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*P. N. Mohan*  
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For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,  
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*G/C*

# When water can make a difference

**GOPAL KATESHIYA**  
BHAVNAGAR (GUJARAT), OCTOBER 11

"WHY DON'T you irrigate your crop when there is water nearby?", asks Kalu Sutariya, stopping his moped. "How can I? I have no diesel engine or electric motor pump to bring the water" is Hanu Chohla's prompt reply, as he maintains a vigil against *nilgai* (blue bull) and stray cattle that might damage the standing cotton on his field.

The 65-year-old Chohla's three-bigha (0.5 hectare) plot is part of a 10-bigha holding belonging to a cooperative society of Bharwads, a cattle-herder community to which he belongs. Ironically, the Bhojpara distributary, which branches off from the Limbdi Branch Canal (LBC), cuts straight through this 10-bigha land at Ratanpur village in Vallabhipur taluka of Gujarat's Bhavnagar district. But there's no water flowing through the distributary, simply because a section of it has not been completed. That, in turn, has to do with the State Highway-36 connecting Bhavnagar to Ahmedabad. Bhojpara is among nine of the LBC's 26 distributaries, whose construction is facing hurdles, as there is no forest clearance to cut the trees on both sides of the highway.

LBC is part of an elaborate canal network to take the Narmada river waters to the parched agricultural lands of Gujarat's Saurashtra region. The Narmada Main Canal is near Kadi in Mehsana district of North Gujarat. Water from it is conveyed to the Saurashtra Branch Canal, which then supplies to LBC and six other such sub-branch canals. The sub-branch canals further supply to distributaries, followed by minor canals and finally the sub-minors that take

the water to farmers' fields.

While the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited (SSNNL) — which is implementing the massive Narmada project that seeks to irrigate 18.45 lakh hectares of land in Gujarat, including five lakh hectares of Saurashtra — has completed all the branch and sub-branch canals, the missing links in the distributaries and below is what's preventing the waters from irrigating the fields of farmers like Chohla. While the distributaries and minors are conventional open canals, the SSNNL has opted for underground pipelines for sub-minors to overcome the hurdles of land acquisition.

One such sub-minor canal of the Bhojpara distributary touches Sutariya's three-hectare farm in Ratanpur. "They have laid the pipeline and even fitted a valve, but I haven't still got the water," complains Sutariya. His farm is only one km west of the Vallabhipur Branch Canal (VBC), a sub-branch canal like the VBC with 33 distributaries. "With a couple of irrigations, my cotton yield can double to 18 quintals per hectare. There is groundwater here, but it is salty. The only option is surface water from Narmada, but I don't have the machinery and pipeline to draw it from the VBC," notes Sutariya, whose two sons work as migrant labourers in Surat.

The black cotton soil in this belt is highly suitable for cotton cultivation. That potential is now being realised by farmers in neighbouring Mevasa, which is east of the VBC and

whose sub-distributary-4 (SD-4) is already watering around 1,300 hectares of the village. Dahya Limbani, who cultivates eight hectares, has sown cotton in six and fodder sorghum (*jojwar*) in the remaining two. He is waiting to give his first irrigation, having already built dykes and installing a diesel engine on the SD-4 that borders his farm.

"Will we get water today from the canal?", Limbani asks Bhikhabhai Bagadiya, the sarpanch of Mevasa. "No, it'll take a couple of days. The VBC deputy engineer says if we open the head of SD-4 now, there will be back overflow into the branch canal where the water levels are already high. Once the VBC's vulnerable patch is fixed to prevent overflow, they will release water," the sarpanch tells him over phone.

But Mavji Chauhan, the deputy engineer in charge of SD-4, offers an interim solution. Limbani's farm is hardly 200 metres from the VBC. "Why don't you install a couple of diesel engines and pump water into SD-4? If you just lift the water from the canal, it can flow to your farm with gravity," Chauhan suggests. "But I don't know if my neighbour will allow me build a channel on his farm to bring water to my cotton field. So, I'm waiting for SD-4 water", Limbani shoots back.

The SSNNL has been releasing water into the VBC for roughly a decade now, whose value farmers like Limbani understand. "I have another two-hectare farm near a stream, into which the VBC water is released. I have been giving a single irrigation to my

cotton crop for the last five years by drawing water from it using a diesel pump. My yields are now 20 quintals per hectare," points out Limbani. He has one son working as a diamond polisher in Surat and another, who helps him in the farm.

According to the sarpanch Bagadiya, who owns 20 hectares land, out of Mevasa's registered population of 2,200, hardly 700 live in the village. The rest have migrated to Surat, as they cannot depend on rainfed agriculture. But the arrival of Narmada waters has initiated a trend of reverse migration.

Madhavji Moradiya, who has three hectares land at Hadmatiya village in Bhavnagar's Umrata taluka, migrated to Surat 20 years ago. His two sons are diamond traders in Mumbai. Till recently, Moradiya was giving his three hectares land to sharecroppers for cultivation. But this year, he decided to do farming himself. He and two other farmers have installed a diesel engine at the tail of the VBC. "My cotton crop is already ready for the first picking. I expect to harvest at least 20 quintals per hectare," says the 58-year-old, whose has studied only till Class II.

Vallabh Sakariya has planted cotton on his entire 28-hectare land at Kanthariya village in Vallabhipur taluka. That includes six of his own and 22 hectares he cultivates as share-cropper. Sakariya has installed a diesel pump at the tail distributary-1 canal of LBC, which has raised his irrigation cover to about 13 hectares. "I had no irrigation facility before the canal water arrived in 2015. Since then, I have been harvesting 400 quintals of cotton on an average, which is more than twice what it used to be," he says.

It is stories such as these that offer more than a ray of hope.

# India's first APMC yard established with near-zero government assistance

Costing ₹125 cr, it includes farmer training centre, soil testing lab and produce grading facilities

**GOPAL KATESHIYA**

AMRELI (GUJARAT), OCTOBER 11

P P SOJITRA, chairman of the Amreli Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), recently earned praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The reason: the unique model of financing that the APMC employed in developing its new market yard at Fatehpur, a village on the outskirts of Amreli town.

The new yard, costing Rs 125 crore, has 10 auction sheds of 25,000 square feet each, an open bidding space of three lakh square feet, 200 shops/offices, a well-appointed guest house, a farmer training centre, soil testing lab and produce grading facilities, underground cabling and storm-water drainage systems. But what sets it apart from other APMC-owned yards in India is its being built with hardly any state support or bank loans.

Started in 1953, the Amreli APMC is the oldest in the Saurashtra region. The existing yard spread over six hectares has, over time, become the heart of Amreli town. And with rising crop arrivals, on top of vehicular population linked to the town's own growth, it has inevitably contributed to traffic snarls.

In 2008, Sojitra, then with the Congress, promised to develop a new and bigger yard outside the town. He repeated it while contesting the 2013 election to the APMC as well — this time as a BJP leader. Being with the ruling party, he thought, would make implementing the poll promise easier.

"We first approached the state government to allot us land, but got no response. So, we directly approached the farmers," says Sojitra, who was the BJP's Amreli district unit general secretary from 2012 to 2015.

The APMC initially bought 17 hectares from 10 farmers in Fatehpur, paying Rs 90 lakh per hectare each. But three farmers with three hectares refused, as their land was contiguous to the state highway. "We needed that tract, belonging to three brothers, to get the project going," notes Sojitra.

Ghanshyam Kanpariya was paid Rs 51 lakh per bigha (six bigha make a hectare), plus two shops in the new yard free of cost. The second brother Rasik was also given the same rate, along with an auctioneer's job in the APMC for his son Mehul. The last one Nanji, too, agreed after being offered Rs 55 lakh per bigha and a clerical job at the APMC for his mechanical engineering graduate son Vishal. Most farmers used the proceeds to buy cheaper land in nearby villages, in the process increasing their holding. Ghanshyam and Rasik Kanpariya even invested in embroidery work units at Surat, while Nanji bought a flat and shop in Ahmedabad for his elder son Jatin, who has a marketing job there.

While land acquisition costs, inclusive of registration charges, alone came to Rs 30 crore, the APMC had only Rs one crore of savings to start with. "To raise resources, we first demolished a dilapidated building,"



The entrance to the Amreli APMC's brand new market yard. *Gop. Kateshiya*

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The APMC would till then continue to use the sheds for auctioning crops. By end 2013, all the assets in the old yard, barring office, had been leased out, generating Rs 37.24 crore.

But since this wasn't enough, it was decided to solicit interest from traders for taking on lease 200 shops to be built in the new market yard. The response, however, was lukewarm. "Hence, we the Gujarat Agricultural Produce Market Act's provisions, making it mandatory for the APMC's 80 commission agents and 50 wholesalers to own offices in the new yard as a precondition for retaining their licences. We could, thus, sell around 150 shops. That, along with space sold to the Amar Dairy (Amreli District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union) and a bank, helped garner Rs 22.39 crore," adds Sojitra.

At the project construction stage, the APMC inserted a tender condition that required the private firm winning the contract to compulsorily purchase assets worth 25 per cent of the total cost. The total project cost, inclusive of land, was assessed at Rs 125 crore. The contractor's share of that came to Rs 31.25 crore.

"Only for the balance amount, we had to avail of a Rs 25 crore NABARD loan, of which Rs 10 crore has been withdrawn. The only help

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While land acquisition costs, inclusive of registration charges, alone came to Rs 30 crore, the APMC had only Rs one crore of savings to start with. "To raise resources, we first demolished a dilapidated shed in the old yard and constructed 200 shops there. These were, then, auctioned off on a 99-year lease basis. Net of building costs, we could mobilise Rs 20 crore," informs Sojitra.

The next step was to convert even the auction sheds in the old APMC yard into 132 platforms for vegetable retailing and 52 provision stores. The spaces were leased out in advance, with a condition that the possession would be granted only after three years.



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"Only for the balance amount, we had to avail of a Rs 25 crore NABARD loan, of which Rs 10 crore has been withdrawn. The only help we took from the state government was a Rs 5 crore grant under the Kisan Kalpvruksha Yojana, a scheme to fund creation of vegetable markets within APMC premises," states Sojitra.

While the new yard was formally inaugurated by the Prime Minister on September 17, the APMC intends shifting its operations there by end-October after Diwali. There couldn't be a more auspicious time for India's first APMC yard, built with least government assistance, to take off.

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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)  
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
The Hindu  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)  
Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle  
Aaj (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Blitz

and documented at Bhadrirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC

## Water level close to brim in Srisaillam

Crest gates of reservoir not opened



**Too close for comfort:** The Srisaillam reservoir brimming with water on Wednesday. — U. SUBRAMANYAM

**G. VENKATARAMANA RAO**  
VIJAYAWADA

Authorities did not open the crest gates of the Srisaillam Reservoir on Wednesday, though the level of water reached dangerously close to the brim.

The reservoir received an average inflow of 1,24,600 cusecs the whole of Tuesday and an inflow of 1.05 lakh cusecs was recorded on Wednesday.

The outflow from the reservoir for generation and power and the irrigation schemes was pushed to the maximum of 79,103 cusecs.

With a flood cushion of just 6.22 tmcft on Wednesday morning, the authorities took a risk by not raising the crest gates.

But for the outflow of nearly 80,000 cusecs, the reservoir would have been overflowing by Wednesday evening, irrigation experts said.

### 2009 incident

They recalled how things went haywire when a retaining wall of the same reservoir gave way in October 2009 and all water had to be released in a hurry resulting in a flood of over 10 lakh cusecs at the Prakasam bar-

rage that led to inundation of several low-lying areas and habitats upstream and downstream of the barrage.

The word around here is that the authorities have been asked to keep the gates closed till a Minister reached the dam site for releasing the water.

The dam authorities released 71,174 cusecs to the two power houses for generation purpose, 6,000 cusecs to the Pothireddypadu Head Regulator, 332 cusecs to Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanthi Left Irrigation Scheme and 1,597 cusecs for the Mahatma Gandhi (Kalavakurthy) Lift Irrigation Scheme.

### Water dispute

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have been at loggerheads with each other about release of water from the reservoir to irrigation schemes.

The Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) is an autonomous board constituted to regulate the drawing of water from common irrigation projects — Srisaillam and Nagarjuna Sagar. It recently wrote a letter to the Centre saying neither State was heeding to its orders.

10.10.2017 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times ( Delhi )  
नवभारत टाइम्स ( दिल्ली )  
The Tribune ( Chandigarh )  
The Hindu ( Chennai )

The Assam Tribune ( Guwahati )  
The Times of India ( Mumbai )  
The Telegraph ( Kolkata )  
हिन्दुस्तान ( पटना )

The Deccan Herald ( Bengluru )  
The Deccan Chronical ( Hyderabad )  
Central Chronical ( Bhopal )

# Hydro-ecological approach suggested for revival of Kolong river

ASHI PATOWARY

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: A Gauhati University (GU) lady research scholar in environmental science has proposed a scheme for reviving the degraded Kolong river, which has lost its natural channel. Her approach, which is basically a hydro-ecological approach, has been presented to the government. The Kolong is a present-gasping for life because of the loss of severing its link with the Brahmaputra in the name of an engineering solution to the increasing flood hazard attributed to it in the aftermath of the Great Assam Earthquake of 1950.

The research scholar claims that she has developed an elaborate hydrological database containing peak and design discharges for 10 years, 25 years, 50 years and 100 years, bank full discharge stage, discharge rating curve, basin runoff etc. for the Kolong river and its tributaries. Moreover, she says the hydro-ecological relationship (that is, relationship maintained by river flow with its velocity, channel width as well as depth) of the Kolong river are also adequately explored.

The findings of her research, which was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India for the past five years, under the Inspire Programme for PhD Research,

were published in several scientific journals, including the leading *Current Science*, in its August 25, 2017 issue.

Minakshi Bora, the research scholar, says the morphological study of the river channel, its routing pattern, rate of erosion and deposition etc. were carried out through field surveys and analysis of spatial databases under GIS environment. Finally, she said, based on the baseline geo-environmental setting and analysis of fluvial, ecological and socio-economic databases, a scheme for reviving the degraded Kolong river has been proposed.

The Kolong river, a distributary of the Brahmaputra (in Assamese) of the Brahmaputra was blocked in 1964 by erecting an embankment at its take-off point in the Nagaon area, to save Nagaon town and its adjacent areas from the havoc of floods. The embankment not only turned Kolong into a non-navigable river, but also adversely impacted the large number of wetlands connected with this river system.

The Kolong, with a total length of about 250 kilometres (kms), has branched out from the Brahmaputra near Jakhlabandha, about 77 km upstream of Nagaon town, and has met it again at Kajalimukh near Guwahati, in a joint channel with the Kopli river, a major south bank tributary of the Brahmaputra. Kopli has met

Kolong at Jagibhat in Goalpara district.

Bora maintains that it is high time to undertake a holistic river restoration programme for the Kolong river based on state-of-the-art knowledge and scientific know-how currently available on the subject. River restoration, in scientific parlance, is the act of working with a degraded river or stream in order to revise it to its pre-disturbed condition. Although in countries like USA, Japan, China, Russia and some parts of our own country, river restoration is rather a familiar concept, it is still non-existent in North-east India, despite widespread degradation of river systems.

The Kolong was at the root of the protracted flood in the West Nagaon district area till the 1980s. The alluvium deposited during the flood season used to heavily fertilize the adjoining floodplain. The river, with a network of biological wetlands, economically resourceful and hydrologically significant wetlands, facilitated development of an ecologically rich natural ecosystem where a large variety of fishes and other aquatic flora and fauna, including river dolphins, flourished. Steam boats too once plied on this river, adding to the economic vigour of the people living by it, maintains the research scholar.

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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)  
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
The Hindu  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)  
Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle  
Aaj (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Blitz

and documented at Bhadrath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC

निर्मल गंगा के लिए 97 परियोजनाएँ अगले साल शुरू होगी, 15 साल तक निजी कंपनी रखरखाव करेगी

## हरिद्वार वायाणसी में सीवेज शोधन संयंत्र बनेंगे

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

केंद्र सरकार उत्तराखंड के हरिद्वार और उत्तर प्रदेश के वायाणसी में गंगा नदी पर बनने वाले सीवेज शोधन संयंत्र बनाया जाएगा। दोनों संयंत्र हाईब्रिड मोड में काम करेंगे, जहाँ निजी कंपनी के सहयोग से काम किया जाएगा। दोनों परियोजनाओं को अगले साल शुरू कर दिया जाएगा।

जल संधारण, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण मंत्रालय गडकरी ने दोनों परियोजनाओं के लिए त्रिपक्षीय समझौते के शीर्षक पर कहा कि निर्मल

गंगा के लिए 97 परियोजनाएँ अगले साल आर्च तक शुरू हो जाएंगी। हरिद्वार और वायाणसी में गंगा नदी पर बनने वाले सीवेज शोधन संयंत्र हाईब्रिड मोड में बनेंगे। राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग क्षेत्र के बाद प्रहली चार हाईब्रिड के सहित संयंत्र लगाए जाएंगे।

इसके अतिरिक्त संयोजना की 40

कंपनियाँ प्राथमिकता देंगी, शेष संयोजना किस्तों में निष्पन्न कंपनी को दी जाएगी। निर्माण करने वाली कंपनी को भी अगले 15 साल तक संयंत्र का रख रखाव करना होगा। इसके प्रदर्शन के आधार पर सुगमता दिया जाएगा।

### गडकरी ने नई वेबसाइट का शुभारंभ किया

गडकरी ने गंगा से जुड़ी परियोजनाओं के लिए नई वेबसाइट का शुभारंभ किया। इसमें चालू परियोजनाओं का विवरण रहेगा। इसके अलावा शुरू होने वाली परियोजनाओं के बारे में जानकारी उपलब्ध रहेगी। गडकरी ने कहा कि गंगा के घाट, बुनियादी ढांचा, तीर्थ यात्री सुविधाओं को लेकर निजी कंपनियाँ आवेदन कर सकती हैं। परियोजना सब्सिडी सभी नियम और शर्त वेबसाइट पर है।

हरिद्वार संयंत्र पर 172 करोड़ और वायाणसी संयंत्र पर 153 करोड़ रुपये लागत आएगी। गडकरी ने कहा कि दोनों संयंत्र अगले दो साल में बनकर तैयार हो जाएंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि हरिद्वार, इलाहाबाद, हावड़ा, पटना,

कानपुर, बामलपुर सहित 10 शहर सबसे अधिक गंगा को प्रदूषित कर रहे हैं। शहरों की घंदगी गंगा में चली गिरे इसके लिए और शोधन संयंत्र लगाए जाएंगे। नया परियोजनाओं की निगरानी राज्यमंत्री सत्यपाल सिंह करेंगे।



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