018-19. The Draft Agricultural Policies (2013 and 2019) prepared by the Punjab State Farmers' Commission also recommended crop diversification by shifting a considerable area from under paddy. Unfortunately, these draft policies never fructify into an agricultural policy. Consequently, the state has neither an agricultural policy nor a comprehensive water policy. Even the Punjab Water Development and Regulatory Authority, constituted in 2020, has not included irrigation under its purview. Unfortunately, successive governments of Punjab, instead of acting upon the recommendations of their expert committees, have been indulging in cheap, competitive political populism aimed at vote banks. This is a classic case of

irresponsible governance.

Paradoxically, among the major rice-producing states of India, Punjab is the most inefficient in terms of water productivity as it is using 5,337 litres to produce 1 kg of rice, while the all-India average is 3,875 litres (in West Bengal's case, it is 2,605 litres). Water consumption in total rice production in Punjab increased from 16,642.5 billion litres in 1980-81 to 63,153 billion litres in 2017-18, out of which more than 70 per cent was groundwater. In 1980-81, Punjab exported 81% of its total water (in the form of rice contribution to the Central pool) used in rice production; it increased to 88.46 per cent in 2017-18.

To meet the increasing demand for irrigation, the number of tubewells in the agricultural sector shot up from 1.92 lakh in 1970-71 to 14.76 lakh in 2018-19, an increase by 7.69 times. Com-

pared to it, the net sown area rose from 40.53 lakh hectares in 1970-71 to 41.18 lakh hectares in 2018-19 (an increase by only 1.02 times). The gross cropped area increased from 56.78 lakh hectares in 1970-71 to 78.39 lakh hectares in 2018-19 (38.06 per cent rise). Evidently, the number of tubewells registered a highly disproportionate rise as compared to the rise in the net area sown and the gross cropped area. Consequently, the net annual groundwater availability for irrigation development decreased from 2.44 million acre feet (MAF) in 1984 to minus 11.81 MAF in 2017. Such a dark situation arrived due to overexploitation of groundwater.

Overexploited blocks

The aggregate gross groundwater draft in Punjab increased from 145 per cent in 2004 to 166 per cent in 2017. The number of

overexploited blocks rose from 53 (44.92 per cent) in 1984 to 109 (78.99) per cent in 2017. According to the latest report (2019) of the Central Ground Water Board, in 18 of Punjab's 22 districts, the draft was more than 100 per cent in 2017. Among them, seven districts are such in which the draft is in the range of 208-260 per cent. In another four districts, the draft is 151-200 per cent; in seven other districts, it is 101-150 per cent. Of the remaining districts, in two the draft is 98 per cent and 99 per cent and in another two it is 74 per cent and 76 per cent. The author's study revealed that during 1996-2016, 12 districts (predominantly paddy-growing) had witnessed a decline in the water table ranging from 3.55 metres to 22.05 metres.

It is quite worrisome that the area where the groundwater table is more than 10-metre-deep

has been continuously increasing. It rose from 7.5 lakh hectares (14.9% of total area of Punjab) in June 1989, to 33 lakh hectares (65%) in June 2016 — an increase by 4.4 times over a span of 27 years. Due to increasing dependence on groundwater for irrigation, the electricity consumption in agriculture jumped from 463 million KWH in 1970-71 to 12,484 million KWH in 2017-18 (an increase of nearly 27 times). Significantly, the higher increase has been witnessed in those districts which are predominantly rice-growing.

Lack of awareness

The author's study (ICSSR-commissioned major research project, 2013-15) has revealed that the level of awareness and sensitivity about judicious and optimum use of water is very low among water consumers across various sectors (agricultural, domestic, industrial and commercial) and the government too is not serious about the emerging water scarcity. Water harvesting and conservation are nearly non-existent across the sectors. Shifting a substantial area from under paddy would require a compatible policy intervention both by the Central and state governments. For optimum and sustainable use of water, Punjab must have comprehensive agricultural, industrial and water policies and effective and result-oriented implementation thereof. All stakeholders must join hands to address the issue so as to save Punjab from approaching desertification.

The author is Professor of Eminence (Economics), GNDU, Amritsar. Views are personal

Rashtriya Sahara- 27- September-2021

नदियों से फिर से जुड़ाव बढ़ाएं लोग : मोदी

नई दिल्ली (वार्ता)। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने अपने रेडियो कार्यक्रम मन की बात की 81वीं कड़ी को नदियों को समर्पित किया और लोगों से नदियों के साथ फिर से जुड़ाव बढ़ाने की अपील करने के साथ ही जीवन एवं व्यवहार में स्वच्छता को अपनाने की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया। प्रधानमंत्री



मन की बात में नदियों के संरक्षण और स्वच्छता के महत्व पर पीएम ने दिया जोर

ने कहा, सितम्बर में जिस दिन 'मन की बात' है, उसी तारीख को 'विश्व नदी दिवस' है। उन्होंने संस्कृत श्लोक-पिबन्ति नद्यः, स्वयं-मेव नाम्भः अर्थात् नदियां अपना जल खुद नहीं पीती, बल्कि परोपकार के लिए देती हैं। हमारे लिए नदियां एक भौतिक वस्तु नहीं हैं, हमारे लिए नदी एक जीवंत इकाई है, और तभी तो, तभी तो हम, नदियों को मां कहते हैं। माघ का महीना आता है तो हमारे देश में बहुत लोग पूरे एक महीने मां गंगा या किसी और नदी के किनारे कल्पवास करते हैं।

भारत में स्नान करते समय एक श्लोक बोलने की परंपरा रही है- "गंगे च यमुने चैव

गोदावरी सरस्वति। नमोऽस्मिन् सन्निधि कुरु। पहले हमारे घरों में परिवार के बड़े ये श्लोक बच्चों को याद करवाते थे और इससे हमारे देश में नदियों को लेकर आस्था भी पैदा होती थी। विशाल भारत का एक मानचित्र मन में अंकित हो जाता था। नदियों के प्रति

जुड़ाव बनता था।

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि पर आज यह स्वाभाविक है कि हर कोई एक प्रश्न उठाएगा और प्रश्न उठाने का हक भी है और इसका जवाब देना ये हमारी जिम्मेदारी भी है कि नदी को मां कह रहे हो तो ये नदी प्रदूषित क्यों हो जाती है? उन्होंने कहा, हम नदियों की सफाई और उन्हें प्रदूषण से मुक्त करने का काम सबके प्रयास और सबके सहयोग से कर ही सकते हैं। 'नमामि गंगे मिशन' भी आज आगे बढ़ रहा है तो इसमें सभी लोगों के प्रयास, एक प्रकार से जनजागृति, जन-आंदोलन, उसकी बहुत बड़ी भूमिका है।

गुमनाम नायकों पर लिख रहे 5000 युवा लेखक

नई दिल्ली (आईएनएस)। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने रविवार को अपने मासिक रेडियो कार्यक्रम मन की बात में कहा कि लगभग 5,000 शौकिया युवा लेखक गुमनाम नायकों के योगदान पर काम कर रहे हैं और उन्होंने नागरिकों से इस काम में योगदान देने का आग्रह किया।

उन्होंने कहा, 5,000 से अधिक शौकिया लेखक 'गुमनाम नायकों' के जीवन को प्रचारित करने की दिशा में काम कर रहे हैं, जिन्होंने भारत के विकास और स्वतंत्रता की कहानी में योगदान दिया है। मैं ऐसे और लोगों से आगे आने और साहस की ऐसी कहानियों को हमारे साथ साझा करने का आग्रह करता हूँ। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारे देश के युवाओं ने फैसला किया है कि वे गुमनाम स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों के इतिहास को सामने लाएंगे और प्रत्येक नागरिक से इसमें योगदान करने का आग्रह किया। प्रधानमंत्री ने गांधी जयंती से पहले खादी पर जोर दिया और कहा कि कृषि क्षेत्र में नई नवीन तकनीकों को

अपनाया जाएगा क्योंकि यह दिन लाल बहादुर शास्त्री की जयंती के साथ मेल खाता है। उन्होंने कहा कि उन्हें मिले उपहारों की विशेष ई-नीलामी चल रही है और इससे होने वाली आय को नमामि गंगे परियोजना को समर्पित किया जाएगा। मोदी ने उल्लेख किया कि कैसे लोगों की पहल ने तमिलनाडु में नागा नदी की मदद की, जो सूख गई थी। लेकिन ग्रामीण महिलाओं की पहल और सक्रिय जनभागीदारी से नदी में जान आ गई और आज भी नदी में भरपूर पानी है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि भारत के पश्चिमी हिस्सों, विशेषकर गुजरात और राजस्थान में पानी की कमी है और लोग सूखे का शिकार होते हैं। गुजरात में, बारिश के मौसम के शुरू में लोग 'जल-जिलानी एकादशी' मनाते हैं, जिसे आज हम 'कैच द रेन' कहते हैं। प्रधानमंत्री ने 350 से अधिक शिक्षकों के योगदान की सराहना की, जो गांवगांव जाने और विकलांग बच्चों को महामारी के दौरान स्कूल में प्रवेश सुनिश्चित करने की सेवा में शामिल हुए हैं।

पहली बार पूरा भरा गया टिहरी डैम का जलाशय

■ अर्थ एंड रॉक फिल बांधों में तीसरा सबसे ऊंचा बांध है टिहरी डैम ■ दुनिया में सभी प्रकार के ऊंचे बांधों में टॉप-10 में शामिल है बांध

नई दिल्ली (वि.)।

टिहरी बांध परियोजना के इतिहास में 24 सितम्बर, 2021 दिन वेहद अहम रहा। इस दिन टिहरी बांध के जलाशय में जल स्तर ने पहली बार 830 मीटर के पूर्ण जलाशय स्तर को छुआ। यद्यपि यह परियोजना पिछले 15 वर्षों से लगातार 1000 मेगावाट की पीकिंग पावर के साथ-साथ पेयजल एवं सिंचाई के लिए जल, बाढ़ नियंत्रण, मछली पालन, पर्यटन इत्यादि जैसे अन्य लाभ प्रदान कर रही है परन्तु फिर भी इसकी पूर्ण क्षमता का उपयोग नहीं किया जा सका था।

गौरतलव है कि अब तक टिहरी जलाशय का पूर्ण जलाशय स्तर (एफआरएल), ईएल 830 मीटर तक नहीं भरा गया था। टीएचडीसी इंडिया लिमिटेड के द्वारा परियोजना के लॉन्च

पुनर्वास मुद्दों को उदार दृष्टिकोण से हल करने के बाद केंद्रीय विद्युत मंत्रालय और उत्तराखंड सरकार के सक्रिय सहयोग से इस लक्ष्य को

प्राप्त किया जा सका। उत्तराखंड के मुख्यमंत्री पुष्कर सिंह धामी ने जनता के व्यापक हितों को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए 25 अगस्त, 2021 को टिहरी जलाशय के स्तर को ईएल 830 मीटर तक भरने की अनुमति प्रदान की थी। इससे पूर्व टीएचडीसी इंडिया लिमिटेड को टिहरी



■ कुल 830 मीटर है इस बांध के जलाशय में जलस्तर की क्षमता
■ अब तक इस बांध को पूरा भरने की नहीं थी इजाजत
■ मुख्यमंत्री पुष्कर सिंह ने इसे भरने की दी है अनुमति

जलाशय को पूर्ण स्तर तक भरने की अनुमति नहीं थी तथा परियोजना से जल एवं विद्युत की पूरी क्षमता का दोहन नहीं हो पा रहा था।

टिहरी बांध अर्थ एंड रॉक फिल बांधों में तीसरा सबसे ऊंचा बांध है तथा यह विश्व के सभी प्रकार के सबसे ऊंचे

बांधों में 10वें स्थान पर है। टिहरी परियोजना में 260.5 मी. ऊंचा अर्थ एंड रॉक फिल बांध एवं एक भूमिगत विद्युत गृह शामिल है। पावर हाउस में 4 मशीनें लगी हैं जिनमें प्रत्येक

मशीन की क्षमता 250 मेगावाट है। टिहरी बांध परियोजना में मानसून के दौरान लगभग 2615 एमसीएम बाढ़ के अधिशेष पानी को संग्रहित करने की क्षमता है। मानसून के बाद, संग्रहित जल उत्तर प्रदेश के गंगा के मैदानी इलाकों में 8.74 लाख हेक्टेयर भूमि की सिंचाई में

काम आता है तथा नई दिल्ली की लगभग 40 लाख आबादी के लिए 300 क्यूसेक पेयजल और उत्तर प्रदेश की लगभग 30 लाख आबादी के लिए 200 क्यूसेक पेयजल उपलब्ध कराता है।

वास्तविक अर्थ में टिहरी परियोजना दिल्ली और आगरा की पेयजल आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करती है। टिहरी बांध लीन पीरियड के दौरान गंगा नदी में अतिरिक्त पानी छोड़ता है जिससे हरिद्वार और प्रयागराज में विभिन्न 'पवित्र स्नान' और 'पर्वों' के लिए जल की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित की जा सके।

टिहरी जल विद्युत संयंत्र उत्तरी ग्रीड को 1000 मेगावाट की पीकिंग पावर और सालाना 3000 मिलियन यूनिट से अधिक ऊर्जा प्रदान करता है, जिसमें से 12% उत्तराखंड राज्य को निःशुल्क प्रदान की जाती है।

Rashtriya Sahara- 27- September-2021

नमामि गंगे की 50 फीसद परियोजनाएं ही पूरी हुईं

■ नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

गंगा नदी की स्वच्छता के लिए शुरू किए गए 'नमामि गंगे' अभियान के तहत पिछले छह साल में मंजूर की गई 347 परियोजनाओं में से करीब 50 प्रतिशत पर ही काम पूरा हो पाया है। वहीं, इस अवधि में संबंधित अभियान के तहत 11,842 करोड़ रुपये खर्च हुए हैं जो स्वीकृत धनराशि का 40 प्रतिशत है।

राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन से प्राप्त 31 अगस्त 2021 तक परियोजनाओं के प्रगति संबंधी आंकड़ों से यह जानकारी मिली है।

इस बारे में मिशन के महानिदेशक राजीव रंजन मिश्रा ने कहा, इन परियोजनाओं का बड़ा हिस्सा परिचालन एवं रखरखाव से संबंधित है जिसके लिए 15 साल का अनुबंध है। ऐसे में रखरखाव का कार्य 15 साल तक चलेगा। उन्होंने कहा, इसमें जलमल संबंधी आधारभूत ढांचे के तहत 24 हजार करोड़

रुपये की परियोजनाएं शामिल हैं जिसमें एक बड़ा हिस्सा रखरखाव से संबंधित है। मिश्रा ने कहा, हमें यह समझना होगा कि यह राशि पांच वर्ष में खर्च नहीं होगी तथा धीरे-धीरे निर्माण का खर्च कम होता जाएगा और रखरखाव का खर्च बढ़ेगा।

एनएमसीजी के आंकड़ों के अनुसार,

■ अभियान के तहत
11,842 करोड़ रुपए खर्च
हुए हैं जो स्वीकृत धनराशि
का 40 प्रतिशत है

31 अगस्त 2021 तक गंगा की स्वच्छता एवं निर्मलता से जुड़ी 347 परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी गई और 30,255 करोड़ रुपये

मंजूर किए गए। अगस्त माह तक 167 परियोजनाओं पर काम पूरा हो गया है, 145 परियोजनाओं पर कार्य प्रगति पर है तथा 28 परियोजनाओं पर निविदा की प्रक्रिया चल रही है। अब तक मंजूर 30,255 करोड़ रुपये में से 11,842 करोड़ खर्च हुए हैं। इस प्रकार, मंजूर धनराशि का 40 प्रतिशत खर्च हुआ है और करीब 50 प्रतिशत परियोजनाओं पर ही काम ही पूरा किया जा सका है।

Rajasthan Patrika- 27- September-2021

मन की बात के 81वें संस्करण में यूपीआइ लेनदेन का किया जिक्र

नदियों की स्वच्छता सबकी भागीदारी से ही संभव : पीएम

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

नई दिल्ली. प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने रविवार को मन की बात के 81वें संस्करण में देशवासियों को संबोधित करते हुए जनधन खाते, यूपीआइ लेन देन और नदियों के साफ सफाई का जिक्र किया। उन्होंने विश्व नदी दिवस पर नदियों के साफ सफाई और स्वच्छता को लेकर जनता से अपील भी की। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने

कहा कि डिजिटल पेमेंट से देश की अर्थव्यवस्था में स्वच्छता और पारदर्शिता आ रही है।

अगस्त महीने में यूपीआई से करीब 355 करोड़ के लेन-देन हुए हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि देश में औसतन 6 लाख करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा का डिजिटल पेमेंट यूपीआई से हो रहा है। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि नौजवान को ये जानना चाहिए कि साफ-सफाई के अभियान ने कैसे आजादी के



पीएम मोदी की 'मन की बात' को राजस्थान के पीपराली, सीकर के बुथ नं. 214 पर कार्यकर्ताओं के साथ सुनते सांसद स्वामी सुमेधानंद सरस्वती।

आंदोलन को निरंतर ऊर्जा दी थी। ये स्वच्छता को जन-आंदोलन बनाने महात्मा गांधी ही थे, जिन्होंने का काम किया था। सम्बोधन के

दौरान उन्होंने छठ पूजा का जिक्र करते हुए इसे नदियों की स्वच्छता के लिए बड़ा अवसर बताया प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने कहा कि कुछ दिनों में छठ पर्व पर नदियों की सफाई शुरू हो जाएगी, इस बार नदियों की स्वच्छता पर सभी अपना फोकस रखें। उन्होंने विश्व नदी दिवस का जिक्र करते हुए कहा कि हम नदियों को मां कहते हैं और इनके लिए गीत गाते हैं तो यह सवाल उठता है कि ये नदियां प्रदूषित

कैसे हो जाती हैं। शास्त्रों में नदियों में जरा सा प्रदूषण करने को भी गलत माना गया है।

प्रधानमंत्री ने देशवासियों से अपील करते हुए कहा कि नदियों की सफाई और प्रदूषण से मुक्त करने का प्रयास सबके प्रयास व सहयोग से ही संभव है। नमामि गंगे मिशन चल रहा है, इसमें सभी लोगों के प्रयास, जगजागृति, जनआंदोलन की बड़ी भूमिका रही है।