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Drought to hit food output, government estimates show

INFLUENCE Poor monsoon has led to a drop in foodgrain production

HT Correspondent

* letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India's output of rice is likely to be 90.6 million tonnes in 2015-16, which is marginally lower than last year's, the government's first of the four quarterly projections released on Wednesday shows.

The total foodgrain production from summer sown crops is likely to drop 1.8% from a year ago to 124.05 million tonnes due to a sharply lower output of some crops after a poor monsoon and a partial drought. The estimates are likely to be revised again. A crippling drought has gripped four states while several others are struggling with tough farm conditions, hardening the government's job of easing a rural distress and taming retail prices of food items.

Karnataka has been the first state to declare a drought in almost the entire state (27 of 30 districts) while almost half of Maharashtra has been parched, although the state hasn't noti-



A crippling drought has gripped four states while several others are struggling with tough farm conditions.
SANTOSH HARHARE / HT FILE

fied a drought yet. Over a third of the areas in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are under stress.

This is a back-to-back drought and could be one of the worst in three decades. Last year, a 12% below-normal monsoon crimped food output by almost 5%.

Overall, as the monsoon season draws to a close, nearly half of the country has received below-normal rains, leaving many states grappling with pockets of battered farms. A preliminary analysis shows crops, such as onions, tur (a type of widely consumed pulses) and coarse cereals, apart from cotton, will take a hit, an official told HT on the condition of anonymity.

He said the government was speeding up imports to deal with the crisis and the first consignment of imported pulses would land within the next eight days.

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Reality check: A boat ride down the stinking Yamuna

FACT FINDING Team of officials and experts led by DJB chairperson Kapil Mishra went across the polluted river to have a first-hand experience of the problems facing the Yamuna

Mallica Joshi

NEW DELHI: The hlack water was bubbling as a rotten smell emanated from the 'sacred' river. It took barely an hour for those who took a boat ride on the Yamuna on Wednesday to develop headaches and nausea because of exposure to the toxic methane gas.

That the Yamuna is more a drain than a river is well known but what this actually means became clear to those who were part of the team, headed by Delhi Jal Board chairperson Kapil Mishra, that visited the river.

Mishra, who has made a commitment to make the river fit enough to bathe within 36 months, was accompanied hy officials from several government department officials who are working on the Yamuna clean-up mission, civil society members and media persons.

The water is black and one cannot look even a few centimetres past it, the smell is unbearahle and encroachment on the banks is rampant

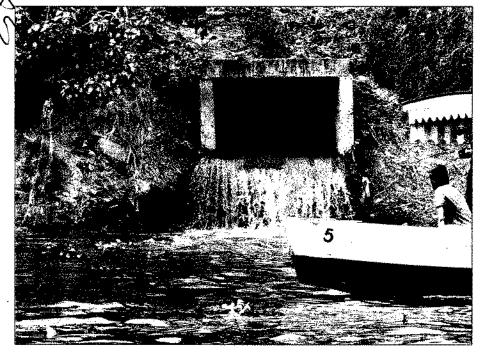
WATER QUALITY

As per samples picked up from seven points between FTO and the Najafgarh Drain, the dissolved oxygen (DO) was between 0.24 parts per million and 0.32 parts per million. DO levels in healthy water are above four. Below a DO of 2, aquatic life begins to get affected.

The methane that causes headaches and nausea is pro-

I made a commitment to clean the river in three years and we wanted to assess the monumental task ahead of us. The river is very dirty and our work is cut out for us...sewage from Najafgarh Drain needs to be treated before entering the river. If that is done. things will improve quickly

KAPIL MISHRA, DJB chairperson



duced because of the decomposition of organic material in anaerobic conditions in the river.

In a lifeless river, the noxious gas bubbles up, harming those who live along it.

The poor water flow because of a deficient monsoon has also meant that the river is not being able to clean itself.

DESILTING THE BED

According to Yamuna activist Sanjay Sharma, who accompanied the battery of officials on Wednesday's ride. the water in the river does not appear black just because waste water and sewage are being dumped into it but also because the river bed is covered in trash.

Even if you fill the river with clean water from a tap today, it will not appear clean since the bed is blackened because of things that are dumped in it. Even today, the turbidity (cloudiness) of water was between 67 NTU and 47 NTU, which is not very high. At this level, one should be able to see a coin if it is dropped into a two-metre column but one could not see anything at all on Wednesday since the bed was also blackened by the trash that has been collecting there,' Sharma said.



 Samples of water were picked up from seven points between ITO and the Najafgarh Drain. SUSHIL KUMAR/NT PHOTO

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

According to Kapil Mishra, the idea behind the visit was to show officers, who make policies and decisions, how difficult was the task ahead of them.

"I have made a commitment to clean the river within three years and we wanted to assess the monumental task ahead of us. The river is very dirty and our work is cut out for us. According to preliminary reports, the sewage from the Najafgarh Drain needs to be treated before entering the river. If that is done, things will improve quickly," he said.

The Najafgarh Drain is helieved to be responsible for close to 70% of the river's pollution.

According to experts, the desilting of the river bed will have to be carried out a few months before the interceptor sewage project kicks off to make sure the desired effect is achieved.

A detailed report of the quality of Yamuna's water is expected in three days.

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Green court steps in to stop river pollution in festive season

HT Correspondent

· htranocters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal on Wednesday directed the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), the municipal corporations, Delhi Police and the state government to ensure zero pollution in the Yamuna, especially due to idol immersion, in the festive season.

The NGT in its order told the agencies concerned to identify immersion spots, develop nine ghats and ensure that environment friendly colours and biodegradable material are used in making idols.

"Idol immersion should be allowed only of the ones that are made from bio-degradable material and not plastic/plaster of Paris. Only those colours should be used on the idols that are environment friendly," a bench headed by NGT chair person Justice Swatanter Kumar said.

Batting for designated sites for the immersion of idols, the tribunal directed the irrigation department of the Delhi government and Uttar Pradesh to hold a meeting with the Delhi Development Authority vice-chairman to "immediately identify" such sites during the festive season.

"The above committee will report as to whether the nine ghats to be provided and main-

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tained by the respective corporations have been constructed and are being maintained regularly. Whether such ghats currently have mechanism in place for ensuring that material does not flow into the river but is collected and recycled. It may be by use of mesh or by providing separate channel of water, as already directed by the tribunal," the bench said.

The tribunal directed the authorities concerned to notify and publicise such information to enable people know about identified sites for immersion of idols.

It ordered all public authorities, including the Delhi government, to provide mobile toilets or bio-toilets near the ghats. The green panel directed that "no commercial or construction activity by use of machines or otherwise, except floriculture and silviculture (regeneration of forests), would be allowed to be carried on by any of the authorities, particularly the Delhi Development Authority".

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HINDUSTAN TIMES, NEW DELHI THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 HT 17

Godavari, Krishna rivers linked

MARVEL The major benefit of this project would be to the farmers and people of Rayalaseema

Prasad Nichenametla

prasad n@hindustantimes.com

HYDERABAD: In a historic move, the water of the two great rivers of the South — the Godavari and the Krishna — were formally connected on Wednesday.

Under the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme, executed by the Chandrababu Naidu government within six months, the Godavari waters reached the Krishna, covering a distance of 175 km.

Naidu, on Wednesday, inaugurated a pylon named Pavitra Sangamam near Ibrahimpatnam in Krishna district. He went on to Pattisam in the West Godavari district, where he started the first pump to lift waters from Godavari in to the Polavaram right bank canal.

"Twelve years ago, an attempt was made on my life when I was going for Tirumala brahmotsavams. Today, as the brahmotsa-

vams are beginning again, the interlinking of the two sacred rivers took place. I am fortunate to have witnessed such a great event and I congratulate all those who made this feat possible," said Naidu.

The linking of the two rivers was originally envisaged as part of the river linking programme initiated by the Atal Bihar Vajpayee government. And the Polavaram project, now accorded a national project status, was supposed to achieve it by taking the 80 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of surplus waters from the Godavari to Krishna through its right bank canal.

But as the Polavaram project itself would take at least four more years to be completed, the Naidu government decided to use the Godavari flood waters in the interim.

The major benefit of this interlinking would be to the farmers and people of Rayalaseema.



 Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu at the first phase of Pattiseema project in West Godavari on Wednesday.
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IMPORTANT TO FARMERS

- Both rivers are a major lifeline for the people of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
- On Wednesday, the first pump was switched on, but it would take two more months for another 12 pumps to be made operational. The rest would be prepared by February-March next year
- Estimating that one TMC would irrigate 10,000 acres, over seven lakh acre of fields majorly growing paddy in Guntur, Krishna districts could he watered every year besides part of the water utilised for domestic and industrial needs of the new capital region, Amaravati
- With this 80 TMC of water saved from Krishna, the government wants to take the waters dammed at Srisailam to the parched Rayalaseema

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Only biodegradable idols in Yamuna: NGT

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: With festive season round the corner, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Wednesday took steps to ensure the Yamuna is not choked with hazardous chemicals,

With Ganesh Chaturthi being celebrated on Thursday, which is followed by immersion of idols in the Yamuna, a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar directed that immersion would be allowed only of those idols "which are made from biodegradable material and not plastic/Plaster of Paris" and added "only those colours should be used on the idols which are environment-friendly."

The order said, "the DDA, the municipal corporations, the police and the Administration of NCT of Delhi would fully co-ordinate with each other to ensure compliance of these directions."

The agencies concerned have been told to publicise the identified sites of immersion and check flow of pooja material into the river.

The Delhi government has also been asked to provide mobile toilets/bio-toilets at these sites.

The civic agencies, however are not sure who will check it the idols are made of biode a gradable material or not.

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During immersion, idols are checked and those found to be non-biodegradable are separated after immersion by the flood and irrigation department and later taken to a landsite by municipal corporation. We will follow the directions of the NGT and all arrangements will be made at the immersion ghats," said a spokesperson of North and Delhi Municipal Corporations.

Officials of the Flood and Irrigation Department, however, said their task was limited to ensuring safety of the devotees. "Our job is primarily to put up fences along the banks as well as in the river. The task of ensuring that no toxins go into the river is with the other authorities. They need to ensure during the making of these idols itself that no toxic material is used," said an official.

"We will follow the orders of NGT and whatever measures are needed will be put in place," said the Delhi Development Authority spokesperson.

The NGT is committed to the cause of cleaning the Yamuna, said Delhi Jal Board chairperson Kapil Mishra. "We will follow the NGT order in letter and spirit," he said.

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PATTISEEMA PROJECT

Andhra CM completes Godavari-Krishna link

Naidu's pet project turns into areality

S. Sandeep Kumar & B.V.S. Bhaskar

VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's grand plan of linking the Godavari and the Krishna did not go according to script on Wednesday, All he could do was to pour a potful of water from the Godavari into the Krishna to notionally complete the confluence.

The Chief Minister had originally intended to switch on the pumps at the Pattiseema project site to release the Godavari's flood waters into the Polavaram Right Main Canal which would carry it to

the Krishna at a point called Ferry on the banks of the Krishna But as heavy rain past midnight disrupted pump installation work at the project site, the inaugural function was put off for later in the day.

However, he went ahead with the pre-arranged programme of releasing



A.P. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inspecting the Pattiseema project in West Godavari district on Wednesday. — PHOTO: A.V.G.PRASAD

dammed-up waters of the Godavari, that had been requisitioned from another project on that river, the Tatipudi lift irrigation scheme, into the Krishna at Ferry.

Amidst a celebratory atmosphere, the Chief Minister performed special pujas before pouring a pot of Godavari water into the Krishna, thus bringing to reality his pet project of linking the State's two great rivers. Mr. Naidu said it was a historic occasion and unveiled a pylon to commemorate the confluence. The confluence spot at Ferry has been named the Godavari-Krishna Pavitra Sangamam.

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Yamuna to be clean in three yrs

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16
Delhi Jal Board Chairperson and Water Minister
Kapil Mishra today said
the polluted Yamuna river
will be cleaned within the
next three years.

The minister was on a boat-ride inspection of the national Capital's lifeline. He was accompanied by the officials of various departments such as the Delhi Development Authority and Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

Mishra pointed out that water in the Yamuna is polluted by 21 major drains and hundreds of smaller drains where untreated sewage and The Najafgarh drain, which is the biggest polluter, needs immediate cleaning and our team at the Delhi Jal Board has already started drafting a plan to clean this river. We must remember that before we think of making a Thames of Danube out of our Mother River Yamuna, we have to first clean it with commitment.

Kapil Mishra, Water Minister

effluents are flowing without control.

"The Najafgarh drain, which is the biggest polluter, needs immediate cleaning and our team at the Delhi Jal Board has already started drafting a plan to clean this river. We must remember that before we think of making a Thames of Danube out of our Mother River Yamuna, we have to first clean it

with commitment. Our team has also collected various samples and performed water quality tests, which I will personally monitor," he said.

"We have to think of this river and its various constituents holistically. For example, the Signature Bridge near Wazirabad and Loha Pull can be at par with the world's greatest bridges like the Brook-

lyn Bridge or the Golden Gate Bridge, but until there is clean water flowing below the bridge, this will remain a pipe dream," he asserted.

Mishra also said that his government will make cleaning of the Yamuna a public movement while adding that there was earlier a lack of political will to clean the river.

"I will bathe in the Yamuna in 36 months. No stone will be left unturned in making it a truly worldclass river," he said

During the boat-ride starting from Wazirabad barrage to the ITO barrage, the quality of water was tested at numerous points by DJB engineers and chemists.

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'YAMUNA WILL BE CLEANED IN 3 YEARS'

AAP MINISTER LEADS FACT-FINDING SURVEY OF RIVER

KIISHAGRA DIXIT

kushvoice@gmail.com New Delhi, 16 September

After years, a ray of hope appeared to shine on the Yamuna. as a team constituted by the National Green Tribunal, along with a Delhi Minister, bureaucrats and media.embarked on a two-hour 'fact finding mission' of the river on boats.

In this first fact-finding survey, Delhi Jal Board chairman and water minister Kapil Mishra along with a team of officials took stock of the deteriorating condition of the river. The verdict was that while the Yamuna is on a ventilator, it is not dead vet.

Mr Mishra pledged to ensure a clean Yamuna within the next three years.

"The Yamuna river which has now been reduced to a dark grey-coloured lifeless river will be cleaned within the next three years. I will take a holy dip said.

near Chandgi Ram Akhara, the delegation led by the minister traversed the river's length and breadth, covering points from Wazirabad along the Signature Bridge to ITO, part of the filthiest 22 km stretch.

The river of great mytho-



The river has now been reduced to a big stinking drain with no water life, low oxygen level and a high degree of pollution. Its present dissolved oxygen level is between 0.24-0.29 PPM, while it requires 4 PPM to support aquatic life

logical significance for Hindus anarobic decomposition due to has now been reduced to a big stinking drain with no water life. low oxygen level and a high degree of pollution. Its present dissolved oxygen level is between 0.24-0.29 PPM, while it requires here after 36 months." Mishra 4 PPM to support aquatic life. These readings were taken dur-Entering via the Boat Club ing the journey while the water quality was tested at ten points by DJB engineers and chemists on multiple parameters.

> The officials said the river 'appears' to be more dirty due to the presence of sludge at the bottom.

is no ecology. On the other had, the water is not as bad as it appears to be, we just need to work on four major parameters and with collective afforts in three to five years," said an er Yamuna Board. official.

The rotten drain from Najafgarh was cited as the cause of 90 per cent of the pollution created by the combined 21 other untreated sewers. DJB officials said it will be trapped and routed to sewage treatment plants "The sludge further creates (STPs) before December 2016.

While STPs are in the hands which the river stinks and there of Delhi Government, managing solid waste is under the jurisdiction of MCD, though officials said 'other arrangements are being planned'.

The minimum flow is under we can create a clean Yamuna the jurisdiction of Upper Riv-

> We must remember that before we think about our Mother River Yamuna becoming a Thames or Danube, we have to first clean it with commitment. Our team at DJB has also collected various samples and performed water quality tests. which I will personally monitor."

said Kapil Mishra.

He blamed the previous government's lack of political will as the reason behind the present condition of Yamuna. "We will make cleaning of the Yamuna a public movement. Thousands of crores were spent in the name of cleaning of Yamuna river in last 10-20 years but to no avail," he added.

Officials from DJB said there are 33 STPs in Delhi and 15 new ones would also be set up in the next two years.

The Yamuna is currently being polluted by 21 major drains and hundreds of smaller drains where untreated sewage and effluents are flowing without any control.

The mission included the Principal Committee formed by NGT in January this year to assess the shortcomings and gaps in information, to form a plan and execute it. The committee headed by Secretary Ministry of Water Resources Sashi Shikhar, includes officials from DJB, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Central Pollution Control Board and Flood Control.

A set-back though was that MCD, also part of the committee which is responsible to manage solid waste from the river. gave the survey a miss.

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Groundwater management is critical for survival

S K Sarkar

ven as the Met department's prediction of monsoon rain deficit in the country is affecting forecasts of country's economic buoyancy, the consequent danger of stress on groundwater resources posed by it is less highlighted. On an average, 61 per cent of net annual available groundwater is consumed for various purposes. The states facing severe groundwater overdraft are Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. The picture, as provided by NASA's satellite data (2009) is grim, and shows that in northern India, the ground water levels are declining by an average of one foot per year! Additional extraction of groundwater due to deficit monsoon is likely to take the level of stress to danger levels.

The depletion of ground water is faster in recent years due to various factors: increasing demand for agricultural, domestic and industrial uses; change in cropping pattern, especially growing of paddy and cash crops in non-traditional areas, large extraction of ground water due to drought; subsidised electricity price for ground water extraction in some states; rapid pace of urbanization resulting in blocking of natural recharging of aquifers, and so on.

Chronic overdraft of ground water resources has adverse consequences such as land subsidence, increased energy costs and water quality degradation which impact on surface water rights and the ecosystem. Since the water system is interconnected, when ground water is depleted stream flow depletion takes place which also affects aquatic habitats. A recent report of groundwater contamination in villages around the Kali river in western UP due to river water contamination reaffirms the symbiotic relationship between surface and ground water in many ways, and calls for holistic action for water resources management.

There are 14 principal aquifers in the country. In the past, certain initiatives such as the mapping and management of entire aquifers



were undertaken by the Central government. The progress so far is not significant. Out of about 23 lakh square kilometer mappable area, only about 6 lakh square km has been mapped by the central government. Unfortunately, using such maps for aquifer management (including their recharging) along with stakeholder participation is yet to make a visible impact on the ground. What we also need is establishment of ground water management entities at the local level to effectively implement this program.

Who owns the groundwater? Current water rights system assigns the ownership of groundwater to the person who owns the land above the ground water. Thus the 'tragedy of commons' starts: each person's need of groundwater is met irrespective of the health of the common groundwater resources. There is a big challenge in effectively managing groundwater aquifers with multiple owning entities and overlapping jurisdictions. The legislative and policy response to address this problem has yet to take place.

The supply-side augmentation of ground water through scientific development of ground water resources or finding new resources through using advanced technology has to be pursued with much vigour. Similarly demand-side management of ground water through increasing water use efficiency, using proper pricing mech-

anism, etc, has also to be carried forward across the states.

Since ground water is mostly used in agriculture, increasing water use efficiency in this sector is extremely important. Certain efforts in this direction are noticeable in western and southern India like use of drip and sprinkler irrigation, but other parts of the country have not yet given this aspect a high priority. Improving such efficiency in agriculture also implies a relook at the cropping pattern in states, especially where there is a groundwater overdraft. Motivating farmers to change their cropping pattern requires a massive mobilization program, for which the NGOs/CSOs can be useful partners with the governments.

Integrated water management is necessary for sustainable water management. There is a need to undertake efforts to move 'wet year water' into ground water storage for its use during drought conditions. Volatility of surface water supplies due to climate change impacts will have adverse effect on use of groundwater resources in the coming years. The immediate challenge is to ensure that policy makers realize that effective groundwater management is as crying a need for India's development as socio-economic reforms.

THE WRITER IS A DISTINGUISHED FELLOW AND DIRECTOR. WATER RESOURCES DIVISION IN TERI, NEW DELHI AND A FORMER SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

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AP links Godavari, Krishna Andhra Pradesh witnessed a

Andhra Pradesh witnessed a historic moment on Wednesay when the decades-old dream of inter-linking of rivers was realised. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu switched on the pump at Ibrahimpatnam village near Vijaywada, releasing water from the Godavari into Krishna, an occasion that set off celebrations across the region. P10

6 decades on, Andhra links Godavari with Krishna

Suresh Dharur

Tribune News Service

HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 16

Andhra Pradesh witnessed a historic moment today when the decades-old dream of inter-linking of rivers was realised. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu switched on the pump at Ibrahimpatnam village near Vijaywada, releasing water from the Godavari into Krishna, an occasion that set off celebrations across the region.

Though the idea of interlinking of rivers has been on the drawing board for over six decades, it is the first time that the water from one river basin has been successfully diverted to the other to meet the irrigation and drinking water needs in the backward regions.

In the first phase, about 80 TMC of water from the Godavari will be transferred to the Krishna basin through a lift irrigation project constructed at Pattiseema village in West Godavari district. The water will be pumped into Polavaram canal, about 4 km, from where the water would reach

Water for all regions

- In the first phase, about 80 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of water from the Godavari will be transferred to the Krishna basin through a lift irrigation project constructed at Pattiseema village in West Godavari district
- ■The Andhra Pradesh government plans to harness at least 200 to 300 TMC of Godavari water and use it to fill reservoirs, tanks and lakes in the Rayalaseema and other backward regions
- Every year about 3,000 TMC of Godavari water flows into the Bay of Bengal unutilised while there is hardly enough water in the Krishna basin
- The Inter-linking of rivers has been on the cards since eminent engineer KL Rao was the Water Resources Minister in the Union Cabinet in 1950s

the Krishna barrage at Vijayawada after travelling a distance of over 175 km. By next year, 24 vertical turbine pumps of 4,611 HP each will lift and pump the water through 12 rows of pipelines into the canal.

"The inter-linking of rivers has been on the cards from the days when eminent engineer KL Rao was the Water Resources Minister in the Union Cabinet in 1950s. The plan was revived during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's NDA government. But, this is the first time ever

that it has been implemented," said P Prabhakar, Advisor (Communications) to the Andhra Pradesh government. The place of confluence of the two rivers near Ibrahimpatnam would be developed as a tourist spot, he said.

It is estimated that every year about 3000 TMC of Godavari water flows into the Bay of Bengal unutilised while there is hardly enough water in the Krishna basin. "Our objective is to harness at least 200 to 300 TMC of water and

divert it to Krishna basin, which can be later used in the Rayalaseema region where all the reservoirs, tanks and lakes can be filled up. This interlinking through the Pattiseema project will help drought-proof the state," State Irrigation Minister D Uma Maheshwara Rao said.

The Chief Minister, his cabinet colleagues, local MPs and MLAs and thousands of farmers from almost all the 13 district of the state witnessed the release of Godavari waters into Krishna river. Hailing it as South India's first river integration project, the Chief Minister said the Rs 1,300 crore project had helped resolve the water sharing disputes with Telangana in drawing water from Srisailam and Nagarjunasagar dams for irrigation in Krishna delta region.

The project, completed within a record time of six months, involved construction of a 54-km-long link canal and installation of high capacity portable pumps. The project will irrigate 7 lakh acres.

3.00

Major relief for dry Rayalaseema, farmers to benefit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: With the launch of the Pattiseema lift irrigation scheme in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday, the Godavari was formally connected with the Krishna, and the country took a large step towards its ambitions but long pending goal to interlink major rivers to eventually form a national water grid.

The 174-km Pattiseenia project is not part of the original nationwide inter-state river-linking scheme — the



Priests perform puja on the banks of the Krishna

first instance of the national project is the Ken-Beiwa connection which will be launched in December this year. However, its significance lies in the fact that it addresses water scarcity in Rayalaseema region and is the first major intra-state river-linking plan.

The Pattiseema project lifts flood water from the Godavari and pumps it into the Polavaram right canal that empties into the river Krishna in Vijayawada. The interlinking of Godavari-Krishna has been on the anvil for aimost five decades. Thousands of farmers in Krishna. Guntur. Prakasam. Kurnool, Kadapa. Anantapur and Chittoor districts will gain from the Godavari-Krishna

linkage. About 17 lakh acres including 13 lakh acres in the Krishna delta will get assured irrigation water for two crops round the year Thousands of villages en route will get drinking water supplies.

The next in the pipeline under the national project is the interlinking of Ken (Madhya Pradesh) and Betwa (Uttar Pradesh) rivers. Though Ken-Betwa was touted to be the first river interlink project, under the revised national scheme, AP chief minister N Chandrabahu Naidu hurried through the scheme and completed it in record eight months.

The national river interlink project was first conceived about two centuries ago by British engineer Sir Arthur Cotton, who designed the anicuts across the Godavari at Dhowlaiswaram and the Krishna in Vijayawada. The idea was revived by eminent engineer-politician Dr KL Rao about five decades ago. The Polavaram-Vijayawada link was proposed by Dr Rao. Later TDP founder-president and former chief minister NT Rama Rao and former chief minister YS Rajasekhar Reddy too played a key role on the Andhra project.

At the national level, the river interlinking project will benefit millions of farmers in north India and down the Vindhyas. The Centre has proposed to create 3.000 storage tanks. A whopping 174 billion cubic metres (BCM) of water will be distributed through canals that run for 14,900 km across the county.

The Centre has also appointed a high-powered task force on the interlinking of the rivers, which once completed will bring an additional 35 million hectares under irrigation. The task force has been given a deadline of 2016 to submit its report.

How Andhra CM linked rivers, delinked netas

Syed.Akbar@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: The Pattiseema project will bring huge dividends to water-starved farmers of the Krishna Delta, reason both the TDP and YSR Congress have been vying with each other to claim credit for it.

TDP claims it completed the 174-km-long project that'll fetch flood water from Godavari to Krishna, YSR Congress alleges Naidu's government squandered public money and simply changed the project's name. It argues that most of the work on the Pattiseema (Polavaram) canal was completed during late CM YS Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure.

To claim sole credit, the TDP government removed the name 'Indira' from Polavarant Indira Sagar. It had to convince Godavari delta farmers that diversion of 80 tmc fl of water to the Krishna delta. India's rice bowl, won't impact their irrigation interests. CM Chandrababu Naidu scored a political point



Andhra CM N Chandrababu Naidu and other ministers perform a puja near Vijayawada where the Godavari's water was linked to Krishna river

when he said the 80 tmc ft water thus 'saved' from the Srisailam and Nagarjunasagar dams on the Krishna could be diverted to Rayalaseema's parched districts.

Contrary to TDP's claim, Godavari and the Krishna have been 'interlinked' earlier Andhra Pradesh, in fact, is south India's only state with all major rivers. Godavari, Krishna, Pennar and Tungabhadra, interlinked. Two of the three major linkages were carried out by the British

Almost 160 years ago Krishna was connected to Godavari albeit for navigation. Today's Pattiseema scheme is a pure irrigation one. The Eluru canals from Godavari and Krishna meet at Malkapuram village to form part of the Kakinada-Pondicherry Buckingham canal. The two Eluru canals also meet the Tammileru rivulei that drains into the Kolleru lake.

More recently the Telugu Ganga Project that supplies drinking water to Chennat, connected Krishna with Pennar and with Kandaleru before reaching Chennai. Then, over 130 years ago river Tungabhadra was joined to Pennar via the Kurnool-Cuddapalı (KC) canal.

The Pattiseema, however, is the first intra-state project that's seen completion under the revised national river linking project. The mega project meets Krishna delta's irrigation needs and brings large volumes of Godavari's waters into river Krishna, upstream of Vijayawada's Prakasam Barrage.

off 'pavitra sangam'

Times News Network

Vijayawada: Andhra CM N Chandrababu Naidu commissioned the much-touted Pattiseema scheme in West Godavari district in a ceremony on river Krishna's banks.

The function at Ferry village, Ibrahimpatnam, where Godavari's water will drain into Krishna was marked by special pujas and chanting of Vedic hymns that "welcomed" Godavari to the Krishna. Naidu cracked open a coconut but in the second part of the ceremony at Pattiseema, could not switch on the first motor pump on river Godavari as the pumps were not ready.

Naidu was originally scheduled to switch on the motor at Pattiseema on Godavari and later address the public meeting in Ferry on Krishna's bank near Vijayawada. But heavy rains in Pattiseema forced a change in schedule. He addressed the meeting first and later visited Pattiseema.

The scheme lifts water from the Godavari and lets it into

the Godavari and lets it into the Krishna through 24 motor pumps at Pattiseema village.

At Krishna's end of the new canal, an air of festivity marked fishing hamlet Ferry as villagers from near and far gathered to witness the event. Calling the scheme "historic".

Cailing the scheme "historic",
Naidu claimed Andhra
will be drought-proof in the
next five years as his government planned to connect
Krishna with Pennar too.
Naidu unveiled a pylon at Ibrahimpatnam.

rahimpatnam.

"I was attacked 12 years ago when I was on my way to Tiriipati. Lord Venkateswara saved ine and now I think I survived only to accomplish this great cause — 'pavitra sangam' (holy confluence of the two perennial rivers) which will prove to be the lifeline for many districts. I have never been so overwhelmed", he said.

LINKING 5

THE PROJECT

** Pattiseema, a lift irrigation project, interlinks Godavari and Krishna rivers through the Polavaram right canal

-- The canal traverses for 174 km through West Godavari and Krishna districts in AP

**About 80 tmc ft of water will be pumped into the Polavaram canal. An additional 40 tmc ft water is tapped en route through seasonal streams linked to the canal

... It is a **temporary project**. Once the Polavaram dam is completed, the right canal will be linked to the dam

Pattiseema is the first project to be completed under the revised national river interlinking project

AP has earlier interlinked the Tungabhadra with the Pennar through the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal and the Krishna with the Pennar

WHAT'S GOOD

The Pattiseema scheme is largely beneficial to farmers in the Krishna delta — 13 lakh acres spread over Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam districts

The AP government proposes to divert 80 tmc ft of water it saves from the Krishna river reservoirs (Nagarjunasagar and Srisailam) to the dry Rayalaseema region

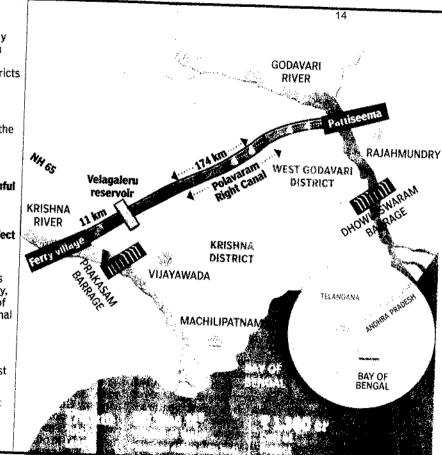
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**Pattiseema may prove to be harmful to the environment. Interlinking of rivers is fraught with ecological loss. Since the rivers have different environments, mixing water may affect aquatic life.

The new canal will recharge the groundwater more than needed. This will lift up the water table abnormally, causing damage to the root system of the plants and crops all along the canal. The Pattiseema is linked to the

Budameru (river) diversion channel. If there's **flooding in Budameru**, Vijayawada, parts of Krishna and West Godavari districts may be affected

if Farmers in **West Godavari** fear that **inflow** into Godavari delta system will get **reduced** if water is diverted to Krishna



Babus bear stench of Yamuna on boat ride

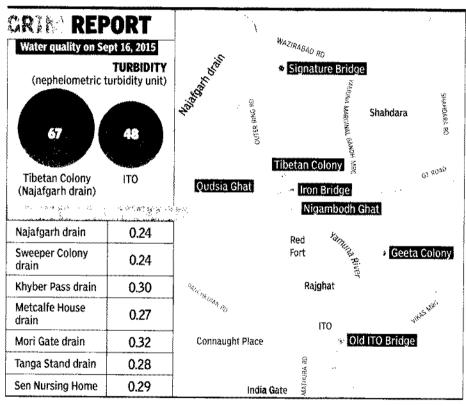
Thousands Of Crores Spent And Four Committees Supervise Rejuvenation, But Fail To Revive 'Dead' River

Neba.Lalchandani @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: It's a know fact that the Yamuna is poilnted, but to what extent the river has to struggle through the capital can only be evident when, and if you are brave enough, you take a boat ride through it. On Wednesday, senior officials of Delhi government set out to inspect the river and see the kind of encroachments—that—have come up along it.

Tourism minister Kapil Mishra had claimed that the river water will be of bathing quality within three years, but at present the Yamnna is a swamp of tar-coloured toxic waste, its water bubbling ominously as noxious fumes are emitted by the untreated sewage flowing through it.

Several thousand crores have been spent on cleaning the Yamuna over the years but to absolutely no effect. There are at least four committees or agencies supervising rejuvenation of the river — including a high powered committee, a unified centre. a Yamuna riverfront development project and a biodiversity foundation - but they have done nothing to revive the "dead" river. Delhi-Jal Board's interceptor sewer system will be operational by March 2016 which, officials claim, will show a reasonable improvement in wa-



TO GET TO COMMON EMPORATOR PROMINED AND A COMMON ASSESSMENT

terquality.

On Wednesday, as four boats moved through the sluggish waters between Wazirabad and ITO, it became clear to the senior officials on the fact-finding mission that reviving the Yamma is not going to be an easy task. At various points, especially at the mouth of drains, many of which are spewing untreated

sewage into the river, the stench is imbearable and only 15 minutes on the boat is sufficient to make you sick because of the methane emission.

Behind the Tibetan Colony, a couple of dead fish bebbed between plastic packets and bottles. Downstream, on the way to ITO, the city's religious connect with the

river takes shape. Crematoriums, including a couple of unauthorized sites, temples and ghats line the river while every few metres marigold flowers dot the black sludge,

"We found dissolved oxygen levels extremely low in the water. It should be a minimum of 4 ppm and if it falls below 2 ppm the water is not conducive to survival of even

fish. We also thought that the levels would increase slightly between Wazirabad and ITO, but the rise was only 0.3-0.4 ppm. This means that the river has lost the ability to rejuvenate itself," said Sanjay in Sharma of Water Workers

Alliance.

Officials have identified a major task for rejuvenation of the river — by removing

the thick layer of silt formed due to sewage on the riverbed. The river appears black as it reflects this layer. The silt is also probably leading to loss of groundwater recharge. "The government will probably involve the Centre or get the National Green Tribunal to permit this work. The bubbles on the water surface are also due to

accumulated sludge," said an official.

Other major works identified to clean the river are trapping of nallahs at their outflow points, allowing a reasonable flow for which Delhi may also consider storing monsoou flow to release back in the Yamuna during dry months and greening the banks at various points.



ORA 2010 CIE. 2010 R VOID At present, the Yamuna is a swamp of tar-coloured toxic waste. Its water bubbles ominously as noxious fumes are emitted by the untreated sewage

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Rain may make comeback today, one last time

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Deprived of rain since August 24, Delhi will witness a comeback of the monsoon possibly one last time before the system withdraws from northwest India. The Met department has predicted isolated thundershowers from Thursday, which will intensify into widespread showers by September 20.

"There is a depression over south Chhattisgarh at present which will move in a northwesterly direction towards Gujarat and south Rajasthan. Due to this, the winds, which had been westerly for a very long time, have already started becoming easterly. These winds are bringing in moisture from the Bay of Bengal," said BP Yaday, director, IMD.

day, director, IMD.
"Right now, because it is so hot over the plains, local convection will take place leading to isolated thunder storms. However, as the system moves over Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, the chances of rain will increase considerably. The winds will interact with a western disturbance and pull in more moisture from the Arabian Sea, which will draw the system towards Rajasthan. At this point, the intensity and duration of rainfall will rise and between September 20 and 22 we expect widespread showers over most parts of northwest India," Yaday added.

An official said that the final phase of the approaching spell will be typically monsoon like, marked by cloudy days and intermittent rain throughout the day.

While withdrawal of mon- 121mm.

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Chennai	17	Good
US Embassy data calculated as per Indian standards by SAFAR@MoES-ITM-IMD Based on 1 Station Data Per City at 4pm		

soon from India started on September 4, the system has been stuck over Amritsar, Hisar, Ajmer and Barmer for over a week. The normal date of withdrawal of monsoon from Delhi is September 21, though the city has not witnessed any rainfall activity so far this month.

The city had witnessed extremely good rainfall till the end of July after which it became highly sporadic, coming to a complete stop by August 24. Between June 1 and September 16, Delhi recorded 493mm rainfall, a deficit of 121mm.

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यमुना की सफाई कर लगाऊंगा

नेवा **डबकी : कृपिल** ■ प्रस, नई दिल्ली : यमुन की सफई के लिए दिल्ली सरकार की ओर से की जा रही नई पहल के तहत बुधवार को पहली बार डीडीए, डीएसआईआईडीसी, दिल्ली जल बोर्ड और दिल्ली पॉल्यूशन कंट्रोल कमिटी के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने केविनेट मंत्री कपिल मिश्रा के साथ मिलकर यमुना नदी का जॉइंट सर्वे किया। इन लोगों ने बोट में बैठकर वर्जीसम्बद बैराज से लेकर आईटीओ ब्रिज तक यमुना नदी का दौरा किया। इस दौरान दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के इंजीनियों ने यमुन नहीं के पानी की गुणवता नापने के लिए अलग-अलग जगहों से पानी के सैपल भी कलेक्ट किए। इस दौरान यह फैसला किया गया कि नजफगढ़ नाले समेत यमुना में गिरने वाले 20 अन्य बड़े नालों को जल्द से जल्द साफ किया जाएगा और ऐसी व्यवस्था की जाएगी, जिससे यमुना में गंदगी ना जाए। जल संसाधन मंत्री और जल बोर्ड के चेयरमैन कांपल मिश्रा ने दावा किया कि यमुना की सफाई के लिए सरकार पूरी तरह से डेडिकेट है और उन्होंने निजी तौर पर यह लक्ष्य तय किया है कि तीन साल के अंदर यमुना को इतना साफ कर देना है कि वह खुद भी उसमें नहा सकें।

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काश्मीर में बाढ़ से तबाही

श्रीनगर, १६ सितम्बर। संस्थार को काश्मीर के बाइग्रस्त इलाके में जाने पर सबसे पहला असर मन में यह हुआ कि अवन्तीपुर से काकापुर तक सात मील लम्बी जलधार चली गई है और जमीन्दारों के घर वर्षा के कारण द्वीप के रूप में नजर आते हैं। श्रीनगर से जम्मू तक जाने वाली सड़क अभी तक बन्द है। अवन्तीपुर से ऊपर संघपुल तक सड़क अभी तक पानी में है और उसको पार नहीं किया जा सकता। इंसलिए अवन्तीपुर के परे बाढ़ ने क्या तबाही मचाई है, यह नहीं कहा जा सकता। वह सम्बाददाता नेशनल कान्फ्रेंस के कुछ सदस्यों और शेख मो. अब्दुल्ला के साथ बाव पर सबार होकर पदक्का है। इस संख्या में किसानों ने आकर अपनी दुःख भरी कहानी सुनाई और बताया कि किस प्रकार वे अकस्मात बाढ़ आने से चिकत रह गए और उन्होंने अगले क्षण अपने आप को दुनिया से अलग कटा हुआ पाया। बदि ६ इंच और अधिक पानी पड़ जाता, तो सारा गांव नष्ट हो जाता। जांच करने से मालूम हुआ कि लगभग तीस गांव सर्वथा पानी से घिरे हुए हैं। इन गांवों की सारी फसल नष्ट हो गई है। अभी तक किसी के मरने का समाचार नहीं मिला है। यहाप कुछ गांवों में मकान वह गए हैं और कुछ पानी में दूब गए हैं। कहा जाता है कि २० गांवों की सारी फसल बह गई है।

17 रिसंबर, 1941 को प्रकारित

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मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू ने गोदावरी नदी का पानी कृष्णा नदी में छोड़ा

आंध्र में गोदावरी-कृष्णा नदियां जुड़ीं

विजयवाड़ा एमेंसियां

नदियों के जोड़ने के मिशन के तहत ऐतिहासिक कदम उठाते हुए बुधवार को गोदावरी को औपचारिक तौर पर कृष्णा नदी से जोड़ दिया गया। आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू ने गोदावरी नदी का पानी कृष्णा नदी में छोड़ा। इसके साथ ही यह नदियां आधिकारिक रूप से एक-दूसरे से जुड़ गईं। इब्राहिमपट्नम गांव के समीप आयोजित कार्यक्रम में इस योजना को अंतिम रूप दिया गया।

इस अवसर पर नायडू ने कहा कि कई दशक पहले ही प्रख्यात इंजीनियर और पूर्व केंद्रीय मंत्री के.एल. राव ने नदियों को आपस में जोड़ने का विचार प्रस्तुत कर इतिहास रचने की शुरुआत कर दी थी। इन दोनों नदियों के औपचारिक रूप से आपस में जुड़ जाने से कृष्णा और गोदावरी जिले के किसानों को लाभ मिलेगा। अलमात्ती बांध का निर्माण उत्तरी कर्नाटक के कृष्णा नदी पर हुआ है जो एक पनबिजली योजना है। इसका निर्माण जुलाई 2005 में पूरा किया गया था।

नायडू ने कहा कि इसकी अनदेखी के बावजूद भी यह कार्यक्रम सफल रहा। इसके बाद मुख्यमंत्री ने पश्चिमी गोदावरी में पहली सिंचाई योजना पत्तीसीमा को अधिस्थित किया।

'नदी जोड़ने की योजना खतरनाक'

नई दिल्ली। गांधीवादी विचारक और जल विशेषज्ञ अनुपम मिश्र ने नदियों को परस्पर



जोड़ने की सरकारी योजना को खतरनाक करार दिया है। मिश्र ने कहा, यह भारत भूम हजार नहीं, बल्कि लाखों वर्षों की मेहनत से बनी है। इसके उतार चढ़ाव पर अनेक नदियां बही हैं। उन्होंने कहा, ठीक से पांच बरस भी न चल सकने वाली गिरती-पड़ती सरकारें आज हमारी इन नदियों को दो चार बरस में जोड़ देने की योजनाएं विकास के नाम पर बनाती हैं।

उन्होंने कहा,देश के कितने ही भागों में अकास जैसी परिस्थितिया है। लेकिन इसके बारे में कोई चर्चा नहीं होती।



आंद्र प्रदेश में कृष्णा और गोदावरी नदी को जोड़ने वाली नहर। = कहल कोटो

७ लाख एकड़ जमीन को पानी मिलेगा

बाढ़ के लिहाज से संवेदनशील गोदावरी नदी को कृष्णा नदी से जोड़ने की अधि सरकार की दशकों पुरानी योजना बुचवार को साकार हो गई। अधिकरियों के मुताबिक इस परियोजना के तहत चार माह लंबे बारिश के नौसम में गोदावरी नदी का 80 टीएमसी पानी कृष्णा नदी में छोड़ा जा सकेगा। 10 टीएमसी पानी घरेलू और औद्योगिक उपयोग के लिए उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा। जबकि 70 टीएमसी पानी का इस्तेमाल खेती में होगा। जानकार इतने पानी को 7 लाख एकड़ में बोई घान की फसलों की सिचाई के लिए पर्याप्त मानते हैं।

कृष्णा-गोदावरी प्रोजेक्ट

3,000

टीएमसी गोदावरी नदी का पानी हर साल वह जाता है बंगाल की खाड़ी में

10% पानी इसमें से कृष्णा नदी की ओर मोड़ने की कोशिशों में लगी सरकार

03 महीने (जून, जुलाई, अगस्त) कृष्णा में सिंचाई के लिए नहीं होता पर्याप्त पानी (नेट : टीएमसी वानी हजार घन फीट)

किलोमीटर की दूरी पर स्थित पोलावरम राइट मेन नहर में गोदावरी

पंप स्टीचेंगे पानी

पटटीसीमा गांव से 3.9

का पानी पहुंचाना था चुनौती

• 12 लंबी पाइपलाइन बिछाकर

अटल सरकार की पहल

- महानदी-गोदावरी-कृष्णा-फेन्नार-कावेरी-वैगई नदी जोड़ो परियोजना का एक हिस्सा है यह प्रोजेक्ट
- 1970 के दशक में दिया गया था प्रस्ताव, अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी की सरकार में तय हुआ प्रारूप
- पोलावरम बांच के जरिये कृष्णा नदी में गोदावरी का पानी छोड़ने की आंच्र सरकार की है योजना
- पांच साल और लगेंगे बांघ के निर्माण में, इसलिए पट्टीसीमा लिफ्ट सिंचाई परियोजना शुरू की

4,611 हॉसपावर क्षमता के 24 पंप लगाए गए, 8,500 क्यूसेक पानी

• 108 दिन की वर्षा अवधि में 80 टीएमसी पानी का प्रवाह मुमकिन हो "पारमा, "7,427 करोड़ रुपये प्रोजैक्ट धर आया खर्च

खींचने में होंगे सक्षम

अहम पडाव

- 01 जनवरी 2015 : ओंघ्र सरकार ने पदटीसीमा लिफ्ट सिंवाई परियोजना को दी मंजूदी
- 23 फरवरी 2015 : पट्टीसीमा (गोदावरी) से प्रकाशम बैराज (कृष्णा) तक पोलावरम राइट मेन नहर का निर्माण हुआ शुरू
- 01 सितंबर 2015 : नव-निर्मित पोलावरम नहर में छोड़ा गया गोदावरी नदी का पानी
- 16 सितंबर 2015 : 174 किलोमीटर लंबा स्कर तय कर कृष्णा नदी में पहुंचा पानी

प्रमुख प्रोजेक्ट

- केन-बेतवा परियोजना (उत्तर प्रदेश और मध्य प्रदेश)
- इंद्री-गंडक परियोजना (बिहार)
- कोसी-मेछी परियोजना (बिहार)
- कोसी-ब्रागमती परियोजना (बिहार)
- बाराकार दामोदर-स्वर्गरेखा परियोजना (झारखंड)
- कोद्भारती-महानदी (महाराष्ट्र ऑक्ट्रपर्दर्श, क्रीसम्बद, औडमा)

नदियों को जोड़ने की योजना

क्रध्या-गोटावरी को

जोड़ने वाली नहर

आंध्रप्रदेश

- आयात-निर्यात सेवा को सुचारु बनाने के लिए 19वीं सदी की शुरुआत में ब्रिटिश इंजीनियर आर्थर कॉटन ने दिया था नदियों को जोड़ने का प्रस्ताव
- आज़ादी के बाद 70 के दशक में उत्तर भारत में बाद और दक्षिण में सूखे के मद्देनजर सिंवाई मंत्री केएल राव ने 'नेशनल वॉटर ग्रिड' बनाने की सिफारिश की
- गंगा और ब्रह्मपुत्र जैसी नदियों का अतिरिक्त पानी सूखें के लिहाज से संवेदनशील मध्य, पश्चिम व दक्षिण भारत की और मोड़ने का दिया सुझाव

तीन भाग में बंटी

- 14 परियोजनाएं उत्तर में हिमालयी नदियों को ओड़ने की
- 16 परियोजनाएं दक्षिणी प्रायद्वीप की नदियों को जोड़ने की
- **37** परियोजनाएं राज्यों के बीच नदियों को जोड़ने की

विरोध भी कम नहीं

- कुछ स्थानों पर पानी के खारा होने,
 कुछ पर जलजमाव और कुछ पर
 मरुख्थलीकरण का बढेगा संकट
- जलजीवों का अस्तित्व भी खतरे में आएगा, मछुआरों के पलायन की आशंका भी बढेगी कई क्षेत्रों में

स्रोत : एजॅसियां

िलाक कि जिल्ला कि जिल्ला कि जिल्ला विकास रिवार एमाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi) नवंशास्त टाईन्स (चिल्ली) The Tribune (Chandigarh) The Hindu (Chennai)

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

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

Farmer-shepherd bond hits dry patc

Syed.Rizwanullah@timesgroup.com

Aurangabad: Earlier, they were all welcome. Shepherds from far off places with their herds of sheep always had a place to stay: farmlands. The sheep would enrich the soil with their urine and manure and the farmers would give the shepherds grain and material they needed for their daily needs.

The drought-like situation in Ma-

rathwada has not only snapped this symbiotic bond but also turned one against the other. Now farmers resent shepherds and even beat them up if they venture close to any water body. The water stock in lakes and ponds in the region is

pegged at just 8%, and farmers today fear the sheep will use up the limited stock in the water bodies.

Revannath Kisan Kale of Kalewa di in Pathardi taluka of Ahmednagar district is currently camping with his herd of 100 sheep in Sompuri, about 12 km from Bidkin in Paithan taluka, with five other shepherd families. He was beaten up by a farmer a week ago for camping close to a 50-acre farmland. "We can't go to police each time someone thrashes us. It may further annoy the farmers," he said. Kale and

other shepherds shifted base to another farm owned by a person they know.

The district collector has issued instructions to the police to keep shepherds safe, but the fear of farmers is deep-rooted. "We are living un-der constant fear," said Balasaheb Waghmode of Dindewadi in neighbouring Shevgaon taluka of Ahmed nagar. Waghmode has been wandering with a flock of 250 sheep in search of greener pastures and had even

camped in the arid backwaters of Jayak

"Several flock of thousands of sheep near Lamgavhan and other villages. But people started picking up fights over petty is.

sues and often assaulted us physically To avoid continuous harassment, some of us were shifted to Sompuri, while others went away in search of safe places, "said Waghmode.

The dhangars, as the shepherds are known, claim that the number of sheep in the state could be around three crore and thousands of herdsmen traditionally take them out grazing from place to place. Each sheep requires three to five litres of water and has to be taken to the water body three times a day.

wadi dam. were camping in the backwaters with their

दिनाकं [5, दिलांदे, 15 को निम्नालिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi) नवभारत टाईन्स (चिल्ला) The Tribune (Chandigarh) The Hindu (Chennai)

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56 villages, 1 lakh people hit by flood in Nagaon

CORRESPONDENT

NAGAON, Sept 14: As many as 56 villages in the Nagaon district are the worst flood-affected, which include 23 villages of Dhing Revenue Circle, 13 villages of Samguri Revenue Circle and 20 villages of Koliabor Revenue Circle, revealed the government data.

Nearly one lakh people were displaced in the flood and around 30,000 people took shelter in 39 relief camps in the district. The security forces were also deployed to extend necessary help to the affected people.

Nagaon district authorities provided 897.227 quintals of rice, 173.88 quintals of daal, 48.229 quintals of salt, 547 quintals of flour, 1,600 pieces of tarpaulin and 1,000 packets of candle in different relief camps in the district.

Children food and medicines were provided to the babies and pregnant women in the flood-affected areas. The Nagaon DC, Monalisha Goswami, supervised the relief operation in the district.

Ministers like Rockybul Hussain, Dr Nazrul Islam, Dr Bhumidhar Barman, Basanta According to the govern- Das, MLA Rekibuddin Ahmed,

ment records, till now the Dr Durlov Chamua, Khorsing Engti, AICC general secretary, CP Joshi, and others, visited the affected places of Dhing. They also distributed some relief materials to the people.

> Seminar: To discuss about the problems suffered by the women and girls, the Global Health Immunisation and Population Control Organisation arranged a two-day long seminar on September 15 and 16, stated a press release. It will be held at the auditorium of Gram Vikas Porishad, Rangloo. According to the organisers, several eminent persons will take part in the seminar