

Central Water Commission
Water Systems Engineering Directorate


2nd Floor (S), Sewa Bhawan
R K Puram, New Delhi-66

Dated 02.07.2019


Subject: Submission of News Clippings

The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings will also be uploaded on the CWC website.

Encl: As stated above.


21/7/2019
Senior Artist
(WSE, Dte.,)

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.


02/07/2019

Director, WSE Dte. on leave

For information to:

Chairman, CWC, New Delhi

Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and

All concerned may visit www.cwc.gov.in

JULY, AUG TO BE BETTER: IMD

Late monsoon: 33% deficit in June, highest in five years *IE-2*

Maharashtra, Andhra, Telangana,
Kerala, parts of North-East are driest

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, JULY 1

DUE TO late onset and the adverse impact of Cyclone Vayu, the first month of the monsoon season ended with a 32.8% deficiency in rainfall for the country as a whole — the worst in the last five years. But the months of July and August promise to be better, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

IMD officials said monsoon was in the process of intensifying and good rainfall was expected in many parts of the country in the next few days. As per the latest forecasts, a low pressure system that lay over Odisha as on July 1 is expected to cause widespread rainfall across Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra over the next four days (till July 6) starting Tuesday (July 2). Besides compensating for the deficit, this would also aid the further advancement of monsoon to cover the remaining parts of central, western and northern India by the end of this week.

The June deficiency was the worst since 2014, which saw a deficit of 42%. The rainfall in June last year was 5% below normal.

This year, the onset of monsoon over the Kerala coast was delayed by a week, and then

JUNE RAINFALL

(Departure from normal)

2012	-28%
2013	34%
2014	-42%
2015	16%
2016	-10%
2017	5%
2018	-5%

Cyclone Vayu, which approached the Gujarat coast in the second week of June, halted the northward progress of the monsoon by another week. Some rainfall towards June-end ensured that the deficit dropped from 43% on June 19, to 36% on June 26, and less than 33% now.

With about 18% contribution, June accounts for the least amount of rainfall during the four-month monsoon season. July and August see the heaviest rainfall — accounting for about 33% and 30% respectively of the total rainfall.

IMD officials said the conditions were favourable for further northward progression of the monsoon in the coming days, and it would reach Delhi around July 4-5. On Monday, the Northern Limit of Monsoon (NLM) passed through Dwarka, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Jabalpur,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Rain deficit *IE 2*

Pendra, Sultanpur, Lakhimpur
Kheri and Mukteshwar.

IMD said El Nino, though weak this year, could also have

played a role in the below-normal rainfall in June. El Nino is the abnormal warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean that is known to suppress Indian summer monsoon.

"While the El Nino is weakening, it may have played some role in slowing down the progress of monsoon after the onset. However, we still cannot ascertain it to be the sole cause for the rain deficit," said an IMD official.

Among the driest states in June were Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and large parts of the North-East where the actual rainfall was 30% to 60% below normal.

As many as 30 of the 36 meteorological sub-divisions recorded below-normal rainfall in June. The only ones with normal rainfall were north interior Karnataka, Konkan and Goa, Gujarat, east Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir. *IE 2*

Water a concern but not as big as Niti said: Shekhawat

Vishwa.Mohan
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Union 'Jal Shakti' minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Monday said the water situation in the country was certainly a matter of concern but it was not as alarming as was depicted by the NITI Aayog in its report last year.

"The data used in that study was based on clippings of certain newspaper reports," said Shekhawat while dismissing specific points of the Aayog's report on 21 cities. The government's think tank had noted in its report that 21 major cities, including Delhi, Bangalore and Hyderabad, were expected to "run out of groundwater as soon as 2020, affecting 100 million people."

The Aayog, in its study on 'composite water resources management', attributed its source of research to the World Bank and the World Resources Institute as reported by newspapers. Both the organisations, however, did not



Rainwater flooded Mumbai streets and hit rail services on Monday

come out with any specific findings on the groundwater situation in 21 major Indian cities as noted by the Aayog.

"Nevertheless, the current water situation in many parts of the country is a matter of concern and that's why we have launched a campaign on water conservation and rainwater harvesting — Jal Shakti Abhiyan — so that we don't move from water stressed condition to water scarcity condition in future," said Shekhawat.

According to the Falkenmark Water Stress Indicator, a

per capita availability of less than 1,700 cubic metres per annum is termed as a water stressed condition. If per capita availability falls below 1,000 cubic metres, it is termed as a water scarcity condition.

India's per capita annual water availability has consistently been decreasing (5,177 cubic metres in 1951 to 1,545 cubic metres in 2011). The minister said, "We have launched efforts so that we don't reach the projected level of 2025 (1,341 cubic metres) or 2050." The campaign begins on Monday in 1,592 water stressed blocks.

We Mustn't Allow India to Dry Up

ET-2

GoI must push for water efficiency

Chennai has virtually run dry, while many other parts of urban and rural India find themselves reeling under a water crisis. Water woes are neither new nor limited to the Tamil Nadu capital. Studies project that by next year, some 20-odd cities will run out of groundwater. Climate change, aggressive land-use change, improper urban planning and construction have contributed to the water emergency in the country. Addressing this crisis will require strong policy frameworks and concerted effort by all stakeholders — people, industry, scientists, policymakers, and governments at all levels. For starters, GoI must focus on water conservation, protection of water bodies, bumping up distribution networks and make rainwater harvesting a mandatory feature in new housing.

Delayed monsoons, preceded by a deficient monsoon last year, and depleting groundwater levels have exacerbated the crisis. Two-third of reservoirs are running below normal water levels. Rising temperatures, poor urban



planning resulting in filling up, and constructing on, wetlands, a total disregard towards hydrological plans in the planning process, and the disuse of traditional water conservation knowledge have contributed to this alarming situation. The situation will worsen, with water demand expected to

double by 2030, if tackling water on a war footing is not taken immediately. Water shortage has dangerous implications for all spheres of the economic activity. It will turn the clock back on many social gains as well, with girls, in particular, being forced to drop out of school to fetch water in rural India. It will impede the sanitation revolution as well.

In his radio address on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called individuals, communities and companies to come together to take action. Government intervention to promote water efficiency and reduce wastage is immediately needed. There is no silver bullet for this looming crisis. If people fail to realise the intensity of the water crisis India is facing — and fail to be galvanised into action — there are bound to be many more Chennais.

The water crisis is deepening

The PM must walk the talk on conserving this resource

In the first *Mann Ki Baat* programme after assuming office in his second term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday spoke on one of the biggest challenges facing India today: an acute water crisis. There are three key points to take away from his speech. One, people must help the State in its water conservation efforts. Second, experts should share the knowledge of traditional methods of water conservation. And third, there is no one-size-fits-all method for conserving water. The PM's speech was perfectly timed. India is facing a grave water crisis and the situation may deteriorate if the monsoon is inadequate. This is an appropriate time to impress upon our citizens the need to conserve water. According to the India Meteorological Department, the country had its driest June in five years because the monsoon rains were delayed.

ourtake

This crisis, however, is not new; it has been brewing for years: According to a 2018 NITI Aayog report, 600 million Indians face high to extreme water stress and about 200,000 people die every year because of inadequate access to safe water. While the Centre has announced the creation of the Jal Shakti ministry to streamline water-related issues, it must act on two other projects without delay: One, expand the watershed programme and second, use the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to drought-proof the country. According to an analysis by *Scroll.in*, the watershed scheme, which aims to restore ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water, is starved of funds. From ₹2,284 crore allocated in 2014-15, central funds for watershed work shrunk by 35% to ₹1,487 crore in 2018-19. Such funding cuts in critical programmes will prove to be disastrous for India in the long run; it is important to give these projects the support that is required.

Govt launches water conservation drive

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEWDELHI: Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Monday launched “Jal Shakti Abhiyan”, a public campaign to boost water conservation, as part of the government’s efforts to reverse the depleting water levels in all available sources in the country.

Shekhawat said apart from policy changes, the government’s focus is to turn water conservation into a “people’s movement”.

Addressing mediapersons, the minister said the government’s target, as promised in the Bharatiya Janata Party’s election manifesto, is to provide drinking water to every household by 2024, earlier than a United Nations-mandated deadline of 2030.

“We will work to achieve the target of providing drinking

AT A GLANCE

- The government’s target is to provide drinking water to every household by 2024.
- India’s per capita water availability was decreasing.
- Rainwater harvesting capacity is only 8%.
- Clean drinking water is one of the UN’s sustainable development goals.

water to every household by 2024 as mentioned in the party’s manifesto. The aim of Jal Shakti Abhiyan is to create awareness on this subject,” he said.

Clean drinking water is one of the UN’s sustainable development goals to be achieved by 2030.

Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that India’s per capita

water availability was decreasing.

This is aggravated by threats posed by climate change.

“Rainwater harvesting capacity is only 8%. We need to make water conservation a people’s movement.”

Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan had shown impressive, replicable results in water conservation.

“The Prime Minister wants water conservation to become a people’s movement.”

The Central Water Commission will work with block-level officials to develop water conservation strategies, he said.

According to the NITI Aayog’s ‘Strategy for New India @75’, the per capita water availability has decreased from 1,816 cubic metre in 2001 to 1,544 cubic metre in 2011.

Earlier in Rajya Sabha on

Monday, Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that priority was being given on improving water level in water-stressed districts of the country and steps were being taken to recharge water by treating waste water.

“In rural areas, under centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), the central government provides technical and financial assistance to state for improving the coverage of safe drinking water in rural habitations,” Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said in a written reply.

He said under National Rural Drinking Water Programme, states are empowered to utilise up to 25% of National Rural Drinking Water Programme funds to mitigate the drinking water crisis in areas in their states by taking water scarcity mitigation measures.

No extra funds for Jal Shakti Abhiyan

Water conservation will only succeed as a people's movement: Jal Shakti Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With rampant water scarcity in the spotlight, whether in urban centres such as Chennai or in drought-hit central India, the Centre rolled out the Jal Shakti Abhiyan on Monday as a *jan andolan*, or people's movement, on water conservation.

However, there is no additional funding or specific targets for the campaign to achieve, according to Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. Instead, the campaign is meant to "bring sensitivity on the sub-

ject, and give focussed approach," he told presspersons.

Over the next two-and-a-half months, the campaign will push to implement existing water conservation schemes and increase awareness in 256 water-stressed districts.

As *The Hindu* reported last week, 256 Indian Administrative Service officers of Joint Secretary or Additional Secretary rank have been deputed to monitor its implementation, along with 447 Deputy Secretary-level officers. Despite this huge Cen-



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

tral deployment for a scheme on water – which is purely a State subject under the Constitution – Mr. Shekhawat said that this was not a top-down scheme

"...As Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his

Mann ki Baat, water conservation is everyone's responsibility. It needs to become a mass people's movement, just like we made sanitation into a people's movement with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan," he said.

Asked about any budget allocation or additional funding for the scheme, the Minister said that there was plenty of money already allocated for existing schemes under the Central and State budgets.

"They can be converged into a single scheme, with a focussed approach," he said.

NMCG conducts mass cleanliness drive in Delhi

By **Mail Today Bureau** in
New Delhi

The National Mission of Clean Ganga (NMCG) recently conducted a mass cleanliness drive on eight ghats on the banks of the Yamuna – Kalindi Kunj, Yamuneshwar (Wazirabad), Shyam Ghat (Wazirabad), Ram Ghat (Wazirabad), Qudesia Ghat, Yamuna Bazar, ITO Chhat Ghat and Nizamuddin – in Delhi. Union minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and minister of state for Jal Shakti and social justice & empowerment, Rattan Lal Kattaria took part in the event at Kalindi Kunj among hundreds of enthusiastic participants. Secretary, department of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation, ministry of Jal Shakti, U. P. Singh was also present on the occasion alongside director general, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Rajiv Ranjan Mishra. Shekhawat also took part in a tree plantation drive at the event site.

After taking part in the cleaning of the ghat, Shekhawat stressed on the importance of such drives in his address by saying, “The cleanliness of critical resources like rivers and cities cannot be maintained until and unless the citizens of this country come together and lend their hands to the cause in a ‘mission mode’ and make it a mass movement or a ‘jan andolan’.”

The event was organised to inculcate a sense of responsibility, ownership and bring about behavioural change towards the cleanliness of the



Yamuna and saw participation from a large number of locals and stakeholders, including students from various universities and schools, organisations like corporates and banks. Delhi Jal Board, municipal corporations of Delhi, a large contingent from the 132 Battalion TA (Ecological Task Force) 120, a contingent from the 22nd Battalion ITBP, INTACH, among other NGOs, in addition to the officials and staff members of NMCG and other associated partner organisations from the department of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation like WAPCOS, Central Water Commission, Central Ground Water Board, Central Soil and Materials Research Station and National Water Development Agency participated in the cleanathon with



great zest and enthusiasm.

Yamuna, the daughter of Lord Surya (Sun God) is revered in Hindu mythology and is considered to be the sister of the Holy Ganga. Yamuna is visualised as a goddess riding a turtle and shown like that in various temples of India.

Several locals, who turned up for the occasion to lend a hand in the cleanliness of the ghats, lauded this initiative and expressed their willingness to join hands with NMCG in taking

this initiative further. NMCG and its partner organisations from the ministry of Jal Shakti such as Central Water Commission, WAPCOS, etc. have adopted various ghats on the Delhi stretch of the Yamuna, where they have been carrying out regular cleanliness drives on the ghats. This ‘cleanathon’ saw unprecedented participation in the cleanliness drive which is a proof of the success of the awareness drives taken up by the organisation.

NMCG and other organisations have adopted various ghats on the Yamuna to carry out regular cleanliness drives.

Govt may ask India Inc to do water audit

RUCHIKA CHITRAVANSHI
New Delhi, 1 July

Companies might soon have to do a water audit as the government plans to create a policy to assess the per unit consumption of water. This is part of the Centre's efforts to create sustainable water resources in the country, said a senior government official.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti is in the initial stages of discussing a policy framework for benchmarking water consumption in sectors such as cement, coal, steel, and power. "It is still an evolving discussion, but we need to get a clear picture of water consumption by industries. There could be a disclosure on water by companies in their balance sheets," said a senior government official.

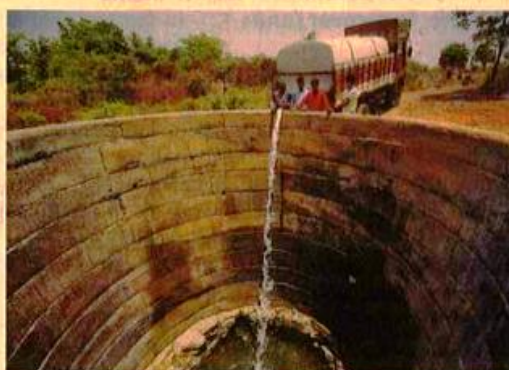
The first step would be to ascertain the present level of consumption and thereafter fix targets for each industry. "Based on the targets, we can create a mechanism to

PARCHED INDIA

Steady decline in per capita water availability*

1951	5,177
1991	2,209
2001	1,820
2011	1,545
2025	1,341

*Cubic metre per capita per year; 2025 figure is an estimate.
Source: Department of Water Resources



JAL SHAKTI ABHIYAN TO COVER...

257 Districts | **1,592** Blocks

incentivise or disincentivise consumption," the senior official added.

The government will draw from the perform-achieve-target scheme, which exists for the energy sector to regulate energy consumption. According to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency: "Perform-achieve-target scheme

is a regulatory instrument to reduce specific energy consumption in energy-intensive industries, with an associated market-based mechanism to enhance the cost-effectiveness through certification of excess energy saving which can be traded."

When companies conduct a value-chain analysis, water figures

at the bottom of the list because of low pricing, said experts. "The royalty for water usage is very cheap, compared to energy. If it is priced correctly, the industry will have to treat it as a limited ecological resource," said water expert Vishwanathan S.

Currently most of the data on industrial water consumption is maintained by the state pollution control boards, but it is highly fragmented.

While the data received by industries will help further the guidelines for water conservation, the Ministry of Jal Shakti is also in talks with the Ministry of Agriculture to tackle the strain on water resources due to irrigation.

India has a disproportionate use of water per crop using three to five times more irrigation water than China, the US, and Israel, according to the data by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

Turn to Page 15 ▶

Water audit...

Jal Shakti Abhiyan launched

The new water ministry on July 1 also launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan to drive a behavioural change in public towards conserving water. Speaking at the launch, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, said, "It is a Big Brother role that the Government of India is taking on, to create sensitivity about the subject across states."

Heavy rains hit hard Mumbaikars *St-2.07.*

Several local train services were cancelled or short-terminated



Traffic comes to a standstill in a flooded street after heavy showers in Mumbai on Monday.

AFP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 1 JULY

Hheavy rains during the night and on Monday morning in Mumbai and its outskirts inundated low-lying areas, delayed trains and slowed down vehicular movement on roads.

Several local train services, considered the lifeline of Mumbai, were cancelled or short-terminated as a temporary bamboo structure erected for civil work fell on an overhead wire near the Marine Lines station on the Western line, an official said.

The weather station in Santacruz recorded 91 mm of rainfall in 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Monday, an India Meteorological Department (IMD) official said, predicting more showers in the city and in the parched Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra.

The vehicular movement from suburbs towards south Mumbai and the Bandra-Kurla Complex, where several corporate houses and private companies are located, was slow due to the incessant

showers.

There was waterlogging at several pockets in the suburbs, due to which trains were running slow on the Central line as well, another official said.

In view of the heavy rains in Palghar district of Maharashtra and a rail track suffering damage near Lonavala hill station in Pune, 17 long-distance trains of the Western Railway (WR) and more than 10 of the Central Railway (CR) were cancelled in the morning, the official said.

Due to submergence of rail tracks at a few places in Palghar, some trains were also short-terminated, a WR official said.

A goods train derailed in the early hours of Monday in the Western Ghat section between Karjat and Lonavala, affecting the movement of several long-distance trains going towards Pune and western Maharashtra, a CR official said. Some trains were also short-terminated and others diverted via Kalyan-Igat-puri-Manmad section. The shuttle train services between Mumbai and Pune were also affected, the official said.

Thousands of state gov-

Monsoon deficiency in June highest since '15: IMD

NEW DELHI, 1 JULY

Monsoon deficiency in June this year was the highest for the month since 2015, India Meteorological Department data revealed.

The month ended with 33 per cent deficiency which translates to around 67 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA).

"Monsoon was deficient in June," said Mritunjay Mohapatra, additional director general, IMD.

Several parts of the country have been witnessing drought-like situation. The Central Water Commission data revealed that as on 27 June, of the 91 major reservoirs in the country, 62 water bodies reported 80 per cent or below normal storage. Anything below 90 per cent of the LPA is considered "deficient". Rainfall in the range of 90-96 per cent is considered "below normal" and "normal" when it is between 96-104 of the LPA.

PTI

ernment employees and private staff were not able to go to work, a government official said. A citizen who uses the Western Express Highway regularly said a number of pot-holes on the road posed problems for commuters, adding that it exposed the poor quality of repair works done by the civic body.

Marathwada is suffering even after monsoon onset

Shrinivas Deshpande

■ Shrinivas.deshpande@htlive.com

WADALI (BEED DISTRICT): Although the south-west monsoon has spread all over Maharashtra, there has been no relief from the drought in the affected regions of Marathwada.

June witnessed 92.3mm rainfall in Marathwada- a deficiency of 33% as against the average rainfall of 138mm in June, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Civic water supply to Beed city continued to be once in 20 days due to inadequate water storage in the Bindusara dam in the district.

Poor pregnant women have been suffering most even as premature deliveries at the government hospital have risen by 34% in the last one year.

Seven months pregnant, Chaya Chavan (24), an agricultural labourer from Wadali village, around 60 km from Beed, has no option but to walk kilometre by kilometre in search of water to meet her family's daily water needs. Her health was of secondary importance.

"In the villages, it is the woman's responsibility to fetch water. It doesn't matter whether you are pregnant or ill," said Chaya.

She said she has to walk around 2-3 km daily to get water in her 'handi', a utensil with 12 litres capacity, after which she begins cooking for the family. Such is the poverty that she is often forced to consume stale food even in the seventh month of her pregnancy.

Her husband too is an agricultural labourer but because of no work on the farms is now working as a waiter.

This is the situation not only in village Wadali but entire Beed district where



■ A pregnant woman goes to fetch water. HT

acute water scarcity and drought conditions have taken a toll on the health of women and children.

Sulakshana Apekar, an agricultural labourer from Wadali who is six months pregnant said, "As a result of the drought, we have lost our crops and as a result of water scarcity there is no agricultural labour. Hence we are forced to reduce our spending on food as the drought has badly affected our earnings."

Dr. H.B. Wadgave, the District Health Officer (DHO) in the neighbouring Osmanabad district agreed that drought was taking a heavy toll of the health of pregnant women.

He said poverty, child marriages and the stress of drought was resulting in failed pregnancies, premature deliveries and underweight births.

Nitish fears another drought

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: Chief minister Nitish Kumar apprehends another spell of drought in Bihar and wants all the elected representatives to take cognizance of the alarm nature is sounding. As many as 24 districts in the state had witnessed a drought-like situation in 2018.

“Going by the weather pattern so far, I fear Bihar could be in for

another drought. The signals from environment are dangerous. Rivers are drying up; water bodies disappearing; temperature increasing, and fall in rainfall. I will convene a meeting with all members of the two Houses separately to get a first-hand feel from them about the situation in their areas so that collective efforts could be made,” Kumar said on Monday.

He was speaking on the adjournment motion moved in

the state assembly by the Opposition on encephalitis deaths, which are also attributed to growing heat and humidity as one of the key probable reasons.

DM Diwakar, former director of AN Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna, said that water crisis in a state like Bihar was a matter of serious concern and that it was high time the government took immediate steps to prevent the situation from assuming alarming proportions.

Bihar's water crisis is man-made

IAN S ■ PATNA

It has been more than a week since the much-awaited monsoon arrived in Bihar, but the water problems of the people are far from over.

Women and children waiting for hours and queueing up to collect water from tankers is still a common sight in the state, and clashes over water are being reported from both urban and rural areas. Local level demonstrations, held routinely to demand water, still mostly go unreported.

"With most water bodies in the state going dry, not just people, even cattle have been left struggling for survival. While farmers and cattle rearers have been forced to sell their livestock, wild animals like deer are found roaming outside villages in search of water," said a Water Resources Department official.

With rains so far less than expected, the situation is more alarming in 280 blocks of 25 districts. Last year, 534 blocks in the state's 38 districts were declared drought-hit after deficient rainfall.

In Gaya, where everything from handpumps to borewells and even tap water supply has failed, tankers are the only source of water for people since the past two months.

"Water tankers are our life line these days. We cannot even think of life without these. Till

RIVER-RICH BIHAR



last year, the situation was not as bad," said Mohammed Shamim Khan, a resident of Gewalbigaha in the heart of Gaya.

"Our handpumps dried up in May and the tap water supply has also failed. Now we are completely dependent on tankers for water," said Mokhtar Alam, another resident.

Alam said the water crisis is so severe that dozens of families have either shifted temporarily to their native villages or some other places. It isn't just handpumps that have dried up, even submersible pumps have failed as underground water has depleted.

According to district officials, Falgu river has lost nearly 60 feet of its water level in the past two years, causing an acute water crisis for over half a million people in Gaya and its

neighbouring areas.

"Water level in Falgu, which remains dry throughout the year except for a few months in the monsoon, used to be hardly two-three feet below the ground otherwise. Last year, it dropped 30 feet and this year another 30 feet forcing authorities to shut down pumping stations and water supply centres," said Manish Kumar, executive engineer, Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation.

This has resulted in angry protests by local residents, who blocked roads and staged a dharna demanding adequate water supply.

But the water crisis is not confined to Gaya. The situation is no different in flood-prone Darbhanga and its neighbour-

ing districts in the Mithilanchal region.

Alarmed by the situation, the Darbhanga district administration has constituted four teams of officials to conduct a survey of government ponds, most of which have either been encroached upon by powerful people or dried up over the years due to negligence.

Narayanjee Choudhary, who runs the Talab Bachao Abhiyan, told IANS: "There were more than 300 ponds in Darbhanga town in the 60s. By the 90s, the number came down to 200, now there are less than 100 ponds left."

Bihar Chief Secretary Deepak Kumar has ordered all districts to clear encroachments around ponds and work on their restoration and replenishment, along side rainwater harvesting.

What is shocking is that as per the government's own admission, of the State's total 1.99 lakh water bodies, 12,027 water bodies, including ponds, have been encroached upon by a nexus of powerful people. The Bihar government admitted this in 2016 after the Patna High Court asked it to identify the number of water bodies in the state, their present status and the action taken to rid them of encroachments.

Following this, the state government launched 'Operation Water Body Conservation' to free water

bodies of encroachments and help promote groundwater conservation through traditional water harvesting systems such as ponds, lakes, canals, ahar and pynes.

This drive was part of the much hyped 'Disaster Risk Reduction Roadmap 2015-2030', which mandates action for water conservation by the concerned agencies.

Mahendra Yadav, an activist, said the present situation was the result of receding underground water after ponds and wells were dried up, filled up and levelled.

"Earlier ponds used to harvest rain water and recharge ground water. Now there is no stress on water harvesting even though the state receives lesser rainfall compared to earlier decades and people are more dependent on borewells," said Yadav.

In the past few years, several Government reports have pointed out that the water crisis in Bihar is the result of over-exploitation of underground water, which is showing signs of stress now.

The Central Ground Water Board's report for 2016-17 shows that the water levels in Bihar in May 2016, with respect to the pre-monsoon decadal mean of May (May 2006 to May 2015) witnessed a fall in 67 per cent of the 594 Hydrograph Network Stations.

Naveen urges PM to stop Polavaram project

'May not be possible to change design once completed'

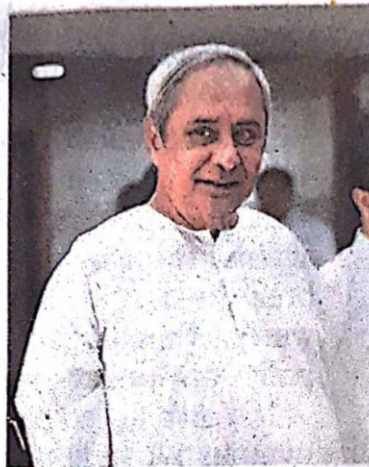
**SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT**
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to intervene and issue directions to stop construction work on the Polavaram project until all pending issues were resolved.

"If the project is allowed to be completed before resolution of all the pending issues, it will cause permanent injury to the interest of the State of Odisha and its people," Mr. Patnaik wrote.

'Stop work order'

The Chief Minister had written similar letters to the Prime Minister in September 2015, November 2017, July 2018 and November 2018 in which he had pointed out that the Union Environment Ministry had kept the 'stop work order' pertaining to the controversial project



Naveen Patnaik. ■ FILE
PHOTO

in abeyance from time to time without taking the views of the State of Odisha into consideration.

He said the 'stop work order' was first kept in abeyance by the Ministry on the request of the then Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister in February 2013.

It is now learnt that the order has been kept in abeyance for two more years, he added.

"It is worth mentioning that once the project is completed there shall be impounding of the reservoir and it may not be

possible to change the design and operating parameters of the project thereafter," Mr. Patnaik said.

Adverse impact

Stating that the public hearing with regard to the project has not been carried out to date, Mr. Patnaik reiterated that if the construction work is not stopped forthwith, it will have immense adverse impact on the people living in the tribal district of Malkangiri in Odisha.

"The submergence of tribal villages resulting in mass displacement of primitive tribals, flooding of fertile agricultural lands and submergence of large extent of forest area would be irreversible consequences," Mr. Patnaik said, adding that all this can be avoided if an opportunity is given for a final resolution of the dispute pending before the Supreme Court.

'Thermal plants are wasting water'

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

With the monsoon nearly a third less than normal in June and the government on Monday launching a massive awareness campaign on water conservation, key thermal plants across the country are wasting water and contravening a 2015 order by the Union Environment Ministry to use water efficiently, according to a compilation of Right To Information queries by the activist group

Manthan.

"Just about 51% of the plants were found to be in compliance with the regulations. Out of the total 156 plants/units, 66 claimed they complied with the water consumption limits, while 30 admitted that they were non-compliant," Manthan said in a statement.

"For another 46 plants, either data was not available, or replies were ambiguous or the plants were closed. As other 14 plants

were using sea water, they are exempted from the regulations," the statement said.

Thermal power plants consume, on an average, 5-7 cubic metres/MWh of water. Every reduction of 0.5 cubic metres/MWh in a 1000 MW plant could save enough water in a year to irrigate 700 ha of land; or provide drinking and domestic use water to 68,000 people for an entire year, said a Central Electricity Authority report from 2012.

कैसे बचे पानी

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने देश और दुनिया के सामने मंडरा रहे एक भयानक संकट की ओर ध्यान दिलाया है। अपने मासिक रेडियो कार्यक्रम 'मन की बात' में देशवासियों को संबोधित करते हुए उन्होंने जल संकट पर चिंता जाहिर की और कहा कि भारत में बारिश के पानी का संचय करने की कोई व्यवस्था न होने के कारण बहुत ज्यादा पानी बर्बाद हो जाता है। उन्होंने पानी के संरक्षण के लिए तीन



जल संरक्षण आंदोलन की जरूरत

अहम सुझाव दिए, एक तो यह कि इसके लिए जन आंदोलन की शुरुआत हो, दूसरे जल संरक्षण के लिए पारंपरिक तरीकों का इस्तेमाल किया जाए, तीसरा यह कि जल संरक्षण से जुड़ी सभी जानकारीयां शेयर की जाएं। इसके लिए लिए काम करने वाले लोगों से जो जानकारी मिले, उसे हैशटैग जनशक्ति फॉर जलशक्ति के साथ साझा किया जाए ताकि उसका एक डाटाबेस बनाया जा सके। भारत में जल संकट हमारे अनुमान से कहीं ज्यादा है। चीन ने तो 1500 घन मीटर प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति वर्ष का आंकड़ा आते ही वॉटर इमरजेंसी का ऐलान कर दिया था जबकि हमारे यहां जल उपलब्धता इससे नीचे जा चुकने के बाद भी

हम इत्मीनान से हैं। 20 जून को समाप्त सप्ताह के दौरान देश के 91 प्रमुख जलाशयों में 27.265 अरब घन मीटर पानी बचा था, जो इनकी कुल संग्रहण क्षमता का मात्र 17 प्रतिशत है। पिछले दिनों चेन्नै के जल संकट की खबर आई। वहां इसी सप्ताह चार जलाशय सूख गए और अब बहुत कम मात्रा में पेयजल बचा हुआ है। दूसरे महानगरों का भी हाल बहुत अच्छा नहीं है। बंगलुरु का भूजल स्तर पिछले दो दशक में 10-12 मीटर से गिर कर 76-91 मीटर तक जा पहुंचा है। दिल्ली का भूजल भी लगातार कम हो रहा है। महाराष्ट्र 47 साल का सबसे बड़ा सूखा झेल रहा है। अन्य कई राज्य भी इसकी चपेट में आ गए हैं। नीति आयोग की मानें तो अभी जो रुझान हैं उनके जारी रहते 2020 तक 21 शहरों में भूजल पूरी तरह से खत्म हो जाएगा। आयोग का कहना है कि 2030 तक देश की 40 फीसद आबादी इस गंभीर समस्या की चपेट में होगी। इस समस्या का एक सिरा सरकार से जुड़ता है तो दूसरा आम जनता से। जल प्रबंधन राज्यों का विषय है। अलग-अलग राज्यों में इसे लेकर अनेक नियम बने हुए हैं लेकिन उनका पालन कड़ाई से नहीं होता। महाराष्ट्र जैसे राज्य में जल संरक्षण के लिए बनी कई सरकारी परियोजनाएं भ्रष्टाचार की भेंट चढ़ चुकी हैं। लोग अब भी पानी को लेकर लापरवाह रहते हैं। सबसे बड़ी बात है कि पानी बचाने की सारी कवायद तीखी गर्मियों में ही होती है। बरसात शुरू होते ही तमाम प्रयास ढीले हो जाते हैं, जबकि पानी संचित करने की संभावना इसी सीजन में सबसे ज्यादा होती है। पानी को लेकर पारंपरिक रास्ते अपनाने और जल आंदोलन चलाने की बात सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता और विशेषज्ञ पहले से कहते आ रहे हैं पर अभी स्वयं प्रधानमंत्री ने इसे कहा है तो शायद सचमच कुछ बदलाव देखने को मिले।

20 हजार महिलाओं की कोशिश से जी उठी नदी

■ टीएनएन, वेल्लोर : तमिलनाडु के सूखाग्रस्त 24 जिलों में से एक वेल्लोर में महिलाओं ने नागनदी को दोबारा जिंदा कर दिया है। वेल्लोर में चार साल में 20 हजार महिलाओं ने 3,500 रिचार्ज वेल और बड़ी संख्या में गिट्टी की मेढ़ें बनाईं। ताकि बारिश के पानी का बहाव

धीमा किया जा सके। रिचार्ज वेल (कुओं) की मदद से बारिश के पानी को जमीन के

नीचे जमा किया और भूमिगत जल का स्तर सुधारा गया। इन सब प्रयासों की बदौलत आखिरकार 2018 में यह नदी फिर बह निकली। नदी 15 साल से सूखी पड़ी थी। अब वेल्लोर के कई गावों में लोगों के पास पीने और खेतों की सिंचाई करने के लिए पर्याप्त पानी है।

बारिश होने पर बदलेगी तस्वीर : आर्ट ऑफ लिविंग फाउंडेशन की पहल 'नागनदी रिजुवनेशन प्रॉजेक्ट' के निदेशक चंद्रशेखरन ने बताया, 'नदी सतह पर तभी बहती है जब भूमिगत जल होता है। इसलिए सिर्फ नदी का बहाव जरूरी नहीं है बल्कि जमीन के नीचे पानी का जाना भी जरूरी है। इस साल जब बारिश होगी तो नदी बहने लगेगी।'



बदल रही है
जिंदगी



जब साथ आई महिलाएं
तो चमकी किस्मत

सबसे पहले सैटलाइट मैपिंग के जरिए नदी के वास्तविक रास्ते को ट्रेस किया गया। इलाके के भूगोल, जलाशयों और बारिश के आधार पर ऐक्शन प्लान बनाया गया। इस प्रोजेक्ट को सरकार से मंजूरी मिल गई तो महिलाओं को मनरेगा के तहत मजदूरों के तौर पर रजिस्टर कर लिया गया। इससे उन्हें कमाई भी मिलने लगी। 20 फीट गहरे, 16 फीट लंबे और 6 फीट चौड़े रिचार्ज वेल को बनाने में 23 दिन और 10 लोग लगे। अब यहां खेती भी होती है। मनरेगा मजदूर के तौर पर काम करने पर हर दिन 224 रुपये भी मिलते हैं।

“नल से जल” का लक्ष्य 6 साल पहले हासिल कर लेंगे: केन्द्र

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा) : सरकार ने 2030 तक देश में सभी परिवारों को पाइपलाइन के जरिये ‘नल से जल’ मुहैया कराने के लक्ष्य को छह साल पहले ही 2024 में हासिल कर लिये जाने की प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त की है। जलशक्ति मंत्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत ने सोमवार को राज्यसभा में प्रश्नकाल के दौरान बताया कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने भारत के

 **संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने भारत के लिये 2030 तक लक्ष्य तय किया था**

लिये 2030 तक सभी घरों को नल से जल मुहैया कराने का लक्ष्य तय किया था। उन्होंने बताया कि सरकार यह काम 2024 तक पूरा कर लेगी। जल संसाधन के संतुलित उपयोग को सुनिश्चित करने के लिये

सरकार ने पानी की कमी वाले जिलों की पहचान कर इनमें जलस्तर को बेहतर बनाने, जलशोधन के व्यापक उपाय करने और पानी को रिजार्च करने की पहल की गयी है। शेखावत ने बताया कि नीति आयोग की ‘स्ट्रेटजी फॉर न्यू इंडिया एट दर रेट ऑफ 75’ शीर्षक वाली रिपोर्ट के अनुसार पानी की प्रति व्यक्ति उपलब्धता 2001 में 1816 घन मीटर से 2011 में घटकर 1544 घन मीटर हो गयी है। उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि जल प्रबंधन के मामले में सरकार राज्यों के साथ मिलकर काम कर रही है। इसके तहत केन्द्र सरकार राज्यों को सभी प्रकार की तकनीकी मदद भी मुहैया करा रही है।

यमुना नदी की सफाई पर सरकार को फटकार

नई दिल्ली | प्रभात कुमार

यमुना नदी को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने के लिए नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल के आदेशों पर दिल्ली सरकार ने कई योजनाएं बनाई हैं। लेकिन, अपनी ही योजनाओं को लागू करने में सरकार फिसड्डी साबित हो रही है। सभी संबंधित विभागों के साथ हाल ही में हुई बैठक में यमुना निगरानी समिति ने इस पर कड़ी नाराजगी की जाहिर की है।

निगरानी समिति ने इस साल फरवरी और मार्च में सरकार को जहरीली हो चुकी यमुना को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने और दिल्ली के ताल-तलैयाँ को बचाने के लिए लोगों

सरकार ने दो योजनाएं बनाई थीं

सरकार ने समिति को बताया था कि धर्म गुरु आवासीय कॉलोनियों में जाएंगे और लोगों को बताएंगे कि कैसे हम सब अनजाने में यमुना नदी के प्रदूषण में भागीदार बन रहे हैं। धर्म गुरु लोगों के ऐसा कोई कार्य नहीं करने की अपील करेंगे, जिससे यमुना नदी, तलाबों और नालों में गंदगी फैले। साथ ही यमुना किनारे पेंटिंग प्रतियोगिता के जरिए बच्चे चित्रकारी से यमुना नदी और स्वच्छ जल के महत्व को बताएंगे।

में जागरुकता अभियान चलाने का निर्देश दिया था। इसके बाद सरकार ने स्कूली बच्चों और धर्म गुरुओं की मदद लेने का निर्णय लिया था। कई माह बीत जाने के बाद भी अधिकारियों द्वारा इस योजना पर अमल नहीं किए जाने पर निगरानी समिति ने

नाराजगी जाहिर जताई है।

यमुना नदी की साफ-सफाई की निगरानी के लिए दिल्ली के पूर्व मुख्य सचिव शैलजा चंद्रा और एनजीटी के पूर्व विशेषज्ञ सदस्य बी.एस. साजवान की समिति का गठन किया था। समिति ने कहा

है कि यह चिंताजनक है कि शिक्षा निदेशालय ने स्कूली बच्चों के जरिए नदी को बचाने के लिए जागरुकता अभियान की रूपरेखा तय की, लेकिन इस पर अमल नहीं हुआ। समिति ने सरकार के प्रमुख सचिव (पर्यावरण) को इस योजना को लागू करने के लिए एक माह के भीतर समुचित कदम उठाने का निर्देश दिया है।

अगरबत्ती बनाने का काम अब तक शुरू नहीं हुआ: बैठक में निगरानी समिति को बताया गया कि अभी यमुना नदी में फेंकी जानी वाली पूजा सामग्री से दोबारा अगरबत्ती व अन्य उपयोगी उत्पाद बनाने का काम शुरू नहीं हुआ है।

मिसाल : 150 ग्रामीणों ने डंभा नदी को नया जीवन दिया



**हिन्दुस्तान
नेटवर्क**

रांची | मुकेश बालयोगी.

झारखंड की राजधानी रांची से 30 किलोमीटर दूर आरा और केरम गांव के करीब 150 ग्रामीणों ने 70 दिनों तक श्रमदान कर सामाजिक एकजुटता की मिसाल पेश की है।

ग्रामीणों ने लगभग सूख चुकी डंभा नदी को दोबारा जिंदा करने के लिए पहाड़ों से उतरने वाली 600 प्राकृतिक जलधाराओं को पत्थरों से

बांधकर नदी की तरफ मोड़ दिया है। खास बात यह है कि इस काम के लिए किसी प्रकार की सरकारी मदद नहीं ली गई है। शनिवार को ग्रामीण विकास विभाग ने इस काम का आकलन भी किया। आरा-केरम के ग्रामीणों ने आसपास की पहाड़ियों के ऊपर वर्षा का पानी रोकने के लिए जलसंग्रहण संरचनाएं बनाई हैं। इसके अलावा पहाड़ों से उतरने वाली पानी की प्राकृतिक जलधाराओं को पत्थर के बांधकर सूख चुकी नदी की पेटी में मोड़ा जा रहा है।

ग्रामीणों की एकजुटता से ऐसी छोटी-छोटी 600 धाराओं को अभी तक नदी में उतारा जा चुका है। अलग-अलग ऊंचाई पर पानी रोककर

उन्हें वर्षा के बाद के मौसम में धीरे-धीरे प्रवाहित कर नदी को सालभर प्रवाहित रखने की योजना है।

डंभा नदी आरा-केरम गांव के पास से शुरू होकर पुंडावनी, पिपरा बंडा, हिंजेगली, भागेल आदि गांवों के आसपास की धाराओं को बांध दिया है। लगभग 12 गांवों से गुजरते हुए स्वर्णरेखा नदी में मिल जाती है। आरा-केरम के बाद अब बाकी गांवों में भी डंभा को सदानीरा बनाने की पहल शुरू हो गई है।

झारखंड के आरा और केरम गांव के लोग पहाड़ों से उतरने वाली 600 प्राकृतिक जलधाराओं के लिए रास्ता बनाते। • हिन्दुस्तान



केंद्र को दी जानकारी

डंभा नदी को दोबारा जीवित करने के चल रहे श्रमदान अभियान को सामाजिक पहल के आदर्श मॉडल के रूप में राज्य सरकार ने भारत सरकार को जानकारी भेजी है। केंद्रीय जल आयोग के विशेषज्ञों की टीम ने पीएन सिंह के नेतृत्व में शनिवार को दोनों गांवों का दौरा कर ग्रामीणों के काम का जायजा लिया।

चुनाव आचार संहिता के कारण इस साल सूखे से बचाव के लिए सरकारी स्तर पर तुरंत कुछ करना मुश्किल था। इसलिए ग्रामीणों को श्रमदान कर डंभा नदी को जीवित करने की पहल करने को कहा गया था। -सिद्धार्थ त्रिपाठी
मनरेगा आयुक्त

हमलोगों ने डंभा नदी को जिंदा करने के लिए 600 छोटी-छोटी धाराओं को रोककर नदी में पहुंचाया है। इससे नदी की धारा सालों भर बनी रहेगी। दोनों गांव के 110 परिवारों के अधिकतर सदस्य इसमें हिस्सा लेते रहे। -रमेश बेदिया
अध्यक्ष वन रक्षा समिति