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Technical Documentation Directorate
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Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

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Director, WSE Dte.

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31/12

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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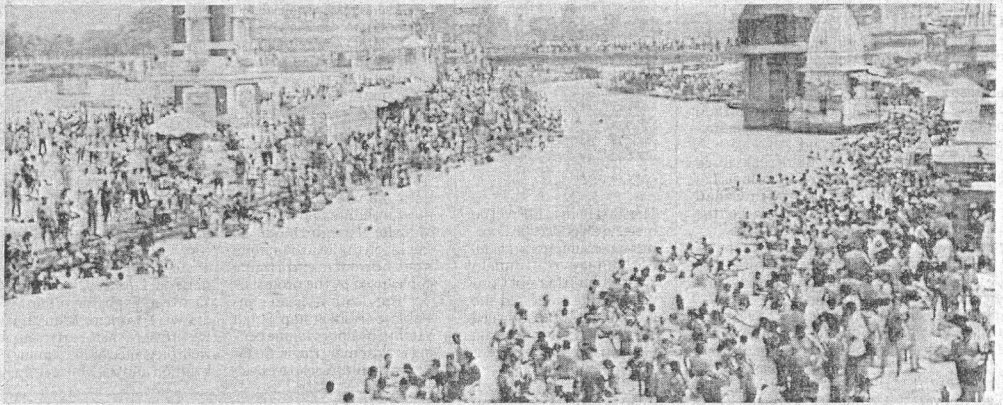
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Towards a Clean Ganga

87-31

The Constitution of India mandates the central and state governments to provide both clean and decent environment and clean drinking water for the people (Article 48A, Art. 51 (A) (g), Article 21). The Supreme Court has also declared that the right to a decent and clean environment is a fundamental right



The Ganga Action Plan of the 1980s and currently the Namam Gange programme with a Rs 20,000-crore outlay during 2015-2020 have set in motion many river cleaning activities, but their positive outcome is nowhere in sight.

Being the fifth largest polluted river in the world, the Ganga is one of the many rivers originating in the Himalayas. The Ganga basin with an area of about 1.09 million sq km spans across four countries - China, India, Nepal and Bangladesh - with about 80 per cent of the area within India. The basin area covers 10 states, has many tributaries, passes through many Tier I, Tier II cities, hundreds of towns, and thousands of villages. About 43 per cent of the total irrigated areas in India falls in the Gangetic basin. In the upstream there is a fragile ecosystem, and large-scale deforestation. Climate change also makes the predictability of the river flow extremely uncertain.

The Ganga is a revered natural resource. It was given a "living entity" status by the Uttarakhand High Court in order to protect the river from relentless "abuse". The pollution of the river is the result of industrial pollution, sewage (domestic) discharge, etc. Unlike easily manageable "point sources", so-called of pollution, non-point sources come from different sources which are not easy to collect or treat.

These include excess fertilizer or insecticides from agricultural land, toxic chemicals, sediment from improperly managed construction sites, acid drainage for abandoned mines, bacteria and nutrients from livestock etc. It is very difficult to control non-point sources as these are not centrally located and can be a result of many factors.

The environmental flow of the river is very low due to its diversion as a result of extrac-

tion. For example, in Hardwar the net flow of the river is 31,000 cusecs, which is reduced to 4000 cusecs in Kanpur. In addition, indiscriminate dumping of waste on river banks including municipal solid waste, e-waste and even sludge aggravates the river pollution.

The total load of pollution in the river due to industrial effluents has increased to 669 million litres per day (MLD) during 2016-17 compared to 501 MLD during 2011-12. The domestic sewage pollution load has also gone up to 10705 MLD during 2016-17 compared to 6966 MLD during 2011-12. The quality of effluents violates the prescribed parameters to a large extent. For example, the faecal coliform carries a very high value against the prescribed 230 coliform per 100 millilitre of water. There are high levels of biological demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), and even heavy metals like zinc, copper, etc.

Out of 70 river water monitoring stations of the Central Pollution Control Board, only five areas are fit for drinking and seven for bathing (ENVIS 2018). The National Green Tribunal's order on 27 August 2018 cautions that the situation is so alarming that from Hardwar to Kolkata, the water is neither fit for consumption nor for bathing. Accordingly, it directed that the water quality information of the Ganga must be placed in the public domain so that the citizen is aware of its health aspects. The CAG's audit report (2017) echoed a similar finding, "total coliform level in all cities of UP, Bihar, and West Bengal was very high, ranging from 6 to 334 times higher than the pre-

scribed levels". Thus, the river water even now is highly polluted.

The deteriorating water quality happened despite many initiatives of the governments. The thrust areas of the central government are ensuring *aviraldhara* (continuous flow), *nirmaldhara* (clean flow), river front development, capacity building, research and monitoring, protection of aquatic flora and fauna, and finally, awareness creation. On these parameters, the central government sanctioned projects worth Rs 22,238 crore during 2015 till 30 June 2018, compared to Rs 4000 crore spent during 1985-2015. In fact, 107 sewage infrastructure projects were identified

in seven states (Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Haryana and Delhi) covering 3295 MLD sewage treatment plant capacities. Of these, only 26 projects were completed. Thus, the progress is very slow.

Regarding *aviraldhara*, the central government in October 2018, issued a notification for ensuring a mini-

mum flow of the Ganga in various seasons. In the upper Ganga river basin, starting from originating glaciers up to Hardwar, there should be a minimum flow of 20 per cent of monthly flow in the dry season, while during the high flow season, it should be 30 per cent of the monthly flow. The minimum flow releases immediately downstream of barrages at various locations on the Ganga mainstream should vary from 24-36 cumecs during the non-monsoon period, and 48-57 cumecs during the monsoon. Experts, however, feel that this notified minimum flow is not

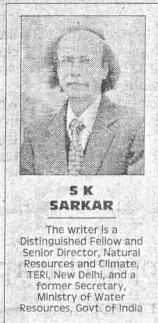
adequate, as these have already been achieved without any river quality improvement. Hence there is need for enhanced minimum flow.

There are several challenges. First, the issues are: divergence of river action plan with broader development policies, challenges in experimenting with newer institutional models, lack of incentive structures with local bodies, wastage of funds, the complexity of monitoring technical parameters, evolving a robust regulating framework, non-performing assets and under-utilization of assets, non-implementation of septage management policy in the context of an open defecation-free scenario.

Further, the lack of proper supervision in terms of implementation, lack of coordination, lack of accountability, lack of adopting appropriate technology, disregarding the minimum environmental flow in the river throughout the year, unsustainable extraction of ground water, capacity efficiency, etc. are barriers to achieving positive results.

The Constitution of India mandates the central and state governments to provide both clean and decent environment and clean drinking water for the people (Article 48A, Art. 51 (A) (g), Article 21). The Supreme Court has also declared that the right to a decent and clean environment is a fundamental right. Even citizens are mandated to make every effort to keep the environment clean and to protect forests, rivers and water bodies and to have compassion for living creatures. Thus it devolves on all stakeholders to ensure that the river water is clean.

To overcome the challenges for bringing about a clean Ganga by 2020, as per the government's promise, a mass movement must be launched straightaway with the goal of achieving this within the target date.



S K SARKAR

The writer is a Distinguished Fellow and Senior Director, Natural Resources and Climate, TERI, New Delhi, and a former Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Govt. of India



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'Banned materials in idols behind heavy metal concentration in Yamuna'

PTI

NEW DELHI, 30 DECEMBER

Rampant use of prohibited synthetic materials and toxic paints in idols led to manyfold increase of heavy metal concentration in the Yamuna following idol immersion, a monitoring committee overseeing the cleaning of the river said.

After being apprised by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) that idol immersion following Ganesh Chaturthi and Durga Pooja, and religious activities during Chhat Pooja cause extensive damage to the river, the panel said it "unacceptable and dangerous".

The monitoring committee has said the Yamuna is "fighting to stay alive" and it would not be possible to rejuvenate the river unless minimum environmental flow is provided as it is "virtually reduced to a trickle and remains dry in some stretches for almost nine months of the year".

The panel has proposed legal action and imposition of heavy fine against those violating the norms that led to pollution in the river.

The monitoring committee, formed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), noted that concentration of heavy metals increased in the river due to immersion of painted and polished idols with metallic ornaments and shiny materials.

Post-immersion, the level of chromium increased 11



times from the limit (0.05mg/l) set by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), while iron concentration increased 71 times from the 0.3 mg/l limit. Nickel increased one fold from the 0.02 mg/l BIS limit and lead increased two times from the 0.01 mg/l limit, the CPCB said.

The quality of the river water after idol immersion following Ganesh Chaturthi showed "unacceptable rise of levels of pollutants", the monitoring committee said, adding, "There is an urgent need to build awareness about how dangerous this can be and to show no latitude when CPCB guidelines are being defied."

According to researchers, toxicity of heavy metals can damage functioning of brain, lungs, kidney, liver and other vital organs and also can alter blood composition. Long-term exposure can lead to

ailments such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and muscular dystrophy, among others.

CPCB guidelines state that idols should be made from natural materials and clay should be used while backed clay, plaster of paris and other such items should not be allowed.

"If idols are to be painted, water-soluble non-toxic natural dyes should be used. Use of toxic and non-biodegradable chemical dyes for painting idols should be strictly prohibited," the guidelines said.

NGT Chairperson Justice A K Goel had in July formed the monitoring committee comprising retired expert member B S Sajwan and former Delhi chief secretary Shailaja Chandra, and directed them to the submit an action plan and detailed report on cleaning of the river by

December 31.

The committee has directed the divisional commissioner, NCT Delhi authorities an other public authorities like DMC, DDA, CPCB and DPCC to ensure that a system is established for giving registration, getting undertaking to abide by the CPCB guidelines before granting approval to pooja pandals.

"If use of prohibited material is noted on random inspection, the pandals, societies who have given an undertaking would need to be fined heavily besides taking other legal action for causing nuisance," the monitoring committee recommended.

It also emphasised on raising public awareness about the issue and make people understand why it is important to desist from using paints, plaster of paris, while at the same time ensure that synthetic material is not thrown in the river. The committee had earlier said a small stretch of less than two per cent of the Yamuna accounts for 76 per cent of the river's pollution.

In the action plan, a copy of which has been accessed by PTI, it is mentioned, "Although the Yamuna river flows only for 54 kilometres from Palla to Badarpur through Delhi, the 22-kilometre stretch from Wazirabad to Okhla, which is less than 2 per cent of the river length of 1,370 kilometres from Yamunotri to Allahabad, accounts for about 76 per cent of the pollution in the river".

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Save river message through 'maha aarti' on Beas banks in Kullu

10,000 'atta' diyas to be lit on Jan 1 | Thakur to preside over event

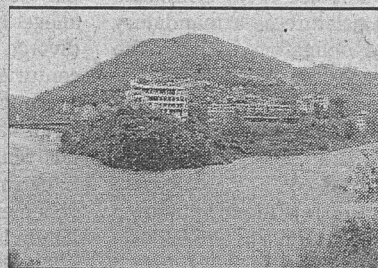
PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 30

In a first-of-its-kind, the state government will hold a 'maha aarti' of the Beas river in Kullu on January 1 to spread a message on the need for the protection of rivers. As many as 10,000 diyas will be lit on the banks of the river at Nature Park. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur will preside over the event.

The unique 'aarti' will be attended by more than 10,000 persons from 204 panchayats of Kullu district. The 'aarti — Jai Maa Tarini, Maa Jai Beasa Tarni' — has no religious connotations, but a strong message of environment protection while propitiating the river as a source of life and prosperity.

The Kullu district administration, in associa-



Diyas will be made of wheat flour so that the aquatic life can feed on it

tion with Dev Samaj, senior citizens and writers, has composed the lyrics. In line with the theme, diyas (earthen lamps) will be made of wheat flour so that the aquatic life can feed on it and they degenerate, leaving the river clean.

"Our endeavour is to create awareness about environment protection and save our rivers which are either shrinking or getting flooded because of issues like climate change," said Yunus

Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Kullu.

He said it was only with the complete community participation and a strong sense of belongingness that rivers, forests and other natural resources could be protected.

"It is for this reason that there will be participation from all 204 gram panchayats, 100 mahila mandals, 122 yuvak mandals, senior citizen bodies, ex-servicemen, pensioners and all other associations," the DC said.

The Kullu-Manali had witnessed an exceptional rise in the water level of the Beas during the monsoon. While many vehicles were washed away in the gushing waters, the flooded river had risen above the national highway bringing vehicular traffic to a halt. "Even though the situation is already alarming, but we seem to have not learnt any lesson which is so evident from the reckless harnessing of hydro power causing environmental damage," said Lal Chand Kaotch, a Kullu-based activist who fought the case in the High Court for stopping the Himlayan Ski Village project.

Katoch said the initiative of the Kullu administration was praiseworthy and this should become a people's movement.

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Walk the talk on depleting resource T-31

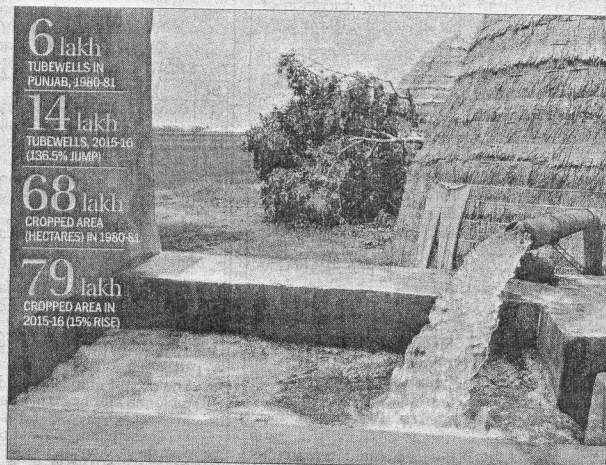
Groundwater overexploitation is straining sustainability of agriculture in Punjab. A robust policy is the need of the hour, says Dr Ranjit Singh Ghuman

THE status of groundwater availability and draft across various usages is extremely worrying as the latter is much higher than the recharge. The gross groundwater draft was 34,81,343 hams (hectare metres) in 2013, while the net availability was 23,39,172 hams. The situation is alarming and needs to be handled as an emergency. The policy response so far, however, has been very weak. Punjab is yet to have an agriculture policy in place. The Water Regulation and Development Authority, approved by the Cabinet, is yet to be constituted.

Punjab is drafting 149 per cent of the net groundwater availability. The draft for irrigation is 146 per cent of the net availability. Sangrur district's draft is the highest (211 per cent of the availability), followed by Jalandhar (209 per cent). There are five districts whose draft varies from 160 per cent (Faridkot) to 194 per cent (Barnala). In seven other districts, the draft ranges between 107 per cent (SAS Nagar) and 144 per cent (Ferozepur). These districts are in the central plain zone, where paddy is the main crop during the kharif season.

Many districts, mainly in central Punjab (paddy zone), have suffered a serious depletion in the water table. During 1996-2016, Patiala registered a 22-metre decline, followed by Fatehgarh Sahib (18.6 metres), Jalandhar (17.6), Sangrur (17.3), Kapurthala (15.70), Mansa (14.55), Moga (14), Ludhiana (6.72) and Faridkot (6.65 metres). The annual average decline varies between 21 cm (Amritsar) and 70 cm (Patiala).

According to the Water Resource Estimation Committee, when the annual average decline in the water table is more than 10-20 cm per year for a period of 10 years or more, it is regarded as a "significant decline". Going by this criterion, 11



districts of Punjab have experienced a significant decline in the water table during 1996-2016. The drop involves a substantial social cost and reduces productivity.

The number of overexploited blocks increased from 53 (44.92 per cent) in 1984 to 105 (76.09 per cent) in 2013. The ever-declining number of safe (white) blocks is another issue of serious concern. The number of such blocks was 36 (30.51 per cent) in 1984; it decreased to 26 (18.84 per cent) in 2013. Such a scenario must worry the government, policy-makers and farmers as the very sustainability of agriculture and Punjab's water balance are under great stress.

The situation arose out of the country's requirement for much-needed food security, which led to the predominance of the wheat-paddy cropping system in Punjab. Hence, there was no major breakthrough

in the research and development of alternative crops. The effective provision of the minimum support price (MSP) for wheat and paddy and the absence of such a provision for alternative crops and free electricity also went in favour of the wheat-paddy crop rotation.

The area under paddy increased from 6.04 per cent of the net sown area (NSA) in 1960-61 to 71.79 per cent in 2015-16. In terms of acreage, the area under paddy rose from 2,27,000 hectares in 1960-61 to 2,370,000 hectares in 2015-16, an increase by 13.08 times. Paddy needs 22 irrigations (as recommended by Punjab Agricultural University). No other crop (except sugarcane, which is a whole-year crop) consumes such a large volume of water. In practice, more than recommended doses of irrigation are applied to paddy.

LEGISLATION RUNS INTO POLITICAL ROADBLOCK

The Congress government in Punjab has been flagging the urgent need for water conservation and management, especially overexploitation of groundwater. However, vote-bank politics has held up a proposed legislation in this regard.

Taking the populist route, the state government has neither recovered water bills running into crores of rupees nor adopted strict measures to discourage misuse of this natural resource.

Based on data compiled between 2006 and 2015, followed by 2016-17 findings, the Central Ground Water Board has found that 82 per cent of Punjab's areas have seen a substantial fall in the water table.

The Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2018, seems to have been grounded even before takeoff, at least for now. In the wake of stiff opposition from some ministers representing urban areas, the proposed Bill

was withdrawn recently at the last moment during the winter session of the Vidhan Sabha.

The government proposes to set up the Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority. The ministers apprehend that the proposed authority, on the lines of the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission, would get powers to impose and hike the tariff for domestic, commercial and industrial use — hitting hard their vote bank in local bodies.

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has directed the Department of Water Resources to take up the issue again at a Cabinet meeting after consulting the ministers concerned. The latter argue that the government, in another populist move, has kept the farming community out of the ambit of the proposed regulatory body despite the agricultural sector accounting for 90 per cent of the water consumption.

RAJMEET SINGH

The success story of the Green Revolution and the consequent cropping pattern led to an excessive dependence on groundwater. Tubewells emerged as the main instrument of irrigation in Punjab. Industries in the state also mainly use underground water through their own tubewells. Overall, only 35 per cent of the industries in India use groundwater through tubewells.

In 1960-61, of the total irrigated area of 2,020,000 hectares, 58.07 per cent was under canal water and over 41 per cent under tubewells and wells. The area under canal irrigation reached a plateau (1,660,000 hectares) in 1990-91 and thereafter it started declining. Presently, about 73 per cent of the area is under tubewell irrigation.

The depletion of water table also led to

frequent deepening of tubewells and a rapid increase in the number of submersible electric motors, resulting in much greater pressure on electricity and higher cost of water extraction.

The consumption of water to produce 1 kg of rice is the highest (5,337 litres) in Punjab. During the triennium ending (TE) 1980-81, rice production in Punjab consumed 16,643 billion litres, of which the contribution to the Central pool accounted for 13,449 billion litres (81 per cent). During TE 2013-14, the water consumption in rice production was 59,477 billion litres, of which 43,262 billion litres (73.3 per cent) was for the Central pool. This is a classic case of Punjab's virtual water export in the form of rice.

The writer is Professor of Economics at CRRID, Chandigarh

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लोकसभा चुनाव से पहले चमकेगी ट्रांस यमुना

pk-31



फोटो: श्रीकांत सिंह

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): लोकसभा चुनाव से पहले दिल्ली सरकार ने ट्रांस यमुना (यमुना पार) क्षेत्र को चमकाने का फैसला लिया है। क्षेत्र के 16 विधानसभा क्षेत्र में 100 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से सड़क, गलियाँ, नालियाँ सहित अन्य का निर्माण होगा।

इस संबंध में ट्रांस यमुना एरिया डेवलपमेंट बोर्ड के चेयरमैन चौधरी फतेह सिंह ने बताया कि दिल्ली सरकार ने अनुपूरक बजट में बोर्ड को 48 करोड़ रुपये की जगह 100 करोड़ रुपये दिए हैं। इस फैसले के बाद क्षेत्र के 16 विधानसभा को सवा छह करोड़-सवा

छह करोड़ रुपये का फंड मिल जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि क्षेत्र के अधिकतर विधानसभा क्षेत्र में सड़क, नालियाँ, गलियाँ व अन्य टूटे हुए हैं। इन्हें लेकर विधायक अक्सर शिकायत करते रहे हैं। विधायकों की शिकायत के बाद ही बजट बढ़ाने का फैसला लिया है। ट्रांस यमुना के लिए बढ़ाए गए फंड से विधायक अपने क्षेत्र में सामुदायिक केंद्र भी बनवा सकेंगे। क्षेत्र के विधायकों ने बताया कि यमुना पार क्षेत्र में अधिकतर मध्यम वर्ग के लोग रहते हैं। इन्हें उचित स्थान नहीं मिल पाता। ऐसे में लोगों की जरूरत को देखते हुए क्षेत्र में सामुदायिक केंद्र की जरूरत है।

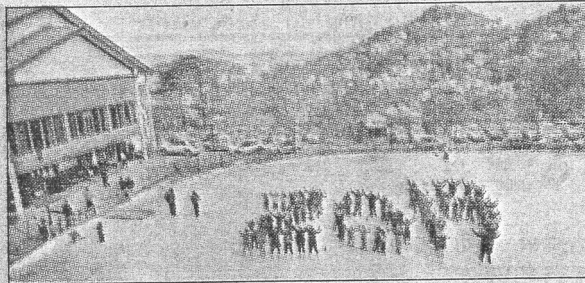
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हिमाचल : साल की शुरुआत में बारिश व बर्फबारी के ^{PK-31} आसार



शिमला के लक्कड़ बाजार में बर्फ पर नए वर्ष की तैयारियों के लिए मानव श्रृंखला बनाते स्थानीय लोग। (छाया: प्रेटर)

शिमला, (आईएनएस): हिमाचल प्रदेश में रविवार को आंशिक बदली छाई है जबकि राज्य के अधिकांश हिस्सों में शीतलहर जारी है। मौसम विभाग ने बताया कि नववर्ष की पूर्वसंध्या तक बारिश या बर्फबारी की संभावना नहीं है। मौसम विभाग के निदेशक मनमोहन सिंह ने बताया, पश्चिमी विक्षोभ एक जनवरी से इस क्षेत्र में सक्रिय हो जाएगा जिसके बाद कई स्थानों पर बारिश और बर्फबारी होगी शिमला, नरकंडा, कुफरी,

मनाली और डलहौजी जैसे अधिकांश प्रमुख पर्यटक शहरों में एक जनवरी से मध्यम बर्फबारी हो सकती है शिमला में 5.2 डिग्री सेल्सियस तापमान दर्ज किया गया। शिमला में 12 दिसम्बर को पास के पहाड़ी गंतव्यों जैसे कुफरी, मशोबरा और नरकंडा में बर्फबारी हुई थी इसके बाद से यहां बर्फबारी नहीं हुई शिमला से लगभग 250 किलोमीटर दूर कुल्लू जिले में मनाली की पहाड़ियां बर्फ की चादर में लिपटी हुई हैं।

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

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

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

कच्चापद प्रदूषण को लेकर एनजीटी सख्त

रामगंगा को बचाने के लिए 40 दिन में ई-कचरा उठाने के निर्देश

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
rajasthanpatrika.com

मुरादाबाद, कुंभ को लेकर शासन द्वारा सभी नदियों में सफाई के निर्देश दिए गए हैं, जिसको लेकर गंगा में मिलने वाली सभी सहायक नदियों में विशेष सफाई अभियान चलाया जा रहा है। वहीं महानगर से गुजरने वाली रामगंगा में बढ़ते प्रदूषण को लेकर पिछले दिनों एनजीटी ने सख्त नाराजगी दिखाई थी।

इसके बाद एनजीटी ने स्थानीय प्रशासन को राम गंगा में प्रदूषण कम करने के साथ रामगंगा से ई-कचरा हटाने के लिए जल्द से जल्द कहा था, जिसके बाद नगर निगम ने रामगंगा से ई डस्ट का उठान शुरू

किया, लेकिन अभी तक पूरी ई-कचरा नहीं उठ पाया है। वहीं कुंभ जलद ही शुरू होने वाला है। इससे नाराज एनजीटी ने एक बार फिर स्थानीय प्रशासन को आगे 40 दिन में ही कचरा हटाने के आदेश दिए हैं। इससे स्थानीय प्रशासन में हड़कंप मच गया है। आनन-फानन में कई टीमों को लगाकर अब रोजाना बड़ी

मात्रा में ई-कचरा हटाया जा रहा है। यहां बता दें रामगंगा और उसके आसपास भारी मात्रा में न केवल ई-कचरा जलाया जा रहा है, बल्कि पानी में तमाम केमिकल भी छोड़े जाते हैं। वहीं बिजनौर से लेकर मुरादाबाद तक फैक्ट्रियों का पानी और कचरा नदी में मिलता ही है। पिछले दिनों एक रिपोर्ट में खुलासा

हुआ था कि नदी का पानी अब नहाने के लायक नहीं बचा है। इससे आचमन भी करते हैं तो शरीर में कई प्रकार की बीमारियां पनप सकती हैं। जबकि प्रदूषण नियंत्रण विभाग का कहना है कि नदी के पानी पर लगातार नजर रखी जा रही है और रोजाना अलग-अलग जगह जा रहे हैं और पिछले काफी समय से सुधार देखा जा रहा है।

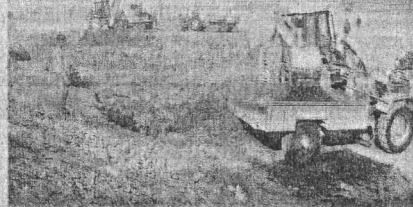
प्रदूषण नियंत्रण अधिकारी डॉ. आरके सिंह ने बताया एनजीटी के निर्देश पर प्रशासन कचरा हटाने में जुटा है। ताकि रामगंगा में प्रदूषण को कम किया जा सके। इसके अलावा जो नदी में गंदगी फैला रहे हैं लोगों पर कार्रवाई की तैयारी की जा रही है।

जांच के लिए पहुंची आईआईटी की टीम

वहीं राम गंगा में प्रदूषण की स्थिति को देखने के लिए आईआईटी रुड़की के इंजीनियरों की एक टीम भी महानगर पहुंच

गई है, जो नदी के पानी पर निगरानी करने के साथ उसमें जो रहे प्रदूषण को कैसे कम किया जा सकता है। इस पर काम करेगी।

RP-31



मुरादाबाद स्थित रामगंगा नदी के किनारे से हटाया जा रहा ई-कचरा।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 30.12.2018 in the

Hindustan Times

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The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

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Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu ✓

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

WHERE

Rain deficit, drought in several States

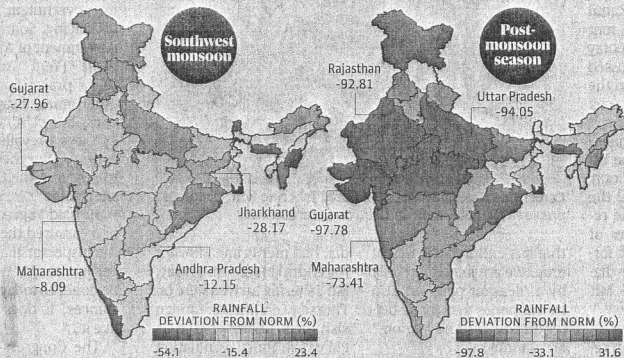
H-30

Every drop counts

Several districts across the country have already been affected by drought in 2018-19. Rainfall has been scanty since the conclusion of the southwest monsoon. By **Varun B. Krishnan** and **Srinivasan Ramani**

According to the Manual for Drought Management (2016) by the Department of Agriculture, there are six major data indicators which portend drought: Rainfall | Crop sown area | Reservoir levels | Satellite-based crop conditions | Stream flow | Groundwater levels

Drier than usual | The country receives three-fourths of its annual rainfall during the southwest monsoon. Data show that there was a 9% deficit in rainfall during the season. Rainfall from October 2018 has also not been favourable. Maps below show the % of excess or shortage of rainfall in each State during June-September 2018 (left) and during October-December 24 (right)



Water stored | Data show that reservoirs in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana, West Bengal and Gujarat have the lowest storage levels as on December 26, 2018



Drought-hit | The rainfall and reservoir levels data show that States like Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh have a drought situation. According to a written answer given during Lok Sabha Question Hour, several States, including Maharashtra, Karnataka and Rajasthan have declared drought in a number of districts during the year 2017-18 and 2018-19. Here are the number of districts and area affected in the drought-hit States

State	No. of districts affected	Area affected (lakh ha)
Maharashtra	26	85.76
Karnataka	24	37.12
Rajasthan	9	34.97
Gujarat	11	20.93
Andhra Pradesh	9	13.62
Jharkhand	18	3.59

Source: IMD, CWC and Lok Sabha

*Data were combined for Andhra Pradesh/Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana reservoirs

Hindustan Times
Statesman
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Indian Express
Tribune
Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi) ✓
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
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A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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

गंगा की सफाई के लिये साफ नीयत भी जरूरी : पीएम

वाराणसी (उ.प्र.) (भाषा) : प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने पूर्ववर्ती सरकारों पर गंगा की सफाई के नाम पर हजारों करोड़ रुपये 'बहाने' का आरोप लगाते हुए शनिवार को कहा कि इस नदी को निर्मल बनाने के लिये साफ नीयत की भी जरूरत है। प्रधानमंत्री ने अपने संसदीय निर्वाचन क्षेत्र वाराणसी में 'एक जनपद, एक उत्पाद समिट' के उद्घाटन के अवसर पर कहा कि उनकी सरकार काशी समेत सम्पूर्ण पूर्वांचल के विकास के लिये प्रतिबद्ध है। उसी तरह मां गंगा की पवित्रता और अविरलता के प्रति भी उनकी प्रतिबद्धता है। सरकार के प्रयासों के परिणाम धीरे-धीरे दिखने भी लगे हैं। उन्होंने कहा, "जब पूरी पारदर्शिता, प्रामाणिकता और जनभागीदारी से सरकार काम करती है तब सार्थक परिणाम अवश्य मिलते हैं। वरना, आप तो साक्षी रहे हैं कि गंगा एक्शन प्लान से लेकर, गंगा बेसिन अथॉरिटी तक ना जाने कैसी-कैसी योजनाएं बनायीं गयीं। मां गंगा के नाम पर हजारों करोड़ बहा दिये गये। गंगा की निर्मलता के लिये धन की शक्ति ही काफी नहीं है, साफ नीयत भी चाहिये। नीयत साफ है तो गंगा का भी साफ होना तय है। हम पूरी ईमानदारी और साफ नीयत से गंगा को स्वच्छ करने के अभियान में जुटे हैं।" मोदी ने अपनी सरकार की कार्यप्रणाली में पारदर्शिता लाने के जिक्र के बहाने भी विरोधियों पर निशाना साधा।

PK-30

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The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

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

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

Winter rain deficient in North

VIJAY MOHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

T-29

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 29

Even as northern India reels under an intense cold wave, the year is ending on a severely deficient note as far as winter rains in this part of the country is concerned.

In Punjab, rainfall is 76% below the long period average where as in Haryana and Himachal, the deficiency is 65% and 45%. as per data compiled by Met Department from October 1 to December 28. Winter rains and snow, resulting from the western disturbances that originate over the Mediterranean region and move eastwards, are of great importance to the

agricultural sector, particularly for rabi crops like wheat. While no district in Punjab has received rainfall above the long period average, one district each in Haryana (Kaithal) and Himachal (Kullu) experienced above average rains during this period.

The Malwa region remained dry during the last quarter of the year. The districts of Ferozepur, Muktsar, Bathinda, Barnala, Sangrur, Moga, and Kapurthala did not get any rain, while in Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Mansa and Faridkot districts, the shortfall was over 90%. Patiala and Ropar districts fare somewhat better with the deficiency being 8% and 15%, respectively.

Though Mewat is the only district in Haryana to remain dry, the deficiency was high in most other districts of the state. The shortfall was above 90% in Sonapat, Palwal, Rewari, Jhajjar, Hisar and Panipat and above 70% in Panchkula, Sirsa, Karnal, Jind, Rohtak, Gurgaon, Mahendragarh and Faridabad.

Deficiency ranged up to 72% in HP, where lie the sources of several rivers and rivulets. At 24% below the long period average, Shimla was the least affected district in the state while Una was the hardest hit. The upper reaches comprising Kinnaur, Lahaul & Spiti and Kangra remained deficient by 48%, 55% and 59%.

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Blitz

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

यमुना सफाई के लिए 12 संयंत्रों पर काम शुरू

नई दिल्ली | एजेंसी

जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण मंत्री नितिन गडकरी ने कहा है कि दिल्ली से होकर बह रही यमुना की सफाई के लिए 12 संयंत्रों पर काम शुरू किया गया है। उम्मीद है कि यह काम पूरा होने के बाद यमुना में 'स्वच्छ' जल प्रवाहित होने लगेगा।

गडकरी ने यह बात 'स्पर्श गंगा अभियान' व 'नमामि गंगे' की तरफ से आयोजित इंटरनेशनल कन्वेंशन ऑन एनवायरनमेंट एंड अवार्ड, 2018 कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए कही। उन्होंने कहा, इन सभी संयंत्रों का निर्माण होने के बाद यमुना में गंदा पानी प्रवाहित नहीं किया जाएगा।



कई योजनाएं शुरू

केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि यमुना को स्वच्छ बनाने की कई योजनाएं शुरू हुई हैं। दिल्ली में यमुना की लंबाई 22 किलोमीटर है, लेकिन यह 22 किलोमीटर बहते-बहते 80 फीसदी प्रदूषित हो जाती है। उन्होंने कहा कि न सिर्फ दिल्ली और हरियाणा में बल्कि यमुना की सफाई के लिए मथुरा, वृंदावन और आगरा में भी संयंत्र लगाए जा रहे हैं।

गंगा की सफाई चुनौतीपूर्ण

गडकरी ने कहा कि गंगा सफाई का कार्य चुनौतीपूर्ण है। इसके लिए धन की कमी नहीं आने दी जाएगी। सरकार इस योजना पर 26 हजार करोड़ रुपये खर्च कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा, वित्त मंत्री अरुण जेटली की अगुवाई में हुई बैठक में तय हुआ कि इस कार्य के लिए एक करोड़ लोगों से सीधे इलेक्ट्रॉनिक हस्तांतरण के जरिये आर्थिक सहयोग लिया जाएगा।