Indian Express 08- August-2023

# Haryana plans Rs 6,134-cr dam at Hathnikund to curb Yamuna fury

**SUKHBIR SIWACH**
KALESAR (HARYANA), AUGUST 7

TO PREVENT a repeat of the July floods caused by the Yamuna in Delhi and in adjoining areas of the river in Haryana, the Haryana government is planning to build a dam at a cost of Rs 6,134 crore. It will have a 14-km-long reservoir and will be built 4.5 km upstream from the Hathnikund Barrage in Yamunanagar district.

Nine villages will be displaced for its construction, besides shifting an 11-km stretch of NH-73. It will also submerge a large chunk of forest land, including areas in Kalesar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Once the project is completed, officials say, the state will get a financial advantage of Rs 497 crore through availability of additional irrigation water, groundwater recharge and aquaculture, apart from generation of 250 MW electricity.

The dam area also shares borders with Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Its reservoir will have a capacity of 10.82 lakh cusecs.

This is nearly three times the highest water level (3.6 lakh cusecs) released into the Yamuna in July, leading to heavy floods in Delhi and the river's adjoining areas in Haryana. The Yamuna had breached the danger mark in Delhi in August 2019 too, after Haryana released a record 8.28 lakh cusecs of water into the river from Hathnikund Barrage.

The Hathnikund Barrage in Haryana's Yamunanagar dist

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Satbir Singh Kadian, Engineer-in-Chief, Haryana Irrigation and Water Resources Department, said, "After the execution of the project, flood water will be stored in the reservoir. It will not only save Delhi and Yamuna's adjoining areas in Haryana from floods but also the water stored in the reservoir will improve intensity of irrigation water in the existing canals of Western Jamuna Canal (WJC)."

The state officials expect the reservoir water to irrigate nearly 2.24 lakh acres in Haryana and other states during rabi crop season (October-December). Even during the kharif crop season (June-October), they expect the stored water to irrigate an additional 1.27 lakh acres of land.

The four Haryana villages – Garhi, Kalesar, Banjarwas and Mamduwas – proposed to be displaced are part of one village panchayat Kalesar which has a population of nearly 3,000 residents. The five villages of Himachal Pradesh to be displaced are – Bahral, Satiwala, Bata Mandi, Ganguwala and Thaparpur.


The village residents have concerns about the compensation in lieu of their houses and agricultural land. At the same time they also admit that the Yamuna has been causing huge losses to their crops, apart from washing away their adjoining land.

Sitting on a charpai along with family members, Gurdyal Singh, a local villager, was worried where they would go if they were displaced from their village for the proposed Hathnikund dam at Haryana-Himachal Pradesh village.

Gurdyal's Kalesar village figures among nine small villages of both states which are proposed to be displaced to build the dam. "It's difficult to resettle again after being displaced from a village," said Gurdyal, who belongs to a family of labourers, adding that the government had to think about the larger interest of society too.

Ravinder Kumar, the former sarpanch of Kalesar village who owns 15 acres of land, said, "Despite all hardships we face here, it will be difficult for us to shift from here since this is our birthplace. The people will agree to be displaced only after proper compensation."

Javed Khan, a young farmer who has a land-holding of 5 acres, said, "Shifting from here will be a difficult task for us. Apart from our land, we also get fodder for our animals from the forest."

Officials said an initial survey of the proposed dam has already taken place in the areas concerned in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. For the additional survey, the Haryana government has sought a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the Himachal Pradesh government.

In July this year, the floods in Delhi caused by Yamuna water had led to a political war between the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government and Haryana's Manohar Lal Khattar government. With Kejriwal insisting that water levels of Yamuna were rising not because of rain but due to high volumes of water being released by Haryana from Hathnikund Barrage. Khattar had insisted that Hathnikund is a barrage and not a dam.

Khattar had also stated: "Water flow is controlled in dams, but in barrage, the water can only be regulated in small quantities. The capacity of the barrage is 1 lakh cusecs and it is difficult to stop the water above this level."

The Times of India- 08- August-2023

## 'Flooding Mostly Due To Extremely Heavy Shower Within Short Span'

# Take measures to check dry area flooding: Central team

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**FOOLPROOF STEPS MUST: EXPERTS**

- Central team visited flood-hit areas
- Said measures to check flood in dry areas also a must
- Heavy rains at dry places cause for concern
- It's because state water table already very high
- Foolproof measures in dry areas will lessen damage

**Hyderabad:** After the recent tour of Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu and other districts which were ravaged by heavy floods ahd unprecedented rains, the inter-ministerial central team has suggested to the government to put in place measures even in dry areas of the state.

Sources said the central team, led by Kunal Satyarthi, advisor, National Disaster Management Authority, felt the heavy rains were a cause for concern since the water table in Telangana is already very high and Mission Kakatiya and irrigation projects were successfully operating.

The team directed the state authorities to mitigate damage by implementing foolproof measures in dry areas affected by floods. Though people in flood-prone areas are equipped to face the calamity, protection measures must be strictly followed, it said.

The central team said the massive damage in Morancha palli, Kondai, Lakshmidevipeta and other villages was mostly due to extreme heavy rainfall within a short span.

Lakshmidevipeta village in Venkatapuram mandal of Mulugu district recorded the highest-ever rainfall of 64.98 cm on July 26, which was a record in Telangana's rainfall history. The second highest rainfall of 61.65 cm was recorded at Chityal in Bhupalpally district.

While saying that Telagana is well equipped to tackle floods in flood-prone areas, the central team said proper mechanisms need to be in place in dryland areas of the state as well.

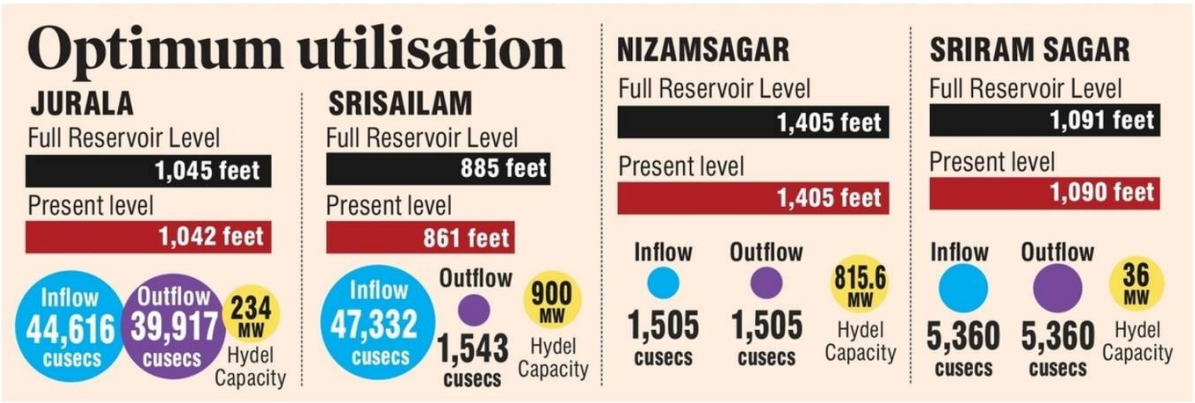
In some villages, floods occurred way back in 1986, the recent extremely heavy rains and floods came as a shock to the authorities, said sources.

The central team also suggested to the state authorities to have in place localised rainfall measurement systems which give exact predictions even in small towns and villages. State officials claimed that Telangana has more than 1,000 automatic weather forecasting systems in place.

Telangana Today- 08- August-2023

# Hydel power generation begins in SRSP, Jurala

## SRSP has four turbines with 9 MW capacity




ANIL KUMAR
Hyderabad

With all major irrigation projects on the Krishna and Godavari rivers receiving huge inflows, hydel power generation has begun in a few of them.

With water being released for irrigation purposes, power generation from the rest will begin later.

According to Irrigation Department officials, the Sriram Sagar project, which has four turbines with 9 MW capacity each, was presently generating 36 MW. The power generated in the project was connected to the power line from Ramagundam through a 230 KV substation between Pochampadu -Bussapur. Currently, Sriram Sagar Project water level stands at 1090 feet against the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 1091 feet and the project is receiving an inflow of 5360 cusecs and the outflow stood at 5360 cusecs.

Similarly, with the Jurala project receiving an inflow of 44,616 cusecs, the officials have turned on the upper and lower power generation stations of the project generating 234 MW of power.

Officials are also preparing to start power generation in the Srisailam Left Power House, which has six 150 MW units, with a generation capacity of 900 MW per day. The project is receiving an inflow of 47,332 cusecs and its outflow is about 1543 cusecs. Its current water level is about 861 feet against the FRL 885 feet. According to officials, the power production in Srisailam would begin once it touches 870 feet.

However, at the Nagarjuna Sagar project, which is currently receiving 8,206 cusecs inflow from upstream projects like Srisailam, power production will take some more time as the project's current water level is 515 feet against the FRL level of 590 feet and once it touches 570 feet, power generation will begin. The total installed capacity of the power plant of the project is 815.6 MW and has eight units.

File No.T-74074/10/2019-WSE DTE

The Tribune- 08- August-2023

# Managing floods

## Preventive policies violated with impunity

EVEN as the region is reeling under the unprecedented monsoon fury that has claimed many lives and destroyed crops, property and infrastructure worth thousands of crores of rupees in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana, the report filed in the Rajya Sabha regarding the nationwide losses caused by rains in the last decade is an eye-opener. The data presented by the Jal Shakti Ministry for the 2012-2021 period says that over 17,000 people died in floods; it pegs the damage to property at Rs 2.61 lakh crore.

That the death toll and destruction have continued to be massive over the years reflects poorly on the disaster management policies and flood mitigation measures. Despite the availability of better technology to forecast weather, the country seems to be ill-prepared to tackle the situation on the ground. And rendering most plans and strategies ineffective is the rampant violation of the many rules and regulations — with impunity — that have been promulgated to save human and animal habitats from the flooding. There seems to be no end to the proliferation of unplanned settlements and structures around big cities, which get inundated as poor drainage system buckles under heavy spells of rain. Similarly, as banks of rivers and flood plains are routinely encroached upon, blocking the natural flow of the rivers during floods, these areas bear the brunt of nature's ferocity. In HP, haphazard concretisation and unscientific cutting of mountain slopes to build roads and other infrastructure are the major causes of landslips during flash floods or cloudbursts. Large-scale deforestation and dam breaches also deal deadly blows during the monsoon.

The key to avoiding the recurrence of such eventualities is a critical review of the implementation of flood-prevention policies at all levels of governance. A timely and deterring response to flouting of rules and restoration of the ecological balance are imperative for safer environs.

The Pioneer- 08- August-2023

# Ganga crosses warning level in Ballia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The water level of river Ganga has crossed the warning level of 56.615 metres in downstream Ballia on Monday where the level is expected to reach at 57.3 metres at 8 am on Tuesday as the water level was increasing there by five cm per hour during the day and it speed will increase further as the river was recorded rising at 14 cm per hour at Ghazipur. With this, the low-lying areas of this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) are facing serious flood threats. For the last many years, this region has been facing flood in almost every rainy season and due to this, as a large number of authorised or unauthorised colonies come into existence in the banks of river Ganga and Varuna in the city, they face a lot of problems when river water enters there.

The speed of rising trend of river Ganga, which was increasing at an alarming pace of 10 cm per hour a day ago, has been slowed down in Varanasi as it was recorded rising at four cm per hour during the day as per the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC). During the 24 hours, the water level has increased by 1.34 metres, rising from 66.52 metres to 67.86 metres as recorded at 8 am on Monday.

Water level of river Ganga continues to rise in Varanasi on Monday.

The river continued rising right from Phaphamau to Ballia including Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Varanasi and Ghazipur. The river was recorded at 56.46 metres in downstream Ballia at 8 am while 60.54 metres at Ghazipur against the warning level of 62.105 metres and in upstream city Mirzapur at 73.45 metres (warning level 76.724 metres).

However, the residents of several villages of Daab area surrounded by rivers Ganga and Gomti have heaved a sigh of relief increased as the rising trend of Gomti was recorded steady at Jaunpur but as the level of river Ganga in Varanasi has inched close to 69 metres mark, it has increased the heartbeats of residents of dozens of colonies located on both sides of river Varuna because if the rising trend continues, it may cause reverse flow of Varuna. During the last 24 hours, several areas of the region have received moderate to heavy rains. Jaunpur received 69.2 mm rain, Varanasi 29 mm, Chopan in Sonbhadra 28 mm and Ghazipur 22.6 mm.

In the city, as the water level of river Ganga continued to rise, it entered the Sheetla Mata Mandir at Old Dasaswamedh Ghat forcing the devotees to reach the temple through the water. Most of the 'chowkis' of pandas have been submerged into the water. The venue of famous regular Ganga Aarti had already been shifted upstairs. Dozens of low lying temples located at internationally famous 84-odd ghats were either submerged into the water fully or partially.