Brahmaputra edge lost to China

With China commissioning Zangmu Hydropower station on upper Brahmaputra earlier this month, India seems to have lost its shot at establishing lower riparian right even though awarding process for 14 projects in Arunachal had started way back in 2009



Tibet, and then enters Arunachal Pradesh. where it is known as the Siang. Further down, the Siang - after its confluence with the Dibang and Lohit - is known as the Brahmaputra. The Chinese construction activity on the dam - part of the run-of-the river Zangmu Hydropower Project that supports a 510-MW hydro station on the upper reaches of the Brahmaputra — was not exactly a secret. Even though the Chinese officially denied having any information on the project for well over a year, in April 2010, Yang Jiechi, the then Chinese Foreign Minister, officially revealed that China was actually constructing the Zangmu Dam on the river but extended the assurance that the dam was "a small project" that "will not have any impact on the river's downstream flow" into North-East India.

The assurance may have been flimsy, but the response of the Indian administration in terms of fast-tracking the Arunachal hydro projects was considerably more sluggish. For instance, between 2008 and 2010, 25 projects were put on bidding block and then allotted to various private players. When they came to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for concurrence, the apex planning body of the Ministry of Power gave clearance to 14 of these projects. Subsequently, the Central Water Commission gave clearance to the dam for most of these projects and the seismic flood safety, while the Geological Survey of India cleared the safety of terrain and modelling studies. But despite the strategic hue to these projects from an Indian standpoint, all of these clearances were not enough. Environmental clearances held up prettymuch all of the projects, with just one reaching financial closure, only to run out of

In fact, well before the shelf of these projects, two Central sector projects - NHPC Ltd's Lower Subansiri and NEEPCO's Kameng started in 2004-05 in the Eleventh Plan and were to be wrapped up by the early years of the Twelfth Plan. For these two projects, an 800kv, 6000 MW HVDC transmission line costing Rs 12,000 crore has nearly been completed by Power Grid Corporation but there is simply no electricity to evacuate from Arunachal Pradesh. Local agitation has put paid to these plans, resulting in these two projects hanging fire too. Officials in the CEA said that Kamenghasa history of inept management and contractual disputes while Lower Subansiri has been held up due to protest by Assam.

For instance, in March this year, the forest

panel of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests had shelved the 3,097 MW Etalin Hydro Electric Project in Arunachal Pradesh, pending the completion of an environment impact assessment study of the state's Dibang river basin. The Rs 25,000 crore Etalin project was to be a run-of-the-river project where little water storage was required.

The sorry state of progress on the hydel projects in his state had forced Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Nabam Tuki to erupt in anger at a meeting of the hydro task force in September 2013, where he underlined his frustration on how the foundation stone for the 3000 MW Dibang hydro project — touted as the nation's largest — was laid by no less

The sorry state of progress on the hydel projects in Arunachal Pradesh can be underlined by the fact that the foundation stone for the 3000-MW Dibang hydro project was laid by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh way back in February 2008 but had failed to move an inch because of red flags raised by the environment ministry

than then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh way back in February 2008 but had failed to move an inch because of red flags raised by the environment ministry.

Ironically, from a policy point of view, the Centre had been pushing the Arunachal Pradesh government to expedite the development of storage hydroelectric projects on the Brahmaputra. Efforts have been on toget the state to allot at least one storage hydroelectric project in each of the sub-basins of Siang, Lohit and Subansiri rivers. Even if all clearances were to come through, however, the ability of the state to execute these projects fast has been under cloud, considering that road and rail links, a prerequisite for transporting equipment to project sites, are lacking desperately in Arunachal Pradesh.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEMES CLEARED BY CEA AND YET TO BE TAKEN UP FOR CONSTRUCTION IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

NHPC'S 3,000 MW DIBANG PROJECT

Approved in Nov 2007

STATUS: FAC meeting on Sept, 2014, recommended FC (S&I) to the project with reduction in dam height by 10 m. NHPC asked to submit fresh DPR.

KSK'S 120 MW DIBBIN PROJECT

Approved in April 2009

STATUS: FC of St-I obtained on July, 2012 & stage II FC in awaited EC accorded on July, 2012.

JAYPEE'S 2,700 MW Lower Siang

Approved in February 2010 STATUS: Yet to be cleared by MoEF.

SNEL'S 120 MW NAFRA PROJECT

Approved in February 2011

STATUS: Held up for want of final orders on diversion of forest land.

BHILWARA'S 780 MW Nyamjang Chhu Project

Approved in March 2011.

STATUS: Stage-II forest clearance awaited.

NHPC'S 600MW TAWANG STAGE-I PROJECT

Approved in May 2010. STATUS: Forest clearance awaited.

THPPL'S 700 MW TATO-II PROJECT

Approved in May, 2012. STATUS: Forest clearance awaited.

NHPC'S 800 MW TAWANG ST-II CENTRAL PROJECT

Approved in September 2011 STATUS: Forest clearance stage-II awaited

ATHENA 1,750 MW DEMWE LOWER PROJECT

Approved in September 2011

STATUS: Final closure yet to be obtained

JAYPEE'S 500 MW HIRONG PROJECT

clearances awaited.

Approved in April 2013.

STATUS: Environmental & forest

EHEPCL'S 3,097 MW ETALIN PROJECT

Approved in July 2013

STATUS: Clearance yet to be obtained.

GMR'S 225 MW Talong Londa Project

Approved in August 2013 STATUS: Environmental & forest clearances awaited.

NDSCPLS 1000 MW Naying Project

Approved: September 2013

STATUS: Environmental & forest clearances awaited.

SHPPL'S 1,000 MW SIYOM PROJECT

Approved: December 2013

STATUS: Environmental & forest clearances awaited.

KALAI'S 1,200 MW KALAI-II PROJECT

Approved: March 2015
STATUS: Environmental & forest clearances awaited.

HHPPL'S 240 MW HEO PROJECT

Approved: April 2015

STATUS: Environmental & forest clearances awaited.

SHPPL'S 186 MW TATO-1 PROJECT

Approved in June 2015
STATUS: Environmental
& forest clearances
awaited.

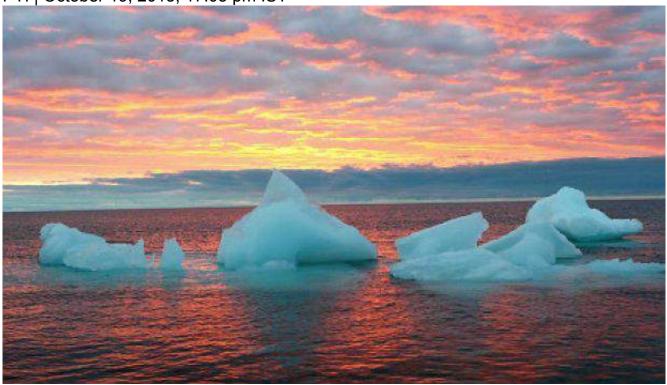
Chronicle

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Home > Climate change may lead to substantial rise in sea level

Climate change may lead to substantial rise in sea level

PTI | October 19, 2015, 17.05 pm IST



Representational Image. (Photo: AP)

Melbourne: A jump in global average temperatures of 1.5 degrees Celsius to 2 degrees Celsius will see the collapse of Antarctic ice shelves and lead to hundreds and even thousands of years of sea level rise, a new research has warned.

An international team led by Dr Nicholas Golledge, who holds a joint position at Victoria University's Antarctic Research Centre and GNS Science in New Zealand, predicted how the Antarctic ice-sheet will respond to future atmospheric warming.

Using state-of-the-art computer modelling, Dr Golledge and his colleagues simulated the ice-sheet's response to a warming climate under a range of greenhouse gas emission scenarios. They found that all but one of the scenarios (that of significantly reduced emissions beyond 2020) would lead to the loss of large parts of the Antarctic ice-sheet, which in turn would result in a substantial rise in global sea-level.

"The long reaction time of the Antarctic ice-sheet - which can take thousands of years to fully manifest its response to changes in environmental conditions - coupled with the fact that CO2 lingers in the atmosphere for a very long time means that the warming we generate now will affect the ice-sheet in ways that will be incredibly hard to undo," said Dr Golledge.

In its 2013 Assessment Report the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

predicted that the Antarctic ice sheet would contribute only 5 centimetres to global sealevel rise by the end of this century even for its warmest ('business as usual') emissions scenario.

But Professor Tim Naish, who worked with Golledge on this latest study and who was also a lead author of the IPCC report, cautioned that at the time that report was written there was insufficient scientific knowledge on how the Antarctic ice sheet might respond to future warming, meaning the IPCC sea-level projections could have been too modest.

"Our new models include processes that take place when ice sheets come into contact with the ocean. Around 93 per cent of the heat from anthropogenic global warming has gone into the ocean, and these warming ocean waters are now coming into contact with the floating margins of the Antarctic ice sheet, known as ice shelves.

"If we lose these ice shelves, the Antarctic contribution to sea-level rise by 2100 will be nearer 40 centimetres," said Dr Golledge.

To avoid the loss of the Antarctic ice shelves, and an associated commitment to many metres of sea-level rise, the study shows atmospheric warming needs to be kept below 2 degrees Celsius above present levels.

"Missing the 2 degrees Celsius target will result in an Antarctic contribution to sea-level rise that could be up to 10 metres above present day," said Dr Golledge.

"The stakes are obviously very high - 10 per cent of the world's population lives within 10 metres of present sea level," he said. The new research is published in the journal Nature.

Tags: Global warming [1]
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NATIONAL

Published: October 21, 2015 02:34 IST | Updated: October 21, 2015 02:34 IST Washington, October 21, 2015

Give attention to agriculture: M.S. Swaminathan



Varghese K. George

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statements on poverty eradication and agriculture sector indicate good intentions but they have not been translated into action on the ground yet, said M.S. Swaminathan, agriculture scientist and chairperson of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai. "A lot has been said and the Prime Minister himself is the biggest spokesman of the government. His focus on irrigation is good. But we don't see action on the ground that matches these statements," Mr. Swaminathan said, speaking on "Synergy between science and public policy for achieving the zero hunger challenge" at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

"More attention must be paid to agriculture and more autonomy must be given to science," he said, on the immediate moves that the government must make. Mr. Swaminathan said a unified national agriculture market would also go a long way in tackling the hunger challenge in India.

Without strong political will, governments would not be able to implement policies that tackled hunger. "Not only at the national level, at the State level, unless there is strong will at the level of the political leadership, even the stated policies will fail," he said, citing Tamil Nadu as an example for effective implementation of social welfare schemes. Mr. Swaminathan said ensuring assured income for farmers is the most effective incentive and the crucial tool in sustaining and managing agriculture output. "The scientific community must take up the responsibility of more political and public education in order to prompt better public policies," he said.

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SUSTAINABLE TRADITIONS

Village in Odisha sows hope in parched farm death zone



Water conservation practices at Kharamal village in Odisha have led to lush green paddy fields.

ARABINDA MAHAPATRA/HT

Priya Ranjan Sahu

KHARAMAL: Patches of green flush with paddy and vegetables stand out amid the drought-ravaged cropland of Odisha's Bargarh district, the state's rice bowl besieged by a spate of farmer sulcides. On one such plot, 37-year

old Sitaram Majhi waters his vegetable crop — a rarity in an area thirsting for water because of scanty rainfall.

The one-time migrant labourer, who worked at brick kilns in Andhra Pradesh, is a

successful farmer now with traditional ways of conserv-ing water keeping his three-acre farm at Kharamal vil-lage, more than 500km from

lage, more than south from Bhubaneswar, well-soaked. Majhi is an expert in digging chahalas — small ponds for water harvesting — and main-taining vermicompost pits after a training stint organised by a

voluntary organisation, MASS. Kharamal has about 100 families. Till a decade ago, villagers migrated to brick kilns in Andhra Pradesh and farm-lands in Haryana after three decades of bad rain.

With support from MASS, they started plantation on catchment areas, built check dams and revived defunct water reservoirs. The results began to show in three years. Cultivable area increased from around 70 acres to 250 acres.

Tula Amari, a farmer from a neighbouring village, shares a similar story, "An area known for drought and migration gradually turned green with the moisture content and soil quality of the ground drastically improving. Now very few villagers leave home for work." Elsewhere in the district, the

spectre of crop failure looms.
"About 60% of my paddy
saplings have been damaged.
And if it does not rain within
a week, I will be completely
ruined," said Bisambar Patra,
a farmer from Hirapur village.
Debt and drought have

forced at least 12 farmers in Odisha to commit suicide since January, though the unofficial

death toll is pegged at 25. Water activist Ranjan Panda said small and marginal farmers produce about one-third of the world's food, yet never figure in the global debate on climate change.

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Improve solid waste management or face action, 184 civic bodies told

Vishwa Mohan,TNN | Oct 21, 2015, 06.29 AM IST

NEW DELHI: Taking note of its internal report which showed severe negligence on part of municipal bodies in managing solid waste, the central pollution watchdog has issued notices to civic authorities of 184 cities/towns across the country asking them to pull up their socks or face action.

Besides, the environment ministry has decided to depute 20 joint secretary-level officers to undertake assessment and periodic review of all 43 Critically Polluted Areas (CPAs) - mainly industrial clusters -- across the country to see whether the central action plan is being properly implemented or not to minimize the impact of pollution.

The country's CPAs include Delhi's Najafgarh drain basin area, Faridabad, Panipat, Ghaziabad, Noida, Agra, Kanpur, Korba, Ahmedabad, Ankleshwar, Bhavnagar, Vapi, Vatva, Dhanbad, Mangalore, Greater Kochi, Indore, Chandrapur, Navi Mumbai, Chandrapur, Tarapur, Angul Talchar, Ludhiana, Bhiwadi, Pali, Jodhpur, Visakhapatnam, Asansol and Haldia among others.

At present, seven of these CPAs come under a moratorium on consideration of any developmental project for environmental clearance. These include Ankleshwar and Vatva (Gujarat), Chandrapur (Maharashtra), Pali and Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Vellore (Tamil Nadu) and Najafgarh drain basin (Delhi).

Under the notices to civic authorities, municipal commissioners have been asked to complete all civic formalities and "seek consent" under the Water Act within 60 days to set up sewage and solid waste management facilities.

"Once they finalize the plan and get the required consent in two months, the Centre will pitch in to help the state in setting up these facilities in a time-bound manner," an environment ministry official said.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), in its notices, also asked civic bodies to statutorily comply with provisions of the Water Pollution Control Act and rules relating to Municipal Solid Waste Management. "These directions under the Act are statutory and non-compliance of these directives will attract legal proceedings under the law," it said.

If the local officers fail to adhere to dos and don'ts under the existing laws and dither on complying with the notices of the central pollution watchdog, they will be deemed to be guilty under the Water Act and the Environment Protection Act and will be liable to be proceeded against in a court of law.

"An officer will, however, not be liable to any punishment if he/she proves that the offence was committed without his/her knowledge or that he/she exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence," the official said while explaining the action which may be taken against erring officers.

The CPCB swung into action after it observed that waste dumped unscientifically into landfills was causing serious environmental damage including water and air pollution. It also noted that majority of the civic authorities did not have a systematic, time-bound action plan for management of municipal work.

Highlighting these action, environment and forest minister Prakash Javadekar on Tuesday said the 'Swachh Bharat' campaign could not happen without the wholehearted participation of municipal/civic corporations and gram panchayats.

"We are finalizing Waste Management Rules and will be publishing these Rules by the year-end. Our inspection has brought to the fore a dismal picture of negligence by some municipalities towards municipal Solid Waste Management," Javadekar said in a statement.

On critically polluted areas, the minister said, "We have provided transparent processes, done away with delays and enabled ease of doing business for responsible businesses. Now, our thrust will be on compliance."

Issuing notices to civic authorities of 184 towns, the CPCB rued that the municipal authorities have not given due attention for ensuring proper management of domestic sewage and municipal Solid Waste. "The sewage is disposed off into rivers, lakes or allowed to seep into the groundwater. This has resulted in worsening of groundwater quality and caused many water-borne diseases", it said.

Accordingly, the pollution watchdog directed the civic authorities not to dispose off untreated sewage into the river or any water bodies and set up set up Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) of adequate capacity and provide sewerage system to cover the entire urban areas.

The municipal authorities have also been asked to submit a time-bound action plan for proper collection, treatment and disposal of sewage. "Such plan shall be submitted by the municipal authority to the state pollution control board (SPCB) with copy to the CPCB within a period of 90 days", it said.

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FROM AROUND THE WEE



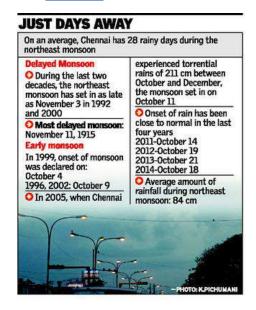
THEMOMHINDU

NATIONAL » TAMIL NADU

Published: October 20, 2015 00:00 IST | Updated: October 20, 2015 07:50 IST October 20, 2015

Northeast monsoon may be delayed by six days

• K. Lakshmi



That cool breeze and fresh earthy smell of rain that herald the onset of the northeast monsoon may take a while coming to the city. The Meteorological Department has forecast that rain may be delayed by five-six days.

Monday was rather hot and sultry for October as the day temperature soared to 33.8 degree Celsius, two degrees above average for the season. Meteorologists attribute this to lack of moisture in the air. While the southwest monsoon completely withdrew on Monday, the conditions are not yet favourable for the northeast monsoon to set in.

According to met department officials, the monsoon normally sets in around October 20. Chennai may get light showers because of an upper air circulation in the Comorin area. "It is normal for the monsoon to be early or late by up to seven days. What is more important is the amount of rainfall it brings," said S. R. Ramanan, director, Area Cyclone Warning Centre.

A typhoon in Philippines that made landfall on Saturday was a major reason behind the delay in the onset of monsoon, added officials.

K. Srikanth who blogs at Chennaiyil Oru Mazhaikalam said: "The typhoon that made landfall in Philippines has changed the wind pattern around Andaman Islands, which usually pushes moisture to the Tamil Nadu coast."

Mr. Srikanth said weather factors like El-nino are likely to be favourable for the monsoon. Chennai has experienced above-average rainfall on nearly 70 per cent of the El-nino years from 1966. A recent El-nino year was 2006 when the city had excess rainfall by 32 per cent.

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CLIMATE CHANGE, INCREASE IN LAND USE AND POPULATION GROWTH

Severe water shortage likely to hit Nepal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Washington, 20 October

Climate change, increase in agricultural land use and population growth may lead to severe water shortage in Nepal in the coming decades, according to a new study.

Using a sophisticated modelling tool called the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT), researchers at the Baylor University were able to account for land use, soil types, topography and meteorology to predict future climate change and project snow-melt and stream flow to assess the effects of land use on water availability in Nepal.

They found that climatic changes, increase in agricultural land use and population growth in the



Himalaya Mountain basins could have negative impacts on water availability, further stressing a region plagued by natural disasters and food insecurity.

The findings indicate that the region - especially during low flow seasons - may be at severe risk for water shortages.

"This study is very important in a country like Nepal since the research is primarily focused for estimating the effects of potential climate variability and landuse changes on water flow processes of specific Himalaya Mountain systems. Water availability has become problematic

due to changing climate and land management practices in this region," said the study's lead author Ram P Neupane, a postdoctoral research associate at South Dakota State University.

In a country where roughly 70 per cent of the population is dependent on agriculture, this could signal major problems for the most vulnerable in the region - those in poverty.

"The Nepalese population in this region will face many challenges over the coming decades as soil degrades and water resources continue to place enormous strains on food production and intensify recent trends of subsequent malnutrition, particularly in young children," said Sara E Alexander, associate professor of anthropology in

Baylor's College of Arts & Sciences and director of the Institute of Archaeology.

"In mountain regions, continuing climate change exaggerates impacts of temperature and precipitation," said Joseph D White, professor of biology in Baylor's College of Arts & Sciences.

"This research highlights how geography plays a role in what potential impacts climate change is having on stream flow and erosion in this steep landscape," White said.

"From west to east in Nepal, roughly equivalent to the distance between Lubbock and Houston, differences in land use practices emerge as an important factor for future water conservation efforts," said White.





















गंगा में सीवेज डालने वाले १८४ नगर निकायों से जवाब तलब

सरद्वं

नई दिल्ली विशेष संवाददाता

केंद्रीय प्रदषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (सीपीसीबी) ने सीवेज को शोधन के बगैर गंगा एवं अन्य नदियों में छोड़े जाने पर 184 नगर निकायों को नोटिस जारी किए हैं। नोटिस में इस पर तुरंत रोक लगाने के साथ इस समस्या के स्थाई समाधान के लिए 60 दिनों के भीतर विस्तृत कार्ययोजना पेश करने को कहा है।

वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्रालय के अनुसार उत्तर प्रदेश के 31, बिहार के 26, उत्तराखंड के 15 तथा झारखंड के दो नगर निकायों को नोटिस भेजे गए हैं। इनमें नगर निगम, नगर पालिका परिषद आदि शामिल हैं। साथ ही इन राज्यों के मख्य सचिवों को भी इस आदेश के क्रियान्वयन के लिए कहा गया है।

नोटिस में कहा गया है कि वाटर पोल्युशन कंट्रोल एक्ट के तहत सीवेज के पानी को शोधित किए बगैर नदियों या झीलों में नहीं डाला जा सकता है। लेकिन नगर निकाय इसका पालन नहीं कर रहे हैं। इसी वजह से गंगा और इसकी तमाम सहयोगी नदियां, झीलें प्रदूषित हो रही हैं। इसी कड़ी में 184 निकायों को नोटिस जारी किए गए हैं तथा तुरंत रोग लगाने के साथ विस्तृत कार्य योजना पेश करने को कहा है।

सबसे ज्यादा उत्तर प्रदेश और पश्चिम बंगाल के निकाय शामिल

यपी में इन्हें थमाया नोटिस

इलाहाबाद, फर्रुखाबाद, वाराणसी, गाजीपुर, कानपुर, चंदौली, उन्नाव, बलिया, मिर्जापुर, मुगलसराय, मुरादाबाद, फतेहपुर, बिजनौर, कन्नौज, गजरौला, नगीना, चांदपुर, धामपुर, जहांगीराबाद, भदोही, अनूपशहर, सैदपुर, वुनार, गढमुक्तेश्वर, बुलंदशहर, हस्तिनापुर, बिंदुर, बबराला आदि नगर निकाय।

झारखंड और पश्चिम बंगाल

झारखंड के साहेबगंज एवं राजमहल नगर परिषदों के प्रमुखों को नोटिस जारी कर गंगा में सीवेज सहित अन्य गंदगी फैलाए जाने को लेकर जवाब मांगा गया है। इसके अलावा पश्चिम बंगाल के 44 निकाय प्रमुखों को भी गंगा में गंदगी को लेकर नोटिस थमाए गए हैं।

उत्तराखंड में इन निकायों से पुछा

हरिद्वार, ऋषिकेश, गोपेश्वर, श्रीनगर, जोशीमठ, उत्तरकाशी, मनि की रेती, कर्णप्रयाग, रुद्रप्रयाग, कीर्तिनगर, नंदप्रयाग, बंद्रीनाथ तथा देवप्रयाग के नगर निकाय शामिल हैं । इनके मेयर या अध्यक्ष को नोटिस जारी हुए हैं। जिसमें गंगा में सीवेज की गंदगी डाले जाने को लेकर जवाब मांगा गया है।

बिहार में 22 जगहों पर मेजा

पटना, मुंगेर, बिहार शरीफ, भागलपुर, भोजपुर, बक्सर, छपरा, हाजीपुर, दानापुर, बेगुसराय, कटिहार, जमालपुर, मोकामा, फतुआ, बरौनी, सुल्तानगंज, भाभुआ, लखीसराय, फुलवारी, बाराहिया, नौगेछिया और सोनपुर नगर निकायों को सीपीसीबी ने नोटिस भेजा है।