

Central Water Commission
Water Systems Engineering Directorate

West Block II, wing No- 5
R K Puram, New Delhi-66
Dated 29.10.2018

Subject: Submission of News Clippings

The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission; the soft copies of clippings have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

Encl: As above.

P. Maheshwari
29.10.2018
SPA (Publicity)

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

[Signature]
29/10

O/C

Director, WSE Dte.

[Signature]
29/10

For information to:

Chairman, CWC, New Delhi

Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned, uploaded at www.cwc.gov.in

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

Financial Express, Delhi ✓

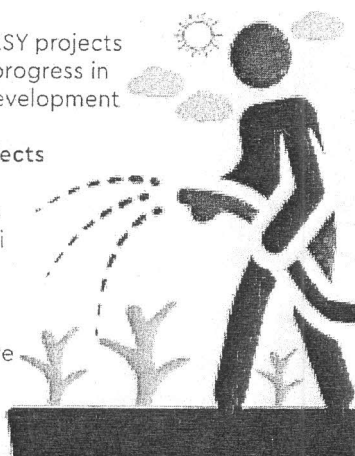
and documented at Bhagirath (English) & Publicity Section, CWC

PMKSY

Fast-tracked irrigation projects go a-begging

74 Of 99 PMKSY projects see little progress in command area development

15 Of 39 projects (where progress report is available with agri ministry) see no development of command area; another 12 achieve less than 50% development



₹77,595 cr*

Total estimated cost to complete 99 irrigation projects by Dec 2019 under PMKSY

*of which

₹29,000 cr
for command area development

PRABHUDATTA MISHRA
New Delhi, October 28

WHILE THE MINISTRY of water resources says 33 irrigation projects among the 99 implemented on a priority basis under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) are 'complete' citing reports from state governments, data gathered by FE show that in as many as 74 projects, there has been absolutely no progress in the construction of field channels and drains (command area development). Without these last-mile facilities, the irrigation potential created can't be tapped by farmers, so the funds spent on the projects virtually go to waste.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched PMKSY in July 2015 and set the target to complete the 99 projects by December 2019,

the total cost was estimated at ₹77,595 crore, including ₹29,000 crore for command area development.

(Among the PMKSY projects, the largest is Sardar Sarovar in Gujarat with an estimated cost of ₹31,522 crore). Currently, only 49% of the agricultural land in the country is irrigated.

According to a progress report of 39 projects (along with the command area) with the agriculture ministry reviewed by FE (in the case of all but one of the remaining projects, it has little information as the states haven't shared the project reports with it), even among these projects, command area development hasn't started at all in case of 15, while in another 12, the development is less than 50%.

Continued on Page 2

PMKSY: Fast-tracked irrigation projects go a-begging

According to the guidelines for PMKSY, the motto of which is 'Har Khet Ko Paani' (water for every agricultural land by providing end-to-end solutions in irrigation supply chain), the completion of a project includes development of command area besides the main canal and its branches.

In many cases, the states seem to show little or lukewarm interest in command area projects. In one project in Punjab (Kotla branch), for instance, the state government has decided not to further develop the command area after about 60% progress in the construction work.

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

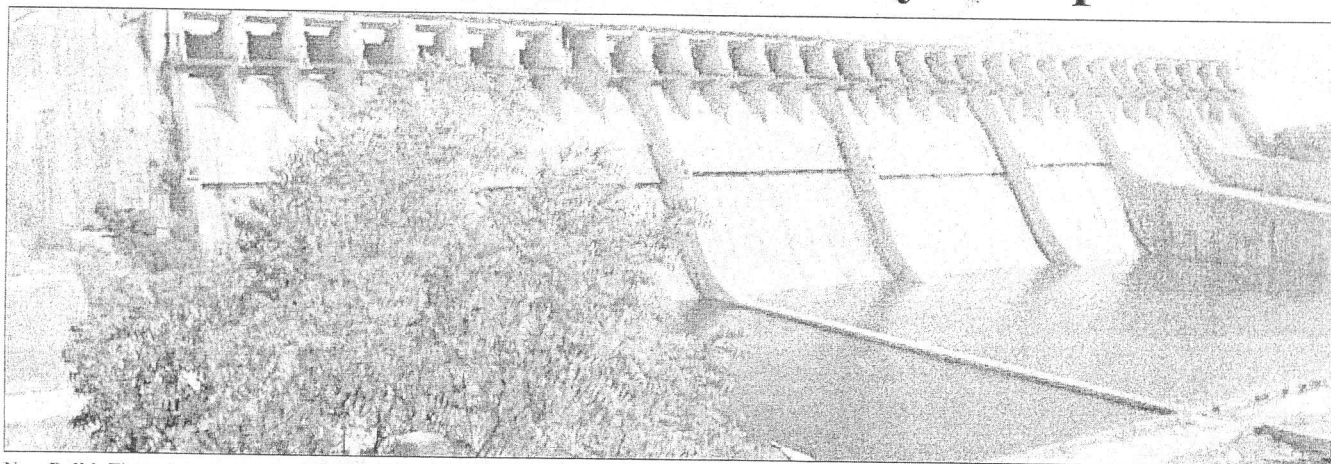
Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

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

Focus News, delhi ✓

Water Storage Level of 91 Major Reservoirs of the Country goes down by one percent



New Delhi, The water storage available in 91 major reservoirs of the country for the week ending on October 25, 2018 was 112.67 BCM which is 70% of total storage capacity of these reservoirs. This percentage was at 71% for the week ending on October 18, 2018. The level of water storage in the week ending on October 25, 2018 was 101% of the storage of corresponding period of last year and 100% of storage of average of last ten years. The total storage capacity of these 91 reservoirs is 161.993 BCM which is about 63% of the total storage capacity of 257.812 BCM which is estimated to have been created in the country. 37 Reservoirs out of these 91 have hydropower benefit with installed capacity of more than 60 MW.

REGION WISE STORAGE STATUS:-

NORTHERN REGION : The northern region includes States of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan. There are six reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 18.01 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 15.96 BCM which is 89% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. The storage during corresponding period of last year

was 76% and average storage of last ten years during corresponding period was 77% of live storage capacity of these reservoirs. Thus, storage during current year is better than the corresponding period of last year and is also better than the average storage of last ten years during the corresponding period.

EASTERN REGION : The Eastern region includes States of Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Tripura. There are 15 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 18.83 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 14.02 BCM which is 74% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. The storage during corresponding period of last year was 80% and average storage of last ten years during corresponding period was 75% of live storage capacity of these reservoirs. Thus, storage during current year is less than the corresponding period of last year and is also less than the average storage of last ten years during the corresponding period.

WESTERN REGION : The Western region includes States of Gujarat and Maharashtra. There are 27 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 31.26 BCM. The total live storage available

in these reservoirs is 17.21 BCM which is 55% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. The storage during corresponding period of last year was 71% and average storage of last ten years during corresponding period was 67% of live storage capacity of these reservoirs. Thus, storage during current year is less than the storage of last year and is also less than the average storage of last ten years during the corresponding period.

CENTRAL REGION : The Central region includes States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. There are 12 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 42.30 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 31.50 BCM which is 74% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. The storage during corresponding period of last year was 63% and average storage of last ten years during corresponding period was 71% of live storage capacity of these reservoirs. Thus, storage during current year is better than the storage of last year and is also better than the average storage of last ten years during the corresponding period.

SOUTHERN REGION: The South-

ern region includes States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, AP&TG (Two combined projects in both states), Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. There are 31 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 51.59 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 33.98 BCM which is 66% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. The storage during corresponding period of last year was 66% and average storage of last ten years during corresponding period was 66% of live storage capacity of these reservoirs. Thus, storage during current year is equal to the corresponding period of last year and is also equal to the average storage of last ten years during the corresponding period.

States having better storage than last year for corresponding period are Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. States having equal storage than last year for corresponding period is Odisha. States having lesser storage than last year for corresponding period are Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, Gujarat, Maharashtra, AP&TG (Two combined projects in both states), Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 29.10.2018..... in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

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

Northeast monsoon likely by Nov 1: IMD



■ The normal onset date for the northeast monsoon is October 20, but this year it has been delayed.

PTI FILE

Press Trust of India

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The northeast monsoon, which brings rains to Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and parts of Andhra Pradesh, is likely to make an onset by November 1, the IMD said Sunday.

The normal onset date for northeast monsoon is October 20, but this year it has been delayed.

Additional director general in the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Mritunjay Mohapatra said there is a cyclonic circulation in the Bay of Bengal which has delayed the onset of northeast monsoon.

29/10/18
The northeast monsoon is critical for agriculture in regions like Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, the Rayalseema and south coastal Andhra Pradesh and parts of Kerala.

"Northeast monsoon circulation pattern has established over south Bay of Bengal and adjoining Sri Lanka. The pattern is likely the commencement of northeast monsoon rainfall over southeast peninsular India in the coming five days," the IMD said.

On the other hand, the southwest monsoon has withdrawn from the remaining parts of the country and thus from the entire country on October 21, the IMD added.

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

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

सुंदरबन पर मंडारता समुद्र में डूब जाने का खतरा

संजय श्रीवास्तव

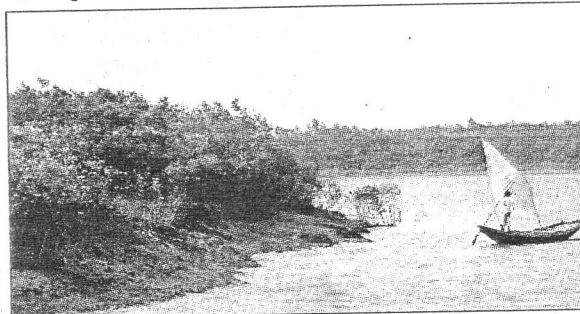
सुंदरबन धीरे-धीरे जलमग्न होता जा रहा है। आशंका है कि यह 2100 तक पूरा डूब जायेगा। संसार के इस सबसे बड़े और संवेदनशील मैंग्रोव डेल्टा के डूबने से सैकड़ों दुर्लभ जीव और वनस्पति प्रजातियाँ हमेशा के लिए खत्म हो जाएंगी। जलवायु परिवर्तन के चलते 2022 तक सुंदरबन का तकरीबन चौथाई हिस्सा डूब जाएगा। यह सुंदरबन जाने से पहले पढ़ रखा था। सुंदरबन में लोहाचारा, सुपारी भांगा, बेडफोर्ड, घोड़ामारा चार द्वीप समुद्र में डूब चुके हैं, एक और द्वीप समुद्र में समाने के करीब है और दर्जन भर से ज्यादा दूसरे द्वीपों का वज्र संकट में है, यह बात मुझे सुंदरबन की ओर बढ़ते समय पता चली। कोलकाता से गोदखाली तक के सौ किलोमीटर से ज्यादा के रास्ते में तकरीबन 60 किलोमीटर के क्षेत्र में जगह-जगह पसरें मछली पालन क्षेत्र देखते हुए सुंदरबन पहुंचकर लगा कि 20 हजार साल पुराना और दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा सुंदरबन मैंग्रोव डेल्टा वाकई खतरे में है। द्वीप सिकुड़ रहे हैं, डूबते जा रहे हैं। खुद पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार की कार्य योजना में माना गया है कि 2020 के बाद अगले तीन दशकों के भीतर तापमान में 2.4 डिग्री सेल्सियस तक बढ़त हो सकती है। जलवायु में बदलाव कई चक्रवाती तूफान ला सकता है, जाहिर है इससे समुद्र का जलस्तर और बढ़ेगा जिसकी वजह से वर्ष 2100 तक सुंदरबन का पूरा इलाका समुद्र में डूब जाएगा। भवतोष जो सुंदरबन के संरक्षण संबंधी एक एनजीओ से जुड़े हैं, बताते हैं-यहां समुद्र का जलस्तर सवा तीन मिलीमीटर

सालाना की दर से बढ़ रहा है। सुंदरी पेड़ों के बीमार होने, उनकी संख्या घटने की वजह से यहां तेजी से भू-कटाव हो रहा है, जमीन समुद्र में समाती जा रही है। कटाव जारी रहा और जलस्तर बढ़ता गया, जिसके रुकने की कोई संभावना नजर नहीं आती तो अधिकांश सुंदरबन तो 2100 से पहले ही डूब जाएगा। यह तय सा दीख रहा है। यहां रायल बंगाल टाइगर के अलावा लाखों की आबादी भी रहती है, कहा जायेगी? सुंदरबन के कुछ द्वीपों और गांवों को देखकर ऐसा लगा कि यहां के लोग बदहाली में विकास की बात जोह रहे हैं। उनकी चिंता पर्यावरणीय कम और भौतिक तथा अवसरचना एवं जनसुविधा की ज्यादा है।

हालांकि विकास के कुछ छोट्टे इस बीराने में भी पड़ी हैं। सुंदरबन के द्वीपों की बस्तियों में रहने वाले लाखों लोग आज तक जानवरों के हमलों, ईंधन और खाने-पीने की समस्या से जूझ रहे हैं। लेकिन विकास की हल्की सी किरण को देखकर इन्हें लगता है कि अब दशकों बाद शायद उनकी किस्मत संवरने वाली है। पर इन सबका क्या अर्थ जब अस्तित्व ही खतरे में है। तमाम शोधकर्ता और वैज्ञानिक विभिन्न अध्ययनों के बाद यह नतीजा निकाल चुके हैं कि सुंदरबन डूब जाएगा। पानी में बढ़ता खारापन, तेजी से कटते, घटते मैंग्रोव जंगल और समुद्र का लगातार बढ़ता जलस्तर यहां के द्वीपों, गांवों, गांववासियों जीवों की विभिन्न प्रजातियों को दिन-प्रतिदिन खतरे की ओर खींचता जा रहा है। लेकिन लगता है कि सरकार और यहां के लोगों का ध्यान इन खतरों से निपटने

की ओर न होकर कहीं और है। आईआईटी खड़गपुर ने जलवायु परिवर्तन और इसके असर के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर शोध के लिए एक सेंटर फॉर एक्सीलेंस स्थापित करने का फैसला किया है। कुछ साल पहले कोलकाता में कार्बन उत्सर्जन पर अंकुश लगाने और जलवायु परिवर्तन

बनने वाला है। यह सब ठीक पर यह सब देखने कौन आ सकेगा, इसका फायदा किसको मिलेगा, जब यह सब डूब का शिकार हो जाएगा। बंगाल सरकार ने इस इलाके के विकास के लिए एक टास्क फोर्स का भी गठन किया है, लेकिन पर्यावरणीय संकट दूर करने के प्रति वह उदासीन दिखती है।



के असर को कम करने के लिए कोलकाता नगर निगम और ब्रिटिश डिप्टी हाईकमीशन ने यूके एड की सहायता से एक ब्लूप्रिंट तैयार किया था। इसके तहत सुझाये 12 बिंदुओं पर काम करने के लिए निगम को 12 लाख अमेरिकी डालर की सहायता भी मिली थी। लेकिन अब तक इस योजना पर खास प्रगति नहीं हो सकी है। सरकार शायद विनाश की आशंका को परे रखकर संकट को बेचने की फिराक में है। यहां के लोग इसमें भी विकास की आहट देख रहे हैं। पिछले दिनों सुंदरबन में अफ्रीका जैसी सफारी की योजना बनी, दो अभ्यारण्यों के बाद एक और संचुरी बनाने का सरकारी आदेश मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी द्वारा हो चुका है। यहीं एक वाइल्ड लाइफ पार्क भी

देश के पूर्वी तट पर जिन मछलियों और झींगों का प्रवास है, उनकी लगभग 90 फीसद प्रजातियाँ यहीं मिलती हैं उनका क्या होगा? इसके अलावा भी कई लुप्तप्राय पेड़ पौधे और जीव प्रजातियाँ भी सुंदरबन के साथ ही जल समाधि ले लेंगी। जलवायु परिवर्तन के असर की ताजा खबर ने इस बात आगाह किया

है कि इसका असर संसार के तमाम हिस्सों में होने के साथ-साथ भारत पर भी होगा और बुरा होगा। सुंदरबन के लिये यह खबर बहुत सामान्य है क्योंकि वह तकरीबन हर साल ऐसी घोषणाएं सुनने का आदी हो चुका है। गोदखाली से गोशाबा, दो बांकी, नीति धोपानी, सजने खाली, सुधन्य खाली, बुड़ीर डाबरी वगैरह देखने से यह साफ लगता है कि यह वन जिस पेड़ के नाम पर है, उस सुंदरी की परत बहुत हद तक छीज चुकी है। सुंदरी पेड़ बीमारी और लगतार खारापन बढ़ने के चलते सूख और खत्म हो रहे हैं। मैंग्रोव जंगल की जमावट किस कदर कम हुयी है, इसका अध्ययन स्कूल ऑफ ओशनोग्राफिक स्टडीज, जादवपुर विश्वविद्यालय ने बाकायदा रिमोट सेंसिंग और जीआईएस का उपयोग करके किया है। उसने 1986 से 2012 तक का आंकड़ा जुटाया था। सालभर बाद निकले इस अध्ययन के निष्कर्ष ने बताया था कि और कहीं तो 20 से ज्यादा सुंदरी वृक्ष उजड़ चुके हैं। लगता है कि सुंदरी के साथ-साथ पासूर और केरो पेड़ की संख्या तेजी से गिर रही है। सुंदरबन के मुहाने पर ही गोशाबा में यह बात खास तौर से महसूस हुयी, वहां सुंदरी के पेड़ अब तट पर कहीं-कहीं बचे हैं।

ok-29

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

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

प्रदूषण के कारण मृतप्राय होने की राह पर नदियां

राज्य की प्रमुख नदियों में लगातार बढ़ रही प्रदूषण की मात्रा ने बढ़ाई चिंता

अर्कावती, तुंगभद्रा, लक्ष्मणतीर्थ और मलप्रभा नदियों के कुछ खंड सर्वाधिक प्रदूषित

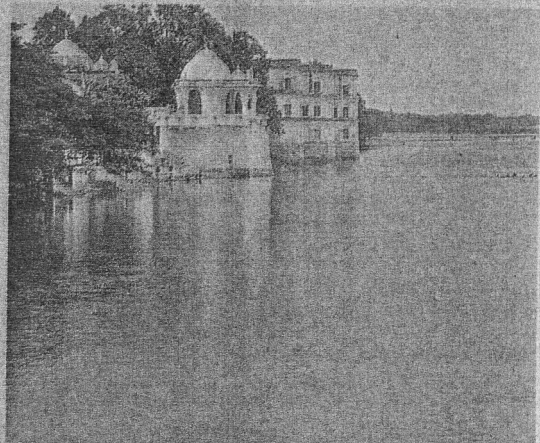
नदियों में सीवेज प्रवाह के बरकरार रहने के कारण गंभीर होती जा रही स्थिति

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
rajasthanpatrika.com

बंगलूरु, केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (सीपीसीबी) की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार कर्नाटक की नदियों में जिस रफ्तार से प्रदूषण की मात्रा बढ़ती जा रही है वह नदियों को मृतप्राय होने की राह पर ले जाने वाला है।

सीपीसीबी के अनुसार राज्य की नदियों में सीवेज (मलजल) गिरने की मात्रा लगातार बढ़ रही है। इस वजह से पिछले तीन वर्ष में राज्य में प्रदूषित नदियों की संख्या बढ़ गई है। सीपीसीबी द्वारा सितंबर-2018 में प्रकाशित जल गुणवत्ता रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि राज्य की विभिन्न नदियों के 17 हिस्सों में प्रदूषण की मात्रा बढ़ी है जबकि वर्ष-2015 में भिन्न नदियों के इस प्रकार के 15 हिस्से प्रदूषित पाए गए थे।

प्रदूषण युक्त नदियों की संख्या बढ़ने के साथ ही नदियों के कुछ हिस्सों में इस बार जल में ऑक्सीजन की मात्रा को लेकर एक बड़ा बदलाव देखा जा रहा है। वर्ष-2015 में सभी प्रमुख नदियों को प्राथमिकता 4 और 5 में वर्गीकृत किया गया था यानी नदी जल में जैविक ऑक्सीजन मांग (बीओडी) 6 से 10 मिलीग्राम प्रति लीटर थी। (प्राथमिकता 4 में 6 से 10 मिग्रा जबकि प्राथमिकता 5 में 3 से 6 मिग्रा प्रति लीटर) वहीं वर्ष-2018 की रिपोर्ट में प्रमुख नदियों जैसे अर्कावती, लक्ष्मणतीर्थ, मलप्रभा और तुंगभद्रा को



प्राथमिकता-3 सूची में वर्गीकृत किया गया है, जिसका मतलब है कि इनमें बीओडी 10 मिग्रा/लीटर है।

अर्कावती नदी को इस बार भी सर्वाधिक प्रदूषित नदी माना गया है और कन्नकपुरा टाउन के पास नदी में बीओडी की मात्रा 14 मिग्रा प्रति लीटर रही। तीन वर्ष पूर्व अर्कावती में औसत बीओडी का स्तर 8 मिग्रा प्रति लीटर था। हाल की रिपोर्ट में असाणी नाला (बेलगावी), कुमारधारा और नेत्रावती नदियां (दोनों दक्षिण कन्नड़ जिला) को भी सूचीबद्ध करते हुए कहा गया है कि इन नदियों के पानी को उपयोग के पूर्व गुणवत्ता बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए।

सीपीसीबी की निगरानी में 445 नदियां

सीपीसीबी राज्य की 445 छोटी-बड़ी नदियों के प्रदूषण स्तर की निगरानी करता है और इसके लिए 61 स्थान निर्धारित किए गए हैं। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार नदियों में प्रदूषण की सर्वाधिक 24 शहरी केंद्रों के पास देखी गई जहां शहरों का सीवेज और अन्य अपशिष्ट नदियों में प्रवाहित होता है।

तीन वर्ष बाद भी प्रदूषण जस का तस

रोचक तथ्य यह भी है कि कर्नाटक राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (केएसपीसीबी) की वर्ष 2015-16 और 2017-2018 के बीच के निगरानी डेटा में प्रमुख नदियों की

जल गुणवत्ता में स्थिरता दिखाई देती है। यानी प्रदूषण का जो स्तर तीन वर्ष पूर्व था मौजूदा समय में भी प्रदूषण लगभग उसी स्तर पर है। वहीं इस अवधि के दौरान शहरी क्षेत्रों में सीवेज उपचार संयंत्रों (एसटीपी) पर भारी निवेश भी हुआ है लेकिन स्थिति में कोई बड़ा बदलाव नहीं हुआ। केएसपीसीबी द्वारा 82 नदियों की निगरानी की जा रही है और बोर्ड के अनुसार मात्र सात नदियां ही ऐसी हैं जिनमें मानव के स्नान करने योग्य पानी है। वहीं 12 नदियों के पानी को पिया नहीं जा सकता है। इसके अतिरिक्त 63 नदियों के पानी को अगर पीने के उद्देश्य से उपयोग किया जाता है तो उसके लिए उन्नत क्रीटापुशोधन की आवश्यकता है।

सीवेज निपटान के तरीके से अनभिज्ञ

केएसपीसीबी के अधिकारियों का कहना है कि एसटीपी निर्माण होने के बाद भी जल निकायों में प्रदूषण का स्तर तुरंत कम नहीं होता है। अगर एसटीपी का सही प्रकार से नियमित इस्तेमाल हो तब भी कम से कम चार वर्ष के बाद ही जल निकायों में जल गुणवत्ता में बदलाव दिखता है। ऐसे में राज्य के जिल क्षेत्रों में एसटीपी बने हैं उनका परिणाम देखने के लिए अभी इंतजार करना होगा। इसके अतिरिक्त कई कस्बों और शहरों में संबंधित विभाग को सीवेज निपटान का तरीका नहीं मालूम है।

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 28.10.2018..... in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard ✓
The Economic Times

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

Centre to interlink 6 rivers, says Gadkari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Hyderabad, 27 October

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday said the Centre was committed to interlinking rivers to fulfil the water needs of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Addressing delegates at the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morch (BJYM) national convention, the minister for Road Transport and Highways said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the government planned to interlink six rivers, which would cost about ₹2 trillion.

"In Andhra Pradesh we took up the Polavaram irrigation project. We have spent ₹70 billion so far. It is being constructed with central government funds," he said.

Gadkari alleged that some people were trying to mislead the public by saying that the government was not focusing on the project.

"We will complete the dam. The surplus waters of the Godavari river, which flows as waste to the sea, will be diverted to the Krishna river," he said.

"We will take water by diverting Krishna river water to

MS-28
Penna river and from Penna to the Cauvery. Thus we will fulfil the water needs of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana," he said.

The minister also said the centre was assisting the Telangana government's ₹800-billion Kaleshwaram Project.

Stressing the need to bring BJP into power once again in the 2019 elections, Gadkari said India is marching towards progress with implementation of several schemes for the poor.

Among some of the projects taken up by the government were setting up a water grid, power grid, National Highway Grid and an Optical fibre grid, he added. Gadkari said development of sectors like agriculture, industry and services was essential for any nation to progress.

Referring to the agriculture sector, he said 18.8 million acres was being brought under irrigation. "The sector sector contributes 10 to 12 per cent to our GDP. We want to increase the growth rate of the agriculture sector," he said. Gadkari said the Centre had accorded priority to rural development and undertaken road connectivity of 6500,000 villages.

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

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

Industries, people continue to pump waste into the Ganga

Abhay Kumar, Sanjay Pandey

Despite the Union Government's ambitious plan to clean the Ganga, the river continues to be as dirty as ever. Water of the river that flows through Patna, the capital of Bihar, has been declared unfit not just for drinking but also for a holy dip due to the indiscriminate discharge of untreated sewage into the river.

According to a study, Patna town, with a population of about 19 lakh, generates about 286 million litres of sewage every day. The Bihar Rajya Jal Parishad, the nodal agency which monitors sewage water, has the capacity to treat only 109 million litres of waste per day. The rest 177 million litres of untreated water goes into the river every day through different drains in the city.

"From the Ganga Action Plan in 1986 to Namami Gange project in 2016, I have seen it all. Nothing has changed. I have lost all hopes," 60-year-old Malti Devi told DH, dwelling at length how the frenzy youths immersed Goddess Durga in the Ganga during Navaratri. Most of the residents of the town have the same opinion.

It is estimated that over 3,000 idols (small and big ones) from around 700 pandals in nine districts in Bihar are immersed in the Ganga every year.

Sometime back, the Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB) had written to all the nine district magistrates (DMs) to get temporary ponds constructed for idol immersion during Durga Puja. But, sources say, the order could not see the light of the day in the name of *aastha* (religious beliefs).

This year, the BSPCB issued an advisory asking not to use Plaster of Paris in making idols as it does not get dissolved. The board also disapproved the use of chemical paints. "The paints which are used for decorating idols contain harmful chemicals — mercury, lead, chromium, zinc oxide and they cause stress on the river, adversely affect quality of water and may eventually cause skin diseases, besides cancer," A K Ghosh, Chairman of the BSPCB, told DH.

Earlier, a scientific investigation carried out by a team of Patna University research experts, headed by noted environmentalist R K Sinha, had found that Ganga water carries hundreds of pollutants. These pollutants include total coliform (TC) and faecal coliform (FC) bacteria, residues of chemical pesticides and heavy metals.

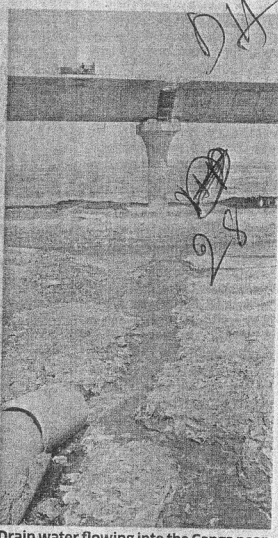
The team, therefore, concluded that Ganga was unfit for even bathing. "Water becomes unfit for bathing if the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) level exceeds 3 mg per litre. In case of Patna, the BOD level was found to be 6 mg per litre, thereby making it unfit for either bathing or human consumption," opined Sinha, who has done extensive research in this field.

The water sample collected from Kurji

Ghat in western Patna showed that TC and FC counts at 17,000 and 11,000/100 ml of Ganga water, while their permissible limit was just 2,500 and 500/100ml of water respectively.

In Uttar Pradesh, Ganga continues to suffer the most in the industrial town of Kanpur, about 90 kilometres from Varanasi, with as many as 264 tanneries pumping out around 30 crore litres of polluted water into the river every day.

Besides, there are around 23 open drains in the town, the biggest being in Sisamai locality, adding to the pollution in the river. The town also generates around 400 tonnes of solid waste. In Varanasi



Drain water flowing into the Ganga near Anta Chat in Patna.

also around 250 MLD of polluted water is pumped into Ganga.

The tanneries, which have export business to the tune of around Rs 6,000 crore, however, remain the biggest source of pollution. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) had recently ordered closure of five tanneries for discharging effluents in the river.

Delhi-based Centre for Science & Environment had in a recent report said that the Kanpur-Varanasi stretch of the river was the most polluted.

The UP government has ordered that no industrial effluents would be released into the river from December 15 to March 15 to keep the river clean during the ongoing Kumbh Mela.

In spite of the claims of progress, people feel that River Ganga is yet to get a healing touch.

DH News Service

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald ✓
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

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



Ganga far from clean despite generous flow of funds

DfI-28

After four years and an allocation of Rs 22,000 crore, the Centre's ambitious National Mission for Clean Ganga has failed to achieve success

Kalyan Ray

Ten days before his death on October 11, environmentalist G D Agrawal (also known as Swami Gyan Swaroop Sanand) penned his last letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, narrating a sense of despondency from the government's inaction to save River Ganga from a slow death.

The octogenarian wrote that even though his previous letter on saving the mighty river was discussed in the Union Cabinet, there was no significant action and the situation was back to square one, leaving him with barely any option but to give up his life.

As he fixed October 9 as the day for his final Ganga Snan (bath in the Ganga) and stopped taking water and medicines, the government swung into action shifting the former IIT professor to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Rishikesh where he passed away.

A fortnight later, his followers refuse to abandon the fight. Sant Gopal Das, who is on fast for more than 120 days and gave up water after Agrawal's death, has been moved to the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Educa-

tion and Research, Chandigarh. Das is not alone in the struggle, with Haridwar's Matri Sadan, where Agrawal was fasting, initiating a fast from this week till all the demands are met.

Cleaning up the Ganga has two aspects - Aviral Dhara (uninterrupted flow) and Nirmal Dhara (unpolluted flow). It is a known fact that unpolluted flow can't happen without uninterrupted flow. But under the Namami Gange programme, the government separated the two and put its entire focus on the second aspect ignoring the first.

There are 70 existing, under-construction and planned hydroelectric power plants in Uttarakhand that choke the river in its upper stretches, while 790 dams on the main stem and tributaries of the Ganga in the entire basin of 8,62,769 sq km area shackle it in the middle stretches. As a result, the downstream pollution abatement measures barely show any impact.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) observatory, there are only four spots along the

2,510-km-long river, where the water is drinkable after disinfection. Three of them - Rudraprayag, Devprayag and Rishikesh - are in Uttarakhand while the fourth one, Bijnor is on Uttarakhand-Uttar Pradesh border. There are a few more sites in Uttarakhand and west Uttar Pradesh including Gangotri and Haridwar where water can be consumed, but only after disinfection and conventional treatment. For the rest of the river, it's only red flags.

One of the key demands of Agrawal, who incidentally was the first secretary of CPCB, was to stop mindless hydroelectric projects on the rivers Ganga, Alaknanda and Mandakini.

Currently, there are 17 functional power plants, 19 more are under-construction and another 34 are on the drawing board. Many of them are next to each other. "Out of all the electricity generated from these projects, only 12-14% will come back to Uttarakhand. The rest would be sold for revenue generation," said Mallika Bhanot, an

activist from Ganga Avahan, a non-governmental organisation based in Haridwar.

It's not that the Modi government is unaware. In a 2016 affidavit in the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation said, "The biggest issue that has been repeatedly observed is the issue of absolute dry stretches of the main riverbed. Not more than 25% of the river water should be diverted to meet human needs to maintain the river's ecosystem integrity." However, in the case of Ganga, it seems that the hydroelectric plants in the upper reaches and the dams in the middle reaches allow almost no release of water in the lean season.

But as a solution, the same ministry has now come out with the contentious e-flow (environment flow) notification, which the environmentalists claim is nothing but a mockery of justice.

The October 9 notification says in the dry season, projects in the upper Ganga river basin stretch will have to release 20% of the monthly average flow every 10 days. In the lean period, the number changes to 25% while in the high flow season it is 30%.

× Ganga Pollution, Page 4



Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

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

Namami Gange misses targets, fails to arrest pollution

DA
28

Ganga Pollution, from Page 1

This means earlier the hydro-power plants would have consumed the entire water, but now they are mandated to leave at least 20% water in the main channel. It's too less to keep the river in good health. And the norms are to come into effect after three years, making it meaningless as an emergency measure to protect the river.

The e-flow notification, the greens say, is nothing but an eyewash, which was done to placate the professor on protest. "Ideally, the government should have implemented the 50-60% e-flow norms as recommended by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) consortium instead of this sham. Few hours before his death, Agrawal himself rejected the notification," said environmentalist Manoj Mishra who runs Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan.

The downstream cleaning up efforts began too late to show any kind of results. The government identified 97 towns to set up sewage treatment plants (STP) of 3,603 MLD (million litres per day) capacity (estimated for 2035) under the Namami Gange programme. Out of 107 sanctioned STP projects worth Rs 17,800 crore, only 28 projects are complete while the rest are either under construction or yet to be tendered. It is the same story for projects on river front, Ghat cleaning, crematoria and surface cleaning. Too little have been achieved and most of the projects are slated to be completed between 2019 and 2022.

Gangetic river dolphins are one of the victims of such poor river health. In the early 1980s, there were 5,000-6,000 individuals, but the number dwindled to 1,200-1,800 in the recent years, ac-



People immerse an idol of Durga in the Ganga. PHOTOS BY MOHAN PRASAD

ording to an assessment by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Declining water volume and increasing pollution load have wiped them out. "Only 38.7% of the river has a suitable depth of 4 m or more to sustain dolphins and gharials during summer months,"

says a study carried out by the Wildlife Institute of India.

Since 1985, the Supreme Court heard numerous pleas on the cleaning up of Ganga and after the National Green Tribunal came into being, it too heard petitions from ecologists on saving the river.

"Now it seems even the courts have given up," said Mishra.

Under the Namami Gange programme, the goal was to ensure sewage management and industry discharge management to achieve a drop in the pollution level. When the Union Cabinet approved the programme, the target dates for tendering of the STPs and completion of the STPs were March 2016 and September 2018 respectively.

A year later when the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) checked the programme's performance, it was found that even though the treatment capacity gap was 2109 MLD, STP projects having a capacity of only 712 MLD were given consent as on August 2017. Another year later, works on 33 out of 107 projects are yet to start and only STPs of 328 MLD capacity are functional. When asked about the non-achievement of the targets approved by the Cabinet, the Ministry of Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation was silent.

The CAG also found that out of 154 detailed project reports submitted to the authorities between 2014-15 and 2016-17 pertaining to various aspects of cleaning the river, only 71 were approved. The delay ranged from 26 days to 1,140 days. Out of remaining 83 detailed project reports, as many as 34 are pending for a period ranging from 120 to 780 days. The National Mission for Clean Ganga does not have a river basin management plan even eight years after the creation of the National Ganga River Basin Authority. Also, there is no long-term action plan more than six years after signing an agreement with a consortium of IITs to draw up such a plan.

"This is also in flagrant violation of the

provision of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, requiring closing of the industries engaged in discharging such effluents as well as prosecution. This is continuing in spite of orders of Courts and this Tribunal for the last three decades. One can express some satisfaction if red signs on the map, which have been displayed on the website of Central Pollution Control Board are converted to green with improvement in water quality. Till then, no one can say that any satisfactory progress has been achieved," the National Green Tribunal stated in its August 6 ruling, while hearing one of the oldest cases of Ganga pollution that was shifted from the SC to the NGT.

Notwithstanding the Modi government's promise of adequate resources for Ganga cleaning, CPCB could deploy only 36 automatic water quality monitoring systems as against 113 sites identified along the river for continuous water quality monitoring on real-time basis.

Against the 120 mandatory adequacy assessments required to be conducted by the CPCB of five identified Common Effluent Treatment Plants, only 17 were carried out as of August 2017. Against the mandatory 560 inspections to be carried out for performance evaluation of 67 Sewage Treatment Plants, only 177 were carried out as of August 2017. The programme suffers from a huge manpower crisis ranging from 44-65% and the shortfall goes up to 89% when it comes to state programme management groups. With little manpower and insufficient checking there is no way to know whether the common effluent treatment plants or the STPs functioning well.

DH News Service

A long way to go...

POLLUTION ABATEMENT

Projects	Completed	Under Progress
126	28	56+

Sanction Cost ₹20,233.5 cr

RIVER FRONT, GHATS AND CREMATORIA PROJECTS

Projects	Completed	Under Progress
70	27	32+

Sanction Cost ₹1,414.61 cr

AFFORESTATION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Projects	Completed	Under Progress
19	6	13+

Sanction Cost ₹233.01 cr

OTHER PROJECTS

Projects	Completed	Under Progress
12	2	7+

Sanction Cost ₹492.71 cr

GRAND TOTAL

Projects	Completed	Under Progress
227	63	108+

Sanction Cost ₹22,373.64 cr



Hindustan Times ✓
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

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

Ganga activist's 'final video' criticises Centre

Jayashree Nandi and
Neeraj Santoshi

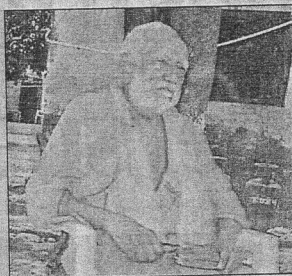
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/NAINITAL: Followers of Ganga activist Guru Das Agarwal have released a video, reportedly recorded about an hour before his death on October 11, showing the scientist-turned-seer on the hospital bed questioning the central government's notification on the river's environmental flow.

The video was released on Friday, the day the Supreme Court (SC) refused shifting his body from AIIMS, Rishikesh, to his Matri Sadan ashram in Haridwar for post-death rituals. The ruling came hours after the Uttarakhand high court had ordered the state police to supervise the body's transfer after accepting a plea on behalf of the seer's followers who wanted to pay their last respects to the 86-year-old former IIT professor, popular among his disciples as Swami Gyan Swaroop Sanand.

Members of the ashram said he had passed away soon after the video was shot.

"The government has deceived GD Agarwal ji. A lot of officials from the water ministry would come to meet but he never got any replies to his questions in writing. His demand for a viral (free-flowing) Ganga was not met even after Narendra Modi came to power promising us that Ganga will go back to its pristine glory. They have done nothing," said Shivanand Swami, an ashramite.



■ GD Agarwal

HT FILE

In the video, Agarwal is seen asking about the scientific assessment on which the government had determined the e-flow numbers for its notification.

"The government has said the minimum virgin flow in the river from November to March will be only 20%. Why not 50%? Unless the government gives a scientific explanation for this, why should we accept it? Between June and September they have stipulated the minimum flow to be 30%, which means when there is naturally more water in the river, the minimum e-flow has to be the highest as per the notification. How stupid is that? When there is more flow, the e-flow stipulation should be lower," Agarwal is seen explaining when he is interrupted by one of the doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rishikesh.

The activist had led a fast-unto-death protest over demands to shut down the hydroelectric projects on Ganga, banning of mining activities in the Ganga basin,

and the draft prepared by him and others be passed by Parliament. He died on October 11—the 112th day of his fast.

He also said the e-flow "cannot be uniform" everywhere or in all seasons. "It's a scientific concept. The IIT consortium had determined a method for place-specific flows. I don't think the government should have taken it upon themselves to determine the e-flow when the IITs have already made recommendations," he says in the video. He also says that more monks will sacrifice their lives now. "I think they (government) want blood. We will give them blood."

"The government penalises common people but not dams. It very smartly focuses on small pollution offences and not the big issues facing the river," said Malika Bhanot of Ganga Ahvaan, an NGO.

Professor Vinod Tare of IIT Kanpur, who headed the IIT consortium formed in 2010, responded to the contents in the video to say that the e-flow is determined based on season and place which Agarwal understood. IITs' reports recommend more than 50% flows in many upper reaches of the Ganga.

Water resources secretary UP Singh said, "Activists can also ask why the e-flow is not 100%? The notification is not cast in stone. We can certainly modify the notification at a later stage. For now people should understand it's a positive step."

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune ✓

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

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

Jordan flash floods kill 20, most of them school pupils

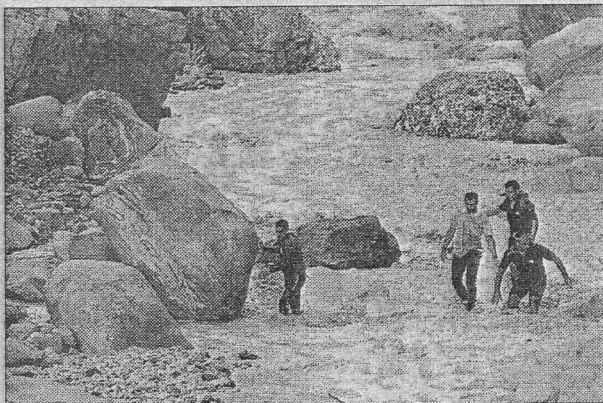
AMMAN, OCTOBER 26

At least 20 persons, most of them school pupils, have been killed in flash floods in Jordan, the emergency services said on Friday in an updated toll. A further 35 persons were injured following heavy rains on Thursday, including members of the security forces involved in rescue operations, said an official from the civil defence-Jordan's fire service-who asked not to be named.

He said rescuers were still searching for people missing in the area, a popular tourist attraction around 50 km west of Amman.

"Most of the dead were schoolchildren aged 11 to 14 who were taking part in a school trip to the Dead Sea region" when their bus was swept away by floodwaters.

Also among the dead were passers-by who had been picnicking in the area, he said. "Security force personnel who were taking part in the rescue operations were



Civil defence members look for survivors after rain storms unleashed flash floods, near the Dead Sea, in Jordan on Friday. REUTERS

among the injured," he added.

The Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, is surrounded by steep valleys and gullies that frequently see flash floods and landslides. Education Minister Azmi Mahafzah promised a "full inquiry" into the schoolchildren's deaths. He said the bus took a route not agreed upon by the ministry and the organiser of the trip bore full responsibility.

Roads leading to the area

were closed on Friday morning "to allow the continuation of search and rescue operations", the Directorate of General Security said.

The Israeli military said on Thursday it was helping with the operation, sending helicopters and forces specialised in search and rescue.

Jordan's King Abdullah II had cancelled a planned visit to Bahrain to monitor developments. — AFP