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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 will be uploaded on the CWC website.

P. M. Choudhary
20-12-2018
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Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

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Director, WSE Dte.

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For information to

Chairman CWC, New Delhi

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

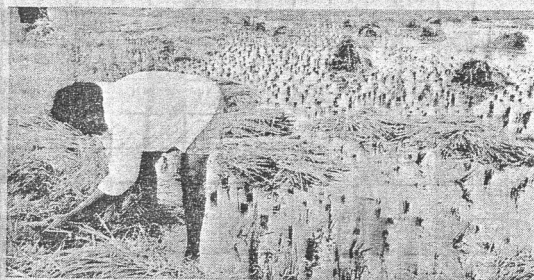
Hindustan Times
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Hindustan (Hindi)
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Phethai ruins standing crop worth ₹243 crore in 7 districts of Andhra



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD, 19 DECEMBER

511 20

While Andhra Pradesh escaped without major damage to infrastructure or loss of lives due to cyclone Phethai there has been large-scale destruction of standing crop in the fields in seven of its districts worth about Rs 243 crore causing severe misery and even death of a farmer in Srikakulam district who collapsed on the field after witnessing the damage to his crop.

After cyclone Titli caused widespread damage to crops and coconut and cashew plantations in North Andhra coastal districts in October, it was a double blow for Gotipally Chinawamy of Srikakulam who collapsed on Tuesday after witnessing the extensive damage caused by the cyclone to his paddy crop. The deceased farmer had come to his inundated fields to drain out the water after removing the bunds but was shocked to see the large scale damage.

State agriculture minister S Chandramohan Reddy admitted that the cyclone has wreaked havoc causing extensive crop damage in East and West Godavari districts, Krishna and Guntur and at lesser scale in north coastal districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam. The damage was roughly estimated to be Rs 243 crore and it is bound to rise once water recedes from the fields and enumeration is completed. The worst are the paddy

farmers of Godavari and Krishna deltas who were about to harvest their kharif crop, followed by those who had sown maize and tobacco.

The cyclone alert had helped authorities to warn fishermen and the people to remain indoors and avoid casualties.

The farmers were also urged by the state administration to quickly harvest their crop but the lack of enough harvesters was a huge constraint. Moreover, agricultural labourers were also demanding more for carrying out harvesting manually while lack of proper storage facilities for harvested crops also added to their woes.

Chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu has assured farmers of adequate compensation once enumeration is completed.

However, opposition YSRCP lambasted the government for overlooking the plight of the farmers and leading to such tragedy as the one at Srikakulam. Proper crop insurance mechanism was lacking said YSRCP MP Vijaysai Reddy.

Moreover the administration was slow to respond to the demands of the farmers and in north coastal districts the two cyclones Titli and Phethai at the beginning and end of the farming season completely ruined the farmers.

In some areas of Telangana too farmers suffered crop damage particularly for chilli, cotton and paddy.

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Naidu showcases Polavaram on Twitter

G. VENKATARAMANA RAO
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday took to Twitter to showcase the Polavaram project even as the Centre continued to put obstacles in the path of the State government.

He tweeted a 2.2-minute video, giving the cost, the benefit and the unique features of the project.

The tweet in Telugu said the "prestigious multi-purpose project" with unique features such as diaphragm wall, earth-cum-rock filled dam and huge radial gates was the future of the State.

It mentioned the estimated cost as ₹58,319 crore and May 2019 as the deadline for completion. The cost was higher than the revised one sent to the Centre for approval.

National project

The dam was declared a national project at the time of the bifurcation and provided legal sanctity by being included in the Re-organisation Act.

The estimated cost as per the 2010-11 price level was ₹16,010.45 crore. The State government was entrusted with the completion though it was a national one. According to the agreement, the State government would build and the Centre would pay for it.

Keeping in mind the cost escalation, the State government revised the cost to ₹57,940.86 crore as per the price levels of 2013-14 which the Centre had not approved of. The approval of the second detailed project report was also pending with the Centre. The lion's share of the project cost escalation had been put down for the land acquisition and rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R).

The two accounted for

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 20.12.2016.... in the

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The Economic Times

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

TN: Yet to receive aid from Centre post-Gaja

MC Rajan

■ mc.rajan@htlive.com

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government told the Madurai bench of Madras high court on Wednesday that the Centre is yet to release the state's due share from the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) to carry out relief and restoration work after cyclone Gaja created extensive damage in the state's fertile delta region.

"The Centre is yet to release Tamil Nadu's due share of ₹1,000 crore from the State Disaster Relief Fund. Tamil Nadu has submitted additional inputs sought by the Centre on the cyclone disaster," state's counsel, advocate general K Chellapandian said.

Center's counsel, assistant solicitor general V Kathirvel, told the division bench of Justices KK Sasidharan and PD Audikesavulu that the quantum of assist-

ance will be decided after the central team, which visited the affected areas will submit its report the Union home ministry on Thursday. Meanwhile, a team of officials from the state, led by chief secretary Girija Vaidhyathan is in New Delhi to submit additional details to seek immediate release of funds.

Cyclone Gaja made its landfall near the coastal Vedaranyam district, claimed 63 lives and ravaged Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur and Pudukottai districts. The Tamil Nadu government has demanded ₹15,000 crore for long-term restoration and rehabilitation programmes besides ₹1,500 crore for speeding up relief works. Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Nov 22, and presented a memorandum pressing for financial assistance.

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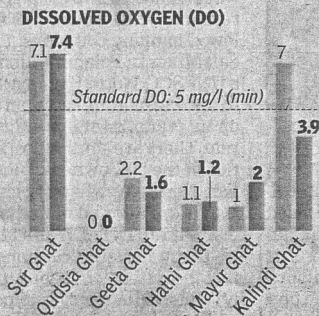
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Immersions left Yamuna unfit even for bathing

CPCB DATA: Metal Content Went Much Beyond Safe Limits

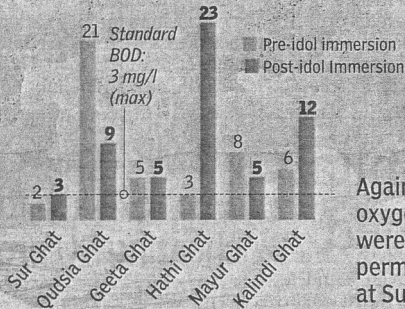
FESTIVALS TAKE FURTHER TOLL

DISSOLVED OXYGEN (DO)



Dissolved oxygen levels were found within permissible limit only at one of the ghats (Sur Ghat) surveyed

BIOLOGICAL OXYGEN DEMAND (BOD)



Again, biological oxygen demand levels were found within permissible limit only at Sur Ghat

WHAT CPCB SUGGESTS

- Discourage PoP-based idols
- Ensure proper collection of flowers and other puja material
- Create temporary ponds with earthen bunds along river bank
- Place removable synthetic liner at bottom of pond, remove within 48 hours of immersion

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New Delhi: A river that was "severely" polluted at five of the seven ghats before the idol immersion season deteriorated post-immersion this year with both dissolved oxygen (DO) and biological oxygen demand (BOD) levels shooting well past the normal limits, a new CPCB report has shown.

The river didn't remain fit for even bathing as the metal content shot up several times, the report says. Foaming was visible once again this year after both Durga Puja and Ganesh Chaturthi immersions and the concentration of heavy metals increased considerably due to the paint and idols used in decorating idols, the report states.

Post-immersion, the chro-

mium content increased by 11 times from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) limit of 0.05mg/l, while the iron concentration shot up 71 times compared with the BIS standard of 0.3mg/l. Similarly,

Foaming was visible once again this year after both Durga Puja and Ganesh Chaturthi immersions. Organic pollution such as BOD increased drastically due to human influence and puja ingredients in the river, said the report

the nickel content in the Yamuna increased one time from the BIS safe limit (0.02 mg/l) and lead increased two times from the limit (0.01 mg/l), the report reveals.

Organic pollution such as BOD increased drastically due to human influence and puja ingredients in the river, says CPCB. The BOD count,

which should not be higher than 3mg/l, was as high as 21mg/l at Qudsia Ghat even before the immersions, and was only within the permissible limit at Hathi Ghat and Mayur Ghat. However, post-

immersion, the BOD levels were the highest at Hathi Ghat with a reading of 23mg/l with only Sur Ghat in Wazirabad recording levels equal to the permissible limit.

Similarly, the DO levels, which should be at least over 4mg/l, was below the safe limit pre-immersion at five of the seven ghats and dete-

riorated post-immersion with only Sur Ghat again staying within the permissible limit. At Qudsia Ghat, the DO level at zero became detrimental for aquatic life.

Pre-immersion readings for Durga Puja were taken on October 18, while post-immersion readings were taken on October 20. For Ganesh Chaturthi, pre-immersion readings were taken on November 11 and post-immersion ones on November 24 and 25.

CPCB suggests better control on the use of plaster of Paris idols, proper collection of flowers and puja materials, construction of temporary ponds for immersions and removable liners in the bottom of the pond. "The liner along with the remains of idols should be removed within 48 hours of immersions," the report says.

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and documents

A river running dry

The Ganga basin is becoming increasingly fragile with more and more hydropower projects coming up



MEETA KHLNANI

From aiming for *Aviral Dhara* (uninterrupted flow) of the Ganga to *Nirmal Dhara* (unpolluted flow), the government is now simply focussing on a Swachh Ganga (Clean Ganga). While the whole focus of the Clean Ganga project has been on setting up sewage treatment plants and cleaning ghats and banks, the main issue, which is that the river does not have adequate flow of water, has been ignored. With severe pollution destroying the river, and developmental projects critically affecting its flow, the Ganga is in a dire strait.

A fragile region

Today, several hydropower projects are mushrooming at the source of the river, which is the Garhwal range of the Himalayas. Unlike other ranges, the Garhwal is narrow. It is from here that many rivers and tributaries of the Ganga basin emerge. These spring or glacier-fed rivers join one another at different points to form an intricate riverine ecosystem in the Himalayas. The entire basin falls in the seismic zone 4-5, and is highly prone to landslides and land subsidence.

The understanding that hydropower projects mean development needs to change. To construct a hydropower project, large sections of land are cleared of forests. But what happens when such deforestation takes place in an already fragile mountain area? Many studies have been conducted near the existing dams along the course of the Ganga. The immediate impacts of these projects have been loss of agriculture, drying of water sources, and landslips. As construction in such projects progresses, there is also dumping of muck, which can pose severe threats. Muck dumping during construction of the Alaknanda hydropower project caused devastation downstream in Srinagar in the 2013 flash floods. Such muck is dumped either into the river or in forest areas. After all the massive deforestation, muck dumping, blasting and tunnelling, the hydropower projects thus constructed eventually dry up the river bed as the water is diverted into tunnels. This causes severe distress to aquatic life, and the river bed is no longer even wet in certain stretches. As the Ganga is diverted into long tunnels, de-silted, and directed to powerhouses to churn turbines and generate

power, the barren landscape, dried water sources and the obscene muck slopes narrate a story of destruction. This is a far cry from the promise of development.

The irony is that even after all this devastation, electricity is not generated as per the intended capacity. For example, the installed capacity of the Maneri dam is 90 MW but it only works at below 40% of its capacity. This is because there is too much silt during the monsoon and reduced flow of water in winters. As glaciers continue to retreat, the silt in the rivers is only going to increase. As the reason for diminished output is natural and not technical, and therefore cannot be remedied, this is only going to cause more problems for future projects. For example, the flow of debris was stopped by barrages in the Alaknanda hydropower project. This escalated the impact of the 2013 disaster, according to the expert committee of the Supreme Court.

In the case of the Ganga, these projects also prevent sediments from going downstream. This affects the fertility of the delta downstream and also destroys the unique self-purifying properties of the Ganga.

Reports of committees

Twenty government committees and reports warn about the anthropogenic activities in these fragile areas and recommend conservation of these areas for food and water security. When the late G.D. Agarwal, crusader of the Ganga, fasted to invoke the government to act against these projects, the government proposed an e-flow notification for the Upper Ganga River Basin. It specified that during the dry season (November-March), 20% of monthly average flow has to be maintained, and during the monsoon season, 30% has to be maintained. The notification stated that existing hydel projects that do not meet e-flow norms must comply within three years. The 20% recommendation is less than the scientific recommendation of 50% (only for existing projects). If the government intended to rejuvenate the river, it would have specified that e-flows are only for existing projects. Instead it has opened the floodgates for several such projects as long as the compromised e-flows are maintained.

The result of such a relentless push for hydropower projects is that only 80 km of a 2,500 km-long river now remains in the *Aviral-Nirmal* state. Unless we question these projects now, we will not be able to save the Ganga, the lifeline of millions of people.

Meeta Khilnani is a geophysicist from IIT Roorkee and a member of Ganga Ahvaan, a forum for the conservation of the Ganga in the upper reaches

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बुंदेलखंड की चार नदियों का पानी जहरीला

लखनऊ/बांदा, (आईएनएस): उत्तर प्रदेश के बुंदेलखंड में बह रही चार नदियां यमुना, केन, बेतवा और मंदाकिनी का पानी अब इंसानों के पीने लायक नहीं रहा। प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड की आई एक रपट में इन नदियों का पानी जहरीला पाया गया है। इन नदियों का पानी पीने से इंसानों को कई बीमारियां घेर सकती हैं। प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड द्वारा नवंबर माह में की गई जांच में पाया गया है कि बुंदेलखंड की धरती पर बह रही नदियां यमुना, केन, बेतवा और मंदाकिनी के पानी में टोटल डिजॉल्वड सॉलिड (टीडीएस) की मात्रा 700 से 900 पॉइंट प्रति लीटर और टोटल हार्डनेस (टीएच) 150 मिलीग्राम प्रति लीटर से ऊपर पहुंच गया है। बुंदेलखंड के चित्रकूटधाम मंडल में कुछ छोटी नदियां बागी, रंज और बाणगंगा के अलावा बड़ी नदियां यमुना, केन, बेतवा और मंदाकिनी बह रही हैं, जिनके पानी का उपयोग इंसान करते आए हैं। प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के एक अधिकारी ने रपट के हवाले से बुधवार को बताया, इन नदियों के पानी में टीडीएस की मात्रा काफी बढ़ गई



है, जिससे इनका पानी पीने लायक नहीं रह गया है। प्रदूषित पानी पीने से पथरी, किडनी और पेट संबंधी कई बीमारियां इंसानों को अपने आगोश में ले सकती हैं। उन्होंने बताया हमीरपुर जिले में यमुना नदी के पानी में टीडीएस 792 पॉइंट, बेतवा नदी में 964 पॉइंट, बांदा की केन नदी में 327 और चित्रकूट जिले की मंदाकिनी नदी के पानी में

364 पॉइंट टीडीएस पाया गया है। 300 पॉइंट से ऊपर टीडीएस की मात्रा बेहद नुकसानदायक होती है। उन्होंने कहा, इसके अलावा इन नदियों के पानी में टोटल हार्डनेस (टीएच) की मात्रा भी बढ़ गई है। यमुना में 236.68, केन में 176.54, बेतवा में 159.08 और मंदाकिनी में 192.6 मिलीग्राम प्रति लीटर टीएच पाया गया है।

प्र-20

अधिकारी ने बताया कि आरओ लगाकर शुद्ध किए गए पानी में भी 100 से 200 टीडीएस रह जाता है। 300 के भीतर टीडीएस की मात्रा आमतौर पर नुकसानदायक नहीं होती है। प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के बांदा स्थित क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय में तैनात सहायक वैज्ञानिक आर.के. वर्मा ने कहा, पानी में टोटल डिजॉल्वड सॉलिड (टीडीएस) व टोटल हार्डनेस (टीएच) बढ़ जाने से नदियों का पानी सीधे पीने योग्य नहीं रह जाता।

फिलहाल बुंदेलखंड में उद्योग और बड़े नाले न होने से नदियों का पानी ज्यादा प्रदूषित नहीं है, लेकिन पीने

लायक भी नहीं कहा जा सकता। बारिश में नदियों का जलस्तर बढ़ने और बालू खनन से पानी गंदा हो जाता है जिला सरकारी अस्पताल के मुख्य चिकित्सा अधीक्षक (सीएमएस) डॉ. किशोरी लाल ने बताया कि प्रदूषित और खारा पानी पीने से शरीर में वे तत्व भी पहुंच जाते हैं, जिनकी आवश्यकता नहीं होती। ऐसे में पेट संबंधी बीमारी की शिकायतें ज्यादा होती हैं। इससे लोग गैस्ट्रोएंजाइटिस, डिहाईड्रेशन, उल्टी और बुखार के शिकार ज्यादा होते हैं। इसके अलावा अधिक दिनों तक दूषित पानी पीने से पथरी की बीमारी और किडनी में संक्रमण का खतरा भी रहता है।