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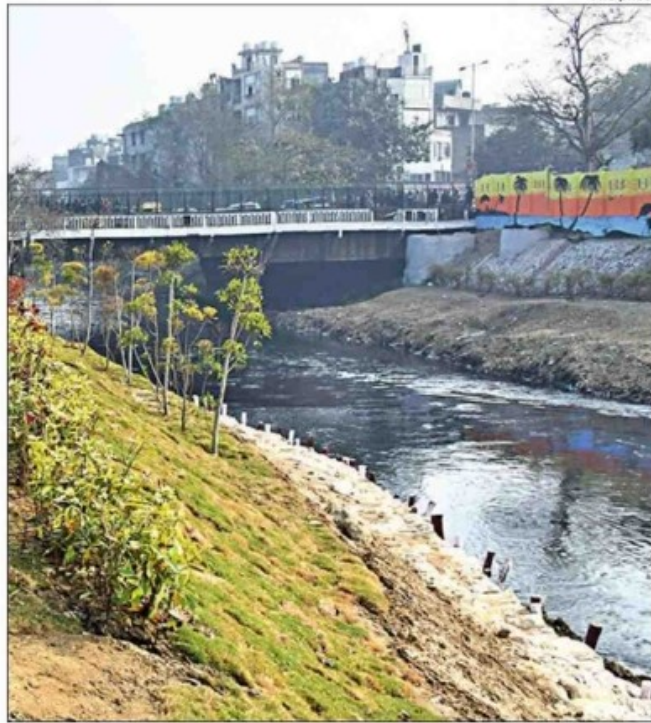
Clean Yamuna: Najafgarh drain's revival part of master plan focus

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New Delhi: The salient points emphasised upon by lieutenant governor V K Saxena while finalising the draft Master Plan of Delhi 2041 included the restoration, rejuvenation and cleaning of the Yamuna, housing and rehabilitation of weaker sections, improving intra-state transport and relaxing eligibility for genuine female beneficiaries for in-situ slum rehabilitation schemes.

While the rejuvenation of river Yamuna is a priority, reviving the Najafgarh drain, once called Sahibi river, is also important not only because it accounts for around 70% of the wastewater flowing into the Yamuna, but it also has potential as a new mode of inland water transport.

A Delhi Development Authority official said on Wednesday, "The LG had stressed that the water body should be developed in a way to facilitate medical tourism, meet entertainment and film industry needs and support the economy." The 57-km-long drain enters the city near Dhansa in southwest Delhi and runs through parts of west, central and north Delhi before meeting the Yamuna near Wazirabad. According to officials, two-thirds of the total wastewater discharge of Delhi flows into the Najafgarh drain.



Najafgarh Drain can also be used to boost economy, says DDA official

In January, the LG took a boat ride on the drain to conduct a joint inspection of the rejuvenation effort. Boosted by a budget allocation for the project, work has started on the 11.4km stretch from Basai Darapur to Timarpur in north Delhi.

At the meeting on MPD41 on Tuesday, Saxena also stressed on improving regional connectivity by strengthening the existing road infrastr-

structure of the city and improving connectivity through new roads such as the Noida-Jewar expressway, disclosed DDA officials. The master plan says, "All new arterial roads, including the national highways and the urban extension roads, shall include space for multi-modal, high-capacity public transportation systems as part of the right of way. The transit stations shall include plazas and

open spaces for incorporating the spillover of commuters."

The LG was also keen on developing housing for the homeless, slum dwellers and the weaker sections. "In fact, that was among the reasons why the finalisation of the draft plan was delayed," an official disclosed. Noting the problems in eligibility for in-situ slum rehabilitation projects, DDA clarified that the policy clearly specifies allotment of flats and dwelling units in the joint names of the husband and wife even if the allottee is the male spouse.

"This is aimed at making the female spouse a partner in ownership of the allotted flat and thereby empowering women. However, while allotting flats to JJ dwellers under the in-situ rehabilitation scheme at Kalkaji, it was noted that in many cases, there were only women occupying the slum homes because the husband was dead, missing or had deserted the family," said an official. "Such female beneficiaries don't have legal documents related to their husbands such as a decree of divorce, death certificate or declaration as a missing person by the competent authority."

A requirement was felt that this condition in MPD41 should be relaxed to ensure the benefits of in-situ rehabilitation were not denied to genuine female beneficiaries.

Let water credits flow

This will help improve water quality standards, too

SK Sarkar
Snehlata Tigala

India's water resources are under tremendous pressure. There are wide temporal and spatial variations in the distribution of water. For example, India receives more than 80 per cent of the rainfall during four months of the year. As regards unequal spatial distribution, the Barak and Brahmaputra basins have a per capita water availability that is more than that of the Ganga basin. India's per capita water availability has touched the water-stressed benchmark, and is likely to reach the water-scarce scenario by 2050.

Water credits deal with the transaction between water deficit and water surplus entities within a basin. It represents a fixed quantum of water that is conserved or generated. It is almost a mirror image of the concept of carbon credits. However, unlike carbon credits, the spatial limits for transactions are confined to hydrological boundaries — that is, river basin or watershed.

Take the water credit system between municipalities and industries. Industries can buy water credits from water-rich municipalities that are funded to finance large-scale floodwater harvesting or wastewater treatment projects, which aid in conserving water. Thus, the multiplayer approach is essential for the water credit system.

GLOBAL SUCCESSES

India should learn from global water trading successes, like that of Australia (for example, the Murray-Darling basin), to lay a roadmap for water trading and also ensure water regulation by setting up related authorities. Another notable success story comes from Chicago Mercantile Exchange, where participation is seen from actual users such as farmers and municipalities and financial investors.

Recent reports suggest that NITI Aayog is contemplating draft recommendations on future trading of water and tradable water licences. However, experts have raised some concerns about the awareness among water users and water suppliers on water trading. It is anticipated that India could face opposition if water is made a tradable commodity.

With the effective implementation and stringent regulatory standards, water



CAUTION. India is moving towards a water-scarce situation

trading also paves way for water quality standards. This makes water "quality" a tradable commodity. Under such a system, a source pollutant (industry) having controlled pollutant levels "sells credits" to another source pollutant (industry), which can use these credits to enhance their level of treatment in order to comply with the regulatory requirements.

This further promotes growth in the recycle and reuse markets through the utilisation of heavy metals/trace organics released in the water from both the industrial and agricultural sectors.

An innate flaw of this water credit system is that the market is dominated by a small number of rich institutions or sellers. Due to this market domination, rich sellers can control the market by buying credits from the poor, and continue to misuse the shared water resources. The market competition among sellers is further reduced due to the lack of awareness about the water credit concept. In such a case, a regulatory body must be in place to facilitate and successfully maintain free market conditions.

However, the credit system can be used to highlight the water quality merits and strengthen economic relations both at a global as well as regional level. Also, such a system can substantially reduce the burden of the government that releases funds towards mitigation as well as post-disaster events such as floods and droughts. Another benefit of such a system is that the markets can even 'insure' irrigated and rain-dependent agriculture against droughts by locking in water prices.

There has been no strong dialogue on the implementation of a water credit system, so far. India needs to aggressively alter and adopt practices to expand finance opportunities within the water sector.

Sarkar is a Distinguished Fellow, and Tigala is Associate Fellow, TERI

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चिंताजनक की स्थिति

केंद्रीय जल आयोग नदियों की जानकारी कर रहा अपडेट, 19 सहायक नदियों में कम हो रहा पानी

गर्मी से पहले ही नर्मदा की सहायक नदियां सूखने की कगार पर



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नर्मदापुरम. प्रदेश की लाइफलाइन नर्मदा नदी और उसकी सहायक नदियों पर गर्मी का असर दिखना शुरू हो गया है। नर्मदा की तीन सहायक नदियां सूखने की कगार पर पहुंच गई हैं। नर्मदा में भी जगह-जगह टापू निकलने लगे हैं। केंद्रीय जल आयोग नदियों की जानकारी अपडेट कर रहा है।

बंद हुआ बहाव: अमरकंटक से निकलने वाली नर्मदा नदी मध्यप्रदेश के नर्मदापुरम, नरसिंहपुर, जबलपुर,



सोहागपुर में पलकमती नदी

शहडोल, मंडला, खंडवा और खरगोन जिले में 1077 किलोमीटर बहती है। 19 सहायक नदियों का पानी नर्मदा में मिलता है। केंद्रीय जल

आयोग के मुताबिक, फरवरी के अंत में गर्मी के कारण नर्मदा की सहायक रायसेन जिले के ग्राम महेक्षर में स्थित तिंदोनी, नरसिंहपुर जिले की दुधी

और नर्मदापुरम के सोहागपुर में पलकमती नदी सूखने की कगार पर आ गई है। इन तीनों नदियों में पानी का बहाव बंद हो गया है।

20-28 फरवरी तक नर्मदा का जलस्तर मीटर में

दिनांक	नर्मदापुरम	नसीराबाद	साड़िया	बरमान
28 फरवरी	281.80	291.850	299.910	308.390
20 फरवरी	284.800	291.850	299.920	308.960

नर्मदा में कई जगह दिखने लगे टापू: नर्मदापुरम में बांद्राभान से नर्मदापुरम तक कई जगह नदी के बीच में टापू बन गए हैं। बताया जाता है कि समय-समय पर तवा सहित अन्य बांधों से नहरों के लिए पानी छोड़ा जाता है। यह पानी नर्मदा में भी आ रहा है।

तवा नदी में भी कम हो रहा जलस्तर

नर्मदा की सहायक नदियों में सबसे मुख्य तवा नदी का जलस्तर भी कम होने लगा है। बांद्राभान में तवा नर्मदा के संगम स्थल के पहले खिज के पास कई जगह टापू निकल आए हैं।

नर्मदा की नदी सहायक नदियां सूखने की कगार पर आ गई है। इनमें पानी का बहाव खत्म हो गया है। नर्मदा में बांधों से छोड़े जाने वाला पानी आ रहा है, इसलिए अभी जलस्तर में खास अंतर नहीं आया है।

—**प्रशांत शंकर पांडे**, उपयंत्री, केंद्रीय जल आयोग, नर्मदापुरम

प्रशासन से वार्ता के बाद शांत हुए पानी के लिए सड़क पर उतरे किसान, पांच घंटे हाईवे जाम



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श्रीगंगानगर. गंगनहर में मार्च माह में 2500 क्यूसेक पानी सिंचाई के लिए देने की मांग को लेकर संयुक्त किसान मोर्चा के बैनर तले जिले के किसानों ने गुरुवार सुबह 11 बजे से शाम 4 बजे तक साधुवाली बॉर्डर लिंक नहर पर नेशनल हाईवे को जाम किया। जिला कलक्टर सौरभ स्वामी व जल संसाधन विभाग के अधीक्षण अभियंता धीरज चावला से किसान प्रतिनिधियों की वार्ता हुई। वार्ता में सिंचाई पानी देने की मांग पर

सहमति होने पर जाम खोल दिया गया। अधीक्षण अभियंता चावला ने किसानों से कहा कि मार्च माह में दो-दो बारियां सिंचाई पानी दिया जाएगा। इस बात पर किसान सहमत हो गए। इससे पूर्व किसानों ने नेशनल हाईवे पर जमकर नारेबाजी और विरोध-प्रदर्शन किया। इस मौके पर मोर्चा के प्रतिनिधि पूर्व विधायक हेतराम बेनीवाल, किसान नेता पृथ्वीपाल सिंह संधू, रणजीत सिंह राजू, संतवीर सिंह, अमरसिंह बिश्नोई, मनिंदर सिंह मान व श्योपतराम सहित काफी किसान शामिल हुए।