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Tougher pollution laws soon, vows minister

We plan to introduce amendments this session, Environment Minister Javadekar says; he is optimistic about land bill too



**DEATH BY
BREATH**

AMITABH SINHA & LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, MAY 4

THE GOVERNMENT will soon bring in changes to the law to provide for tougher punishments for pollution-related offences, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has said.

In an interview to *The Indian Express*, Javadekar said his ministry has finalised proposals to amend the Environment Protection Act, 1986, and plans to introduce these in the ongoing session of Parliament itself. The proposals have been submitted to the cabinet for approval, he said.

Javadekar also said the government would get the land bill passed in the current session of Parliament. "There is one week to go, and three more days for the Rajya Sabha. Many things can happen in eight days. Many things will be cleared," he said.

Asked why he thought the opposition will change its stand on the land bill, he said, "Logon ko sadbuddhi aati hai (People are visited with good sense). So let us wait for the final days of the Parliament session." Although the bill was not mentioned in its list of busi-



Prakash Javadekar addresses a function in New Delhi last week. PTI

ness for the week beginning Tuesday, the government said on Friday it would like to bring in the bill before the Lok Sabha concludes on May 8.

About the changes to environmental laws, Javadekar said, "Today, you can issue directions, you can register a violation, you

can register a criminal case which never gets completed in a time-bound manner. So nobody gets punished in that process. Or, otherwise, you can only close the shop. But that is not the way. You cannot close thousands of industries. So there has to be a third thing. That means, you have to create a mechanism

where we increase the penalties."

Offences under the Environment Protection Act are punishable by a fine up to Rs 1 lakh, imprisonment up to five years, or both. The minister did not specify what the new ceiling of fines would be.

Javadekar conceded that there was "pres-

sure" on India's land and forest resources because of development needs. "We have only 2.5 per cent of the world's land mass and have 17 per cent of the human as well as 17 per cent of the cattle population. Therefore, there will always be pressure but still we have to protect our environment and increase the forest cover. How can we do that? The answer is technology," he said.

The Environment Ministry has been working on making "comprehensive amendments" to six green laws, including the EPA, to bring them in line with current requirements. Javadekar said the work will take about six months to be finalised.

"The T S R Subramanian Committee has given its inputs. Then all the states have given their inputs. All experts and others too have given their inputs. All of them have been put together and we have appointed a law firm to draft the laws. That will take about six months," he said.

But a law on creating an authority to deal with compensatory afforestation funds, which was cleared by the cabinet recently, will be introduced in the current session itself, Javadekar promised. "CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority) is a major step."

Javadekar said the Narendra Modi government has performed "miracles" on the environment front in its 11 months so far. "We have made processes transparent. We have started taking decisions. The ministry, which was seen as a speed-breaker and a tax ministry, we have converted into a facilitating and a very transparent ministry, where we are accountable for all our actions," Javadekar said.

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Nepal's moment of truth

As the dust settles over Nepal, the landlocked country is saddled with questions related to disaster management and state structure, to be answered by its polity and those in charge of governance. As reports point out, Nepal's earthquake tragedy — with the loss of 7,000 lives (and counting), physical and psychological injuries to many more, and extensive damage to property — has been exacerbated by the fact that rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts are concentrated in the Kathmandu valley. Areas closer to the epicentre are mostly inaccessible: the roads are broken, and landslips have ravaged an already difficult terrain. Yet it is in these very areas that the damage has been the most severe. The Nepal government has virtually thrown its hands up, showing up its incapacity to address the severity of the problem, as aid flow from agencies, and countries including India and China, has filled the breach to a limited extent. This incapacity is, to a great extent, the Nepal polity's own making, unable as it has been to complete the Constitution-writing project started in 2008. Meanwhile, poor governance has rendered Nepal a difficult place to live in. Out-migration has been on the rise, even as many Nepalis have flocked to the capital city despite its congestion. Most of the economic activity is concentrated in and around the valley. So are the donor agencies and the bulk of the political leadership in charge of aid distribution.

The issues that have held up the successful completion of the Constitution-writing process are closely related to the present inability of the Nepal government to respond quickly and effectively to the natural disaster. If Nepal had been a truly federal republic with greater decentralisation of power at the local levels, and had a diversified economic base that is not limited to the valley, would there not have been better roads and more responsive administrative systems in place in some of the most-affected places beyond the valley? If these federal units had been structured in such a manner as to give local communities greater power and responsibility, would they not have been more prepared to handle disaster? Would not a strong executive unhindered by differences between the presidency and the parliamentary leadership have helped more streamlined decision-making? The answers to these questions are in the affirmative. This then suggests that the promise of the successive Jan-Andolans that led to the formation of the Constituent Assembly in the first place has to be realised by a responsible and forward-thinking polity. Nepal's political class ought to use this juncture as a spur to finalise a Constitution. This should allow its citizenry to be better prepared for any more such tragedies in the seismically fragile zone they inhabit.

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HTSUNDAY SPECIAL

'Monsoon has changed, farming must too'

Snehal Rebello and Zia Haq
letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI: A changing monsoon has pushed India's agriculture sector towards a tipping point and it must now be prepared to switch to a new system to keep feeding a billion-plus people, the country's top experts said. This would mean discarding some iconic farming practices

and varieties that helped spur the 1960s' green revolution, they added.

The monsoon is critical in India as nearly 60% of sown areas do not have assured irrigation and agriculture still supports two thirds of the population.

The changing monsoon patterns have become a major concern for farmers, scientists and policy-

makers alike. For instance, researchers at the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Pune wing, which handles long-range forecasts, have concluded that the June-September monsoon is increasingly becoming more sluggish in the initial phase, picking up towards the end.

'Monsoon has changed, farming must too'

Although such late revival patterns tend to improve the rainfall scenario, they can still roil farms because of crop cycles. The IMD's study was published recently in the journal Mausam.

Some previous studies, too, have shown that peak monsoon months were shifting to August and September, with more extreme rainfall events. "Peak rainy months are moving to August-September, monsoon withdrawal is getting delayed to mid-October and merging with northeast [winter] monsoon. So farmers will have to adapt to these changes," said Gauravendra P Singh, a monsoon investigator with the IMD.

For a good harvest, the monsoon must not just be timely but also evenly distributed across various food-bowl states. Given current farming practices, good rain in June and July is vital, as farmers sow a variety of kharif crops such as rice, maize, corn, pulses, soya and cotton. Varieties developed during the green revolution are primed for these two months.

Alive to the challenges of climate change, the government has taken cautious steps towards

adaptation. "We have long realised this. But the challenge is to replace a whole range of crops and varieties, ensure they are high yielding, too, and then popularise them with farmers," said HS Gupta, the director-general of Borlaug Institute for South Asia and former head of Indian Agricultural Research Institute. For instance, under Gupta's watch, a new variety of basmati called "Pusa 1509" was developed. It can be planted in July-end with an even higher yield, rather than June as its lifespan has been brought down from 165 days to 120 days.

The state-run National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture project has developed flood- and drought-tolerant rice varieties, while global farm consortiums such as CGIAR are trying to popularise a rice-sowing technique that requires less water.

Shorter-duration crops and conservation farming are now two "well-regimented" government-backed climate adaptation strategies. The latter is based on three principles: minimum tillage of land, always-covered-with-crops land and mixed cropping. But these remain very limited in reach.

However, only 3% of farmers are either aware of or willing to change tried and tested varieties, according to a survey cited in a recent statement made in

Parliament. This reflects a lack of trust, since farmers have to spend a lot on seeds.

"We have begun in right earnest. But what we do not have an answer to, at present, is how to bring them to the field, when farmers are so used to older varieties. This cannot happen without a national farmer re-education programme," Gupta said.

"The government should continue with its efforts to revamp cropping patterns, to shift the focus from growing water intensive crops in the rain-fed areas to the water abundant regions of north east India, which have the potential of becoming the food bowl of the country," said Chandrajit Banerjee, director general, Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

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Govt mulling insurance against natural disaster

SAFETY FIRST New fund could be set up in addition to the existing national calamity fund and PM's Relief Fund

Mahua Venkatesh

mahua.venkatesh@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The government may consider setting up a natural calamity insurance pool, especially in the wake of the Nepal earthquake that caused heavy loss of life and property, and sparked warnings that India too is at risk.

This insurance pool will be an addition to the existing national calamity fund and the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

Earlier in 2013, non-life insurance companies had presented a concept paper on the same to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The concept paper underlined the need to set up a pool to deal with such natural disasters.

The proposal is at a nascent stage, and the contours and the structure of the pool are yet to be decided.

"It is important to look into the issue, more so as several parts of India too are vulnerable to such incidents," said an official source. The insurance pool is aimed at providing "event



■ A Nepalese village in ruins after the recent earthquakes. PHOTO: AFP

based insurance and ensure financial support to everyone affected by natural calamity."

"Recent instances indicate that a large number of people affected by such calamities do not get any support due to lack of insurance cover, or they have to depend on government support. It is time we created such a provision that will support life, and help rebuild property in such catastrophes," Rakesh Jain, CEO, Reliance General Insurance, told HT.

Several Indian cities, especial-

ly in the Himalayas and in the north-Indian states of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Assam and Delhi, fall under seismic zones.

With indiscriminate sprouting of high-rise buildings, the threat of damage in the event of any catastrophe is compounded.

Almost 60% of India is vulnerable to earthquakes. In 2001, the Gujarat earthquake claimed about 20,000 lives. The earthquake in Nepal last week has left over 6,000 dead.

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Lay the foundations right

Retrofitting buildings and adhering to seismic codes could minimise the damage caused by earthquakes

One of the key questions that has come up after the Nepal earthquake is how safe are Indian cities and what needs to be done to ensure that buildings don't collapse like a pack of cards in the event of a strong earthquake. Most experts are unanimous in their opinion that not a Indian single city will be able to withstand a major earthquake. Experts have also warned that Delhi and the surrounding region would have been flattened had the epicentre of the quake been in or near the Capital. While India has a good range of seismic codes covering a variety of structures, the cities still fall in the high-risk category because there is no robust mechanism that implements these codes — the National Building Code 2005, Master Plan of Delhi 2021, Vulnerability Atlas 2006, and building bylaws — in constructions.

An equally grave problem is that India does not yet have a policy on retrofitting old buildings even though a city like Delhi has a high percentage masonry buildings, which could collapse during an earthquake. Retrofitting is not an easy job and is time-consuming and expensive. For example, Los Angeles took 30 years to retrofit its old buildings. So governments need to prioritise which buildings it needs to retrofit first; usually it is the "life line" buildings like schools, hospitals and key government offices that can become nodal points in times of emergency. A few years ago, as part of a pilot project in Delhi, the government had selected five key buildings for retrofitting. But that project was abandoned mid-way. Mumbai has also been considering with the idea of bringing in a policy on retrofitting since the Thane house collapse in 2013, but there has been no movement on that so far. There is also a dearth of structural engineers who can do this work.

While it is the duty of the government to inspect and do the needful, citizens also should not shy away from taking responsibility. After an earthquake, residents' welfare associations can call experts to do a quick visual survey of buildings and this can be repeated every six months. These will not eliminate damage from quakes, but they will certainly minimise them.

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Indebted to India, but need more help, says PM Koirala

HT SPECIAL

Rahul Singh

rahul.singh@hindustantimes.com

KATHMANDU: Prime Minister Sushil Koirala Friday said Nepal was indebted to India for its swift response to the humanitarian crisis following the devastating earthquake, but the country needed more help.

India would do all it can to help the Himalayan nation, national security adviser Ajit Doval, who arrived in Kathmandu earlier in the day with foreign secretary S Jaishankar, said.

Speaking to HT after being briefed by officials on the pace of aid delivery to far-flung areas, Koirala said, "I have no words to express appreciation for the

Indian assistance. Actually, the contribution of all international teams, including the Chinese, has been extraordinary."

Aid has just begun to trickle into rural areas close to the epicentre of the 7.9-magnitude earthquake. Many villages continue to remain inaccessible.

The PM said reconstruction would be an uphill task and he would talk to the Indian government about it in details later.

"Sabne bahut accha kaam kiya hai (everyone has done a great job)...but more help is needed," said Koirala, a day after HT wrote that India was preparing a plan to assist Nepal's rebuilding effort.

Doval and Jaishankar are there to take stock of rescue and relief work. "Reconstruction will follow rescue and relief... The scenes are quite moving and India will

provide Nepal and its people with whatever they want," Doval said after visiting Barpak, the epicentre of the impoverished country's worst earthquake in 80 years.

Asked to assess the scale of destruction, Jaishankar held out his cellphone and said, "Look at these pictures (unending rows of flattened houses)." Zooming into an image, he pointed at blue specks and said they were tents pitched up by relief teams.

Anger is mounting over the failure of the government to provide aid to the victims.

Mohan Bahadur Basnet, the member of parliament from Sindhupalchok, said relief had not reached many parts of his constituency — one of the worst-affected districts. "There were 66,000 houses before the quake. Only 1,000 are left now," he said.

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FROM THE LAB

Express at India's top research institutes



NGRI lab is working on determining the recurrence interval of 'great' quakes

D SRINAGESH
CHIEF SCIENTIST, NGRI

NGRI HAS a long history of carrying out scientific investigations on earthquakes. Precursor study is one of the obvious areas of earthquake research but there are a number of other studies that enrich our knowledge of earthquakes.

Our team has been working on a project which deals with mapping of earthquake sources, the elastic wave propagation and ground motion amplification at various sites within India. The project has a number of objectives and one such is including an estimation of horizontal ground motion within the Indo-Gangetic plains due

Tracking the signs of turmoil

to large earthquakes in Himalaya, like the one that happened in Nepal on April 25, 2015. One of our other objectives is to determine the recurrence interval of 'great' earthquakes, those of magnitude 8 and above, in the Himalayan region.

Earthquakes are one of the least understood natural occurrences. We do not have much information about the events that have happened in the past. Our project, which has about 20 scientists and equal number of students, tries to fill that gap. Earthquakes, especially the big ones, leave imprints that are evident even after centuries. We are trying to find these imprints in different parts of the Himalayas and, using carbon-dating methods, trying to put a date on them.

Similar kind of studies have been done

by others as well. A group of scientists had concluded, after extensive studies in the Northeast, that events like the great Shillong earthquake of 1897 had a recurrence cycle of about 400-600 years in that region.

If one scans the global seismicity catalogues for the last hundred years, the big earthquakes of magnitude 8 and above do not happen more than once a year on an average globally. However, the actual location of such large earthquakes occurring in near future cannot be predicted.

Seismology is a very young science. The advent of high-fidelity seismological instruments, large data and sophisticated computational facilities is leading us to understand the earthquake processes. It needs to be built up and that is what we are trying to do.

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Parliamentary panel criticises green budget cuts

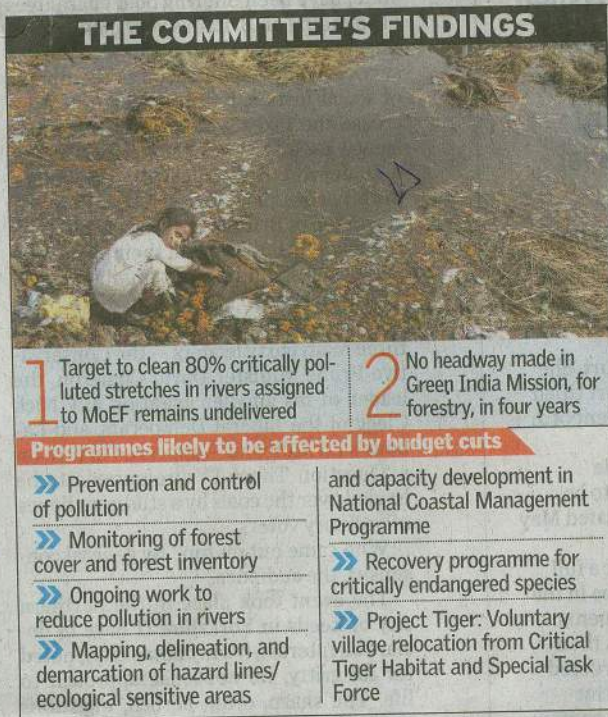
Vidya Venkat

NEW DELHI: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment and Forests has expressed displeasure over the fund cuts for the Ministry this financial year. The committee has found that the Plan allocation for centrally-sponsored schemes in the current year has gone down by almost 50 per cent. While the total allocation for Plan and non-Plan expenditure was Rs. 2,510 crore in 2014-15, it is down to Rs. 2,047 crore this year.

In its report, tabled in both Houses of Parliament on April 27, it has noted that despite greater funding to States being provided under the 14th Finance Commission, the primary responsibility for environmental protection ought to rest with the concerned Union Ministry. It has further recommended the Ministry to take close monitoring and corrective steps and present an Action Taken Report in this regard. The committee has also found that funds allocated in previous years remain underutilised.

River conservation hit

The committee has come down heavily on the Centre for the drastic cut in allocation to the National River Conservation Plan. The complete lack of funding either under the Central Plan or



State Plan in 2015-16, means that the existing funds are not even enough to carry out ongoing sanctioned works, the report notes. For the financial year 2015-16, against a projected requirement of Rs. 295 crore, a provision of only Rs. 40 crore has been made available.

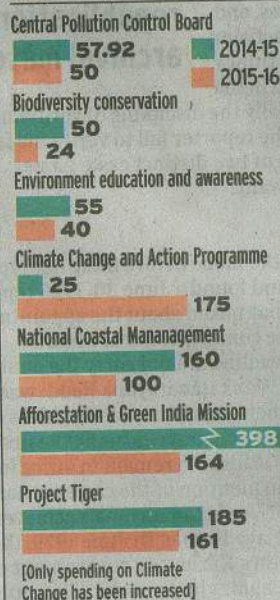
States respond

Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, Kerala Environment Minister told *The Hindu* that

the issue of reduced allotment was raised during the April 6 State Environment and Forest Minister's conference in New Delhi. "A State like Kerala has 29.8 per cent forest cover, of which reserve forest area including area under wildlife sanctuaries constitutes 28 per cent. This has led to increased man-animal conflict," he said. "From Kasargod to Thiruvananthapuram we are faced with deaths of several people due to animals

FUNDING FOR FLAGSHIP SCHEMES

COMPARISON OF BUDGET ESTIMATES (IN Rs. CRORE)



coming out of the forests," he said, and added that this year's Rs. 239 crore allocation to the State was insufficient to address such issues.

Prashant Kumar, Secretary, Forest Department, Madhya Pradesh, said, "Last year the budget for tiger conservation was Rs. 180 crore, this year it is only Rs. 161 crore. The Madhya Pradesh government being keen on tiger conservation has a lot of work to achieve on the ground, which

requires adequate funds," he said. However, he pointed out that it was still too early to judge the impact of the budget allocation as the financial year has just begun.

Maharashtra's Principal Secretary, Environment, Sitaram Kunte said that it was not possible to comment on the matter without adequately assessing the impact of present budgetary allocation on various projects.

On devolution of greater share of responsibility to the States, Charan Singh, Reserve Bank of India Chair Professor of Economics at IIM, Bangalore said that since forests had been included as one of the areas for resource allocation under the 14th Finance Commission, Central budget cuts should not pose a big problem.

"Rather than analysing the impact on individual schemes, States should find a way to better utilise the additional resources provided to it and utilise it in a responsible manner," he said.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech in 2014, in which he had raised the issue of various Ministries fighting each other and working in silos, he said that reducing the Centre's role and increasing that of States in various areas of governance would address that problem effectively.

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■ A family salvages basic items from the debris of their house in Bhaktapur, near Kathmandu. People whose homes aren't destroyed are slowly moving back indoors from parks and camps they had moved to out of fear.

RAJ K RAJ/HT

Kathmandu moves indoors, villages struggle in the open

ASSESS Survivors make their way back home; UN estimates 6 lakh houses destroyed

Rahul Singh and Utpal Parashar
letters@hindustantimes

KATHMANDU: The death toll from Nepal's devastating earthquake rose steadily past 6,200 on Friday, although the devastated capital city showed signs of normal life with nervous survivors camping in parks and roadsides moving back indoors and coffee shops opening to serve tired patrons.

Hot espressos at the posh Illy café in Lainchaur near Narayanhiti Palace, now a museum, and the bustle of traffic were subtle signs of a crawl-back to life.

"It seems a curfew has been lifted. There was only a deafening silence here till yesterday. Things seem to be getting a little better," said Nepal Investment Bank executive Pramod Saha, sip-

ping coffee at Illy.

The haunting siren of ambulances broke his thought.

Fresh aftershocks, rain and the overpowering stench of rotting corpses trapped underneath collapsed buildings underlined how the prospects of finding survivors were becoming more remote.

Among the dead in Nepal were 38 Indians, the highest number of casualties among foreigners. Most of them died in Kathmandu, including nine inside a hotel in Thamel while four were buried under the collapsed Dharahara tower.

Away from the capital, aid was being airdropped in some of Nepal's far-flung towns and villages nestled among mountains and foothills. But transporting goods overland remained a challenge because roads were blocked

by landslides.

The anxiety of people from worst-affected places was palpable. "We lost everything ... house, belongings, friends and relatives. This darkness will always haunt us," said 25-year-old Kalpana Pandit Lama, who dreads returning to Bhaktapur.

There were others priming for a second shot at life. "I want to carve out a bright future for myself. Good memories can blunt the pain of the bad ones," says Asma Silwal, a student of Tribhuvan University in Kirtipur.

Disposal of bodies was becoming a problem for officials, who have ordered immediate cremations six days after the 7.9-magnitude quake hit the Himalayan nation.

Nepal's overworked medical

centres, as well as field hospitals set up by India and other foreign nations, were reporting a spike in water-borne illnesses.

The WHO said a quick assessment of the worst-hit districts has found some hospitals damaged or destroyed but most are coping well with no extra staff or beds required. The Nepalese health system took measures to prepare for such emergencies, it added.

The United Nations says, 6,00,000 houses have been destroyed or damaged.

"Inaccessibility to some remote areas, the lack of helicopters, poor communication and security concerns remain the main challenges in delivering relief," said Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for the UN secretary-general.

(With agency inputs)

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Govt allocates ₹18,000 cr to transform PM's constituency

FACELIFT Since NDA govt came to power, infrastructure projects spanning ministries like highways, shipping and water resources approved in Varanasi

Moushumi Das Gupta

■ Moushumi.dasgupta@hindustantimes.com

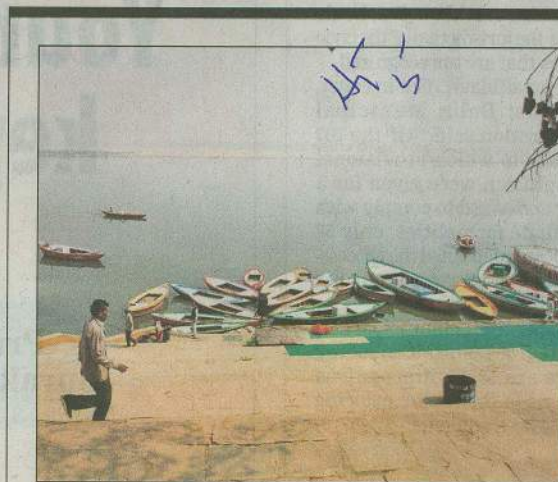
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency of Varanasi is getting an ambitious ₹18,349-crore makeover as the government pours in money to boost the dilapidated infrastructure of the holy city that has fallen into disrepair.

Since the BJP came to power in May, infrastructure projects spanning different ministries such as highways, shipping, urban development and water resources have been approved and are at various stages of implementation.

"It's not just a facelift but an overall development of one of the oldest living cities. These projects, once complete, would not only improve living conditions but also give a big boost to the city's economy," said an official.

The push for modernising the city is coming right from the top, with the prime minister's office closely monitoring the progress of projects. "Besides meetings, we have to send regular updates to the PMO," said an official.

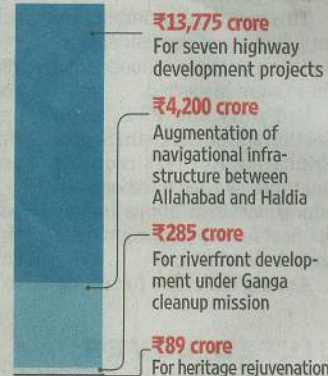
Development of the national highway network around the holy city is a key focus area with



■ Varanasi is one of the oldest living cities. AJAY AGGARWAL/HT FILE

NO DEARTH OF FUNDS

₹18,349 cr Total funds allocated to Varanasi



seven projects worth ₹13,775 crore approved since last September.

To give a spurt to river transport, the Centre has also approved ₹4,200 crore as part of the Jal Marg Yojana. This will improve navigational infrastructure to help facilitate the movement of bigger vessels on the 1,600-km stretch of the Ganga between Uttar Pradesh's Allahabad and Haldia in West Bengal.

"In the first phase, we have started work on a 1,400-km stretch between Varanasi and Haldia. Currently, the stretch is underutilised because of inadequate infrastructure," said an official.

The urban development ministry has also allocated ₹89 crore to Varanasi for heritage conservation and improving public amenities, as one of the 12 cities under the Heritage City Development

and Augmentation Yojana.

The city will also get a big share of the Centre's ₹20,000 crore earmarked for the National Mission for Cleaning Ganga. "On Tuesday, projects worth ₹279 crore for riverfront development and setting up of sewage treatment plant under NMCG would be approved. Already ₹5.5 crore has been sanctioned for sprucing up seven ghats along the Ganga," said an official.

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The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle

A a j (Hindi)

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The Times of India (A)

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

BRIDGE OVER CAUVERY

Karnataka, Tamil Nadu miss the big picture as they spar over building more dams over a depleted river

KARNATAKA'S INSISTENCE ON building two more dams on the Cauvery could lead to a showdown with Tamil Nadu. Political mobilisations have begun in both states for and against the dam. On Thursday, an all-party delegation from Karnataka led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to argue the state's case and seek the Centre's help in building the dam. Earlier this week, an all-party team from Tamil Nadu had met the PM to impress that state's viewpoint. Bandhs have been observed in both states in the past few weeks on the issue.

Tamil Nadu is justifiably apprehensive that the proposed dams at Mekedatu, close to the state border, would impact the flow into the Mettur Dam, the state's main storage system from which waters are channelised to the fields of the Cauvery delta downstream. Karnataka's stance — that it need not address Tamil Nadu's concerns since the dams will come up in its territory — appears both insensitive and impractical. Both states need to talk it out, and now. States should not conceive dam projects unilaterally and the needs of the entire river basin must be taken into consideration when they are planned. Political parties in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu also need to reconsider their strategy of working up subnationalist mobilisations over river projects. With early predictions indicating a weak monsoon, creating a scare scenario over water is best avoided.

The Cauvery waters have been a bone of contention for the four southern states — Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry — that fall in the river's basin. Though the Centre has notified the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal award on each state's share of the river, both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have challenged the allocation. Both states want more water, but the question is: Can the river satisfy the need — or greed — of two states? The 765 km-long river has been exploited to the hilt across its length, so much so that it has been reduced to a patchwork of shallow outlets at its mouth. The cultivated area fed by the Cauvery — most of it under water-intensive crops like paddy and sugarcane — has been expanding, stretching the river's resources. Better water management and more judicious selection of crops could help conserve the scarce water. The Cauvery is a living ecosystem and must be managed as such. Or else, it could slowly die.

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Land acquisition, protests delay border fencing

Devesh K. Pandey

NEW DELHI: Even as almost 90 per cent of the fencing along the India-Bangladesh border has been completed, work at several places has been hampered by delayed land acquisition, pending wildlife clearance and protests by locals.

Close to 300 km remain unfenced because of pending land acquisition and public protests.

Call to expedite work

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh recently took up the matter with the State governments concerned.

He asked West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to expedite work, pointing out that land had not yet been acquired at 38 places in North 24 Parganas, Nadia, Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar. Protests against the fence have continued in Murshidabad, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar. In all, 90 km has not been fenced in the



POROUS BORDER: Bangladeshi villagers travel in boats on Jinjiram river near the Indo-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya. Close to 300 km of the border remains unfenced. — FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

State. Furthermore, the government has not been able to construct border out-posts at 10 places because of pending land acquisition.

In a letter to Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma, Mr. Singh said fencing and road works along 88 km were yet to be completed because of pending land acquisition and public protests. The construction of BSF out-

posts has also been delayed.

In Mizoram, work could not be undertaken along a 60-km stretch in the Dampa Tiger Reserve owing to pending clearances from the National Board of Wildlife, which has demanded that the State transfer 1,520 hectares of non-forestland in compensation.

Work has not been initiated at eight places in Tripura

owing to public protests, and land has not been acquired along four stretches.

The Union government faced a peculiar situation at Karimganj in Assam. While the proposed alignment of the fence along the town was initially at 30 metres from the bank of the River Kushiara, the State government felt that many inhabited areas might fall beyond the fence towards the Bangladesh side. Accordingly, in coordination with the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited, a fresh exercise was undertaken for re-alignment of the fence at a five-metre distance from the river, separating Karimganj from Bangladesh.

A few days ago, the Ministry of Home Affairs filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court, listing the measures taken to prevent illegal migration of Bangladeshi nationals. It said work was completed in 88 per cent of the area along the 3,224-km stretch where fencing was feasible.

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Govt announces relief for farmers who lost crops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

THE DELHI Cabinet on Friday approved the distribution of cheques under Gajendra Singh Kisan Sahayata Yojana to farmers. The cheques will be distributed from May 8 to those farmers whose crops have been destroyed by unseasonal rains.

Though Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had earlier announced that Rs 20,000 per acre will be given to farmers who lost their crops, the Cabinet has set a formula to calculate the loss.

Those farmers who lost 70 per cent of their crops will get Rs 20,000 per acre.

In case of lesser damage, the farmer will get a minimum of Rs 14,000 per acre as compensation.

"The Cabinet also approved the formula for payment of compensation to farmers. It has been decided that based on official assessment, farmers

FARMERS WHO LOST OVER 70% OF THEIR CROPS WILL BE GIVEN Rs 20,000 PER ACRE, THE CABINET HAS DECIDED

whose complete crop has been destroyed (crop loss of 70% and above) will be paid Rs 20,000 per acre. In cases where the crop loss has been assessed to be below 70%, the farmers will get a minimum compensation of Rs 14,000 per acre," a senior official said.

"It has also been decided that any dispute arising between government officials and farmers on the quantum of crop loss will be resolved in the gram sabha nearest to the land of the affected farmer. The compensation scheme is only for farmers. Corporate entities owning land in Delhi will not get the benefit of this scheme," the official said.

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Kathmandu raised by a metre, Everest has sunk by an inch

Zia Haq

■ zia.haq@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Scientists from a specialist study wing of the European Space Agency, among others, have constructed the first geological portrait of quake-hit Nepal to discover some earth-shattering changes — the Kathmandu valley has risen by up to a metre, while the Everest sunk by one inch and areas north have settled below their original height.

Perched precariously on the boundary of two colliding continental plates, Nepal and northern India's "geological profile" may have undergone permanent changes, preliminary analysis suggests. The study was made possible by a special satellite passing over the devastated country several times since the big quake.

The experts used images from Europe's Sentinel-1a satellite — the first of a new-generation spacecrafts capable of picking up ground movement — to produce an interferogram, a multi-coloured graphic representation, which is like an MRI scan of the human body.

The experts concluded that an area of 120km by 50km around Kathmandu was lifted by the quake up to 1 metre. "Unwrapped interferogram

USING RADAR IMAGES, SCIENTISTS INFERRED THAT THE HEIGHT OF MOUNT EVEREST HAS DROPPED BY 1 INCH (2.5 CM) AFTER THE QUAKE

shows clearly uplift around Kathmandu and subsidence to the north," Tim Wright of Leeds University who analysed the data, said in a comment via Twitter.

Using the same radar images, UNAVCO, a nonprofit geoscience research consortium, inferred that some of the world's tallest peaks — including Mount Everest — dropped by about 1 inch (2.5 cm), probably because the land beneath loosened up, as built-up strain got released. That possibly triggered the deadly base-camp avalanche.

Wright and others used a mathematical model to add up the number of brightly coloured fringes on the interferogram. They counted 34 fringes, which correspond to an elevation of one metre, with each "fringe" denoting a vertical movement of about an inch.

The magnitude 7.9 earthquake released stresses building up for over 100 years, according to estimates.

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Govt planning to revive Naini Lake in north Delhi

Faizan Haidar

faizan.haidar@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: With an aim to give north Delhi a tourist spot, the Delhi government is in the process of reviving the neglected Naini Lake in Model Town.

From running LED boats, to improving lighting for security and developing the water body, the government plans to turn it into a favourite destination for people of all age groups.

Delhi tourism minister Jitender Singh Tomar visited the area along with parliamentary secretary for tourism Alka Lamba. Local MLA Akhilesh Pati Tripathi has also shown interest in reviving the water body.

Government sources said that the Naini Lake used to be

a busy tourist attraction but is in a bad condition because the previous government ignored it completely. "We are aiming to open it in three months with complete makeover. It was such a beautiful place but due to negligence and poor infrastructure, no one goes there. We will make it a tourism hub," said Tomar.

According to sources, the residents welfare association (RWA) contacted the minister and local MLAs after which a visit to the site was planned.

"The local MLA is ready to give ₹30 lakh from the MLA fund and we are planning to develop it through a public-private partnership model. There will be water recycling plant and we are also taking suggestions from RWAs. They



■ From running LED boats to improving lighting, the govt plans to turn Naini Lake into a favourite tourist destination. VIPIN KUMAR/HT FILE

have a security concern due to poor lighting. We are looking into it," said a Delhi govern-

ment official.

The Delhi tourism department is focusing on north

Delhi currently.

After Model Town, it will start the project of developing Wazirabad into a tourism hub. The much-awaited Signature Bridge will be the new tourism destination as Delhi government is planning to develop the area below it to attract tourists.

The Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation have already submitted a proposal to develop Wazirabad as a popular tourist destination.

"We want to develop Delhi into a favourable destination for tourists. There will be recreational facilities below the Signature Bridge and we are exploring the possibility of what more can be done to encourage tourists to come there," said Tomar.

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Nepal toll crosses 6,200; reconstruction cost \$2 bn

Kathmandu: The death toll from Nepal's devastating earthquake rose steadily past 6,200 on Friday.

Hundreds of more bodies are still being found six days after the 7.9 magnitude quake devastated the Himalayan nation of 28 million people. Their disposal was becoming a problem for officials, who have ordered immediate cremations. "Morgues are full beyond capacity and we have been given instruction to incinerate bodies immediately after they are pulled out," said Raman Lal, an Indian paramilitary force official working in coordination with Nepalese forces.

Aid was slowly beginning to reach remote towns and villages nestled in the mountains and foothills but the overpowering smell of bodies trapped beneath the rubble of collapsed buildings in the capital was making it hard for residents to return to their homes. Many Nepalese have been sleeping in the open since Saturday's quake. Ac-



GRIM REALITY: Residents read newspapers amid rubble of destroyed building in Kathmandu on Friday. The UN said around 8 million people have been affected by the earthquake with at least 2 million in need of tents, water, food and medicines over the next three months

cording to the United Nations, 600,000 houses have been destroyed or damaged.

Finance minister Ram Sharan Mahat said Nepal would need at least \$2 billion to rebuild homes, hospitals, offices and historic buildings and appealed for help from donors. "This is just an initial estimate and it will take time to

assess the extent of damage and calculate the rebuilding cost," he said. The UN has said 8 million people had been affected, with at least 2 million in need of tents, water, food and medicines over the next three months. A home ministry official said the death toll had risen to 6,204, with 13,924 injured. REUTERS

At some places, life crawls back to normal

Kathmandu: Fresh croissants emerged from a popular bakery and were quickly snapped up. Farmers delivered fresh produce and lines disappeared at gasoline stations. Slowly, life edged back toward a semblance of normal in Nepal's quake-hit capital on Friday, as residents packed up tents and moved indoors.

As rescue workers continued to comb the rubble in Kathmandu for survivors, the government said it was giving the equivalent of \$1,000 to families of each victim killed in Saturday's earthquake, and another \$400 for funeral costs, according to state-run Nepal Radio.

The death toll from the mammoth quake climbed to 6,260, police said, including those who died in an avalanche on Mount Everest,

plus more than 60 elsewhere in the region.

The city got a lift on Thursday when two survivors, including a 15-year-old boy, were rescued after being buried in debris for five days.

Although poorer sections of the city remained strewn with collapsed buildings, there were visibly fewer tents standing in a central part of Kathmandu that had been packed with people in the first few days after the quake hit amid repeated aftershocks.

Krishna Maharjan, a farmer on the outskirts, brought green onions and cauliflower on his bicycle into the city. "We are trying to get as much fresh food to the people as possible," he said. "I feel it is our small contribution. But that's what we can do and every little bit helps." AP

1,000 citizens unaccounted for, says EU

Kathmandu: A thousand European Union citizens in Nepal are still unaccounted for, nearly a week after a massive quake that hit during the peak trekking season, the EU ambassador to Nepal said on Friday. Most were trekking in the remote Langtang mountain range near the epicentre or in the Everest region, Rensje Teerink told journalists in Kathmandu.

"They are missing but we don't know what their status is," she said. "Many were in the Langtang area and some were in the Lukla area," she added, referring to the small Himalayan airstrip known as the gateway to Everest. Another EU official said the majority were likely to be found safe and well but that their status was unknown. AFP

News item/letter/article/editorial published on May-5-05-2015 in the

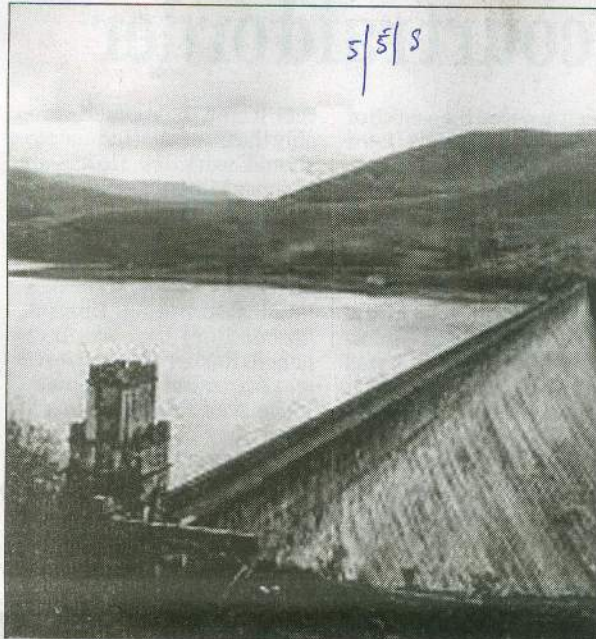
Hindustan Times
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TN furious over 'dam proposal' by Kerala



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, 4 May

NDA constituent PMK and Vaiko-led MDMK today alleged that Kerala had taken up efforts to construct a new dam at Mullaperiyar, insisting that this would "jeopardise" inter-state relations and urged the Centre to intervene.

Kerala "has once again started conducting studies for construction of a new dam at Mullaperiyar. This has created fear and anxiety among farmers," PMK founder S Ramadoss said.

This initiative will "jeopardise inter-state relationship and is condemnable," he said in a statement.

Ramadoss recalled that the Supreme Court had in May last year allowed Tamil Nadu to raise the storage level to 142 feet and later to

152 feet after completion of maintenance work.

The court had ruled that the existing dam was "strong enough" and that the need for a new dam did not arise.

Kerala, now "disregarded" the Apex Court verdict and was trying to conduct an environment study "quoting a very old permission letter" from the Environment Ministry, he said.

"Kerala should respect the Supreme court judgement and the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu and stop the feasibility survey," he said, urging the Centre and Tamil Nadu government to take all steps to stop Kerala's efforts.

MDMK founder Vaiko, whose party is a former ally of the ruling BJP at the Centre, said the Narendra Modi government was supportive of Kerala's efforts.

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Despite rain, state sees good crop

Agriculture Department bets on fair weather, says May crucial

BHANU P LOHUMI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, MAY 3

Unseasonal rain and hailstorm in some parts of the state in March and April have caused widespread damage to rabi crops, but the state Agriculture Department has not lost hopes of a bumper crop. The foodgrain production is likely to exceed the target of 1642.50 lakh tonnes for 2014-15.

The crop prospects are good and despite damage to crop, the department is hopeful of a bumper crop if there is no further rain. The loss is negligible in Bilaspur (810 hectares), Kinnaur (30 hectares), Kullu (922 hectares) and Una (575 hectares), while it was marginal in Shimla (1,700 hectares), Sirmaur (2,765 hectares) and Solan (2,600 hectares).

The state marginally exceeded the wheat-sowing target by 572 hectares during the rabi season. Timely rain during regular intervals from mid-December to mid-March had created con-



ducive conditions for the bumper rabi crop but rain and hailstorm during the last week of March and April damaged crops in the 71,620 hectare area, resulting in production loss of about 40,000 tonnes.

Against the target of rabi sowing in 4,29,200 hectares, the actual sowing was done on 4,34,656 hectares, exceeding the target by 5,456 hectares while area under commercial crops was 42,416 hectares.

"The loss can grow if rain continued in May as being predicted by the Met Department and we are keeping our fingers crossed," JS Rana, Director of Agriculture, said. The crops suffered more than 50 per cent damage in 37,833

Amid despair, some hope

- The loss is negligible in Bilaspur (810 hectares), Kinnaur (30 hectares), Kullu (922 hectares) and Una (575 hectares) while it is marginal in Shimla (1,700 hectares), Sirmaur (2,765 hectares) and Solan (2,600 hectares)
- The state marginally exceeds the wheat sowing target by 572 hectares during the Rabi season
- Against the target of Rabi sowing in 4,29,200 hectares, the actual sowing was done on 4,34,656 hectares

hectares and loss was put at ₹60-crore till April 10 and the assessment of loss and damage is still in progress.

The loss to foodgrains crops was about ₹11.75 crore while the commercial crops, including potato, vegetables and ginger suffered loss to the tune of ₹47.80 crore.

There was shortfall in expected kharif crops production due to 38 per cent deficient monsoon rain in the region but rain in December, January and February not only helped in achieving the sowing target but also provided enough moisture for wheat crop, that had brightened the prospects of the bumper crop, sufficient to cover up the kharif deficit.

Kangra suffered maximum damage, where the crop in 46,294 hectares was affected and loss was more than 50 per cent in 25,250 hectares.

About 8,100 hectares were affected in Chamba district and damage was more than 50 per cent in 3,305 hectares, while in Mandi and Hamirpur districts 4,100 hectares and 3,715 hectares were affected and damage was more than 50 per cent in 1,960 hectare and 1,400 hectares.

The estimated production during the rabi season, including wheat, pulses, oilseeds, potato, vegetables and ginger, was targeted at 13.34 lakh tonnes, but about 40,000 tonne crop has been hit causing major damage.

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PLEASING RAIN GOD: Tribal farmers and their children pray for rain during the 'Manda Festival' on the outskirts of Ranchi in Jharkhand on Monday. PTI

5/5.67

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Irrigation efficiency of Punjab, Haryana low

5/5 (Tribune)

VIBHA SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 4

In a country where availability of water is a cause for concern, the low use-efficiency of limited natural resource for purposes such as irrigation and drinking may come as a shocker to many. What is worse is the fact that a water-use efficiency study of 28 major and medium irrigation projects in four major agrarian states — Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh—shows irrigation efficiency of just 38 per cent.

In other words, a large portion of the precious resource is going waste, without being utilised for the purpose it is meant for. Judicious and efficient water use was still a dream, given such a low efficiency level in the irrigation sector, said a parliamentary panel headed by BJP member Hukum Singh in a report submitted last week.

The renewable water resource should be improved to increase its availability from four per cent at present, the committee said, asking the Ministry of Water



House panel stresses water conservation

- A parliamentary panel has asked the government to speed up the formation of a national bureau for water conservation
- A water-use efficiency study of 28 irrigation projects in four agrarian states — Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh — shows irrigation efficiency of just 38%
- The panel has stressed more attention to the irrigation sector and urgent need to replace the outdated system with newly designed modern irrigation devices

Resources, River Development and Ganga to expedite early formation of the National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency to enable adoption of measures to get specific standards in water conservation.

In India, the water use efficiency in irrigation projects for surface water is only 30 per cent, for ground water it is 55 per cent, for drinking water supply in urban and rural areas is 60 per cent and 70 per cent, respectively. For industries, it is 80 per cent.

In comparison to international standards of 60 per cent for surface water, 75 per cent for ground water, 90 per cent for drinking water supply and 95 per cent for industries, it is rather low.

Being endowed with only four per cent of the global water resources for supporting 18 per cent of the world population residing in India, the panel stressed more attention to the irrigation sector and urgent need to replace outdated system.

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• नई दिल्ली • सोमवार • 04 मई 2015 •

हिन्दु

कचरा डालने वालों की पहचान करेगा यंत्र

गंगा प्रदूषित करने वाले पकड़े जाएंगे

नई दिल्ली | एजेंसी

केंद्र सरकार ने गंगा नदी में कचरे और प्रदूषित पानी के प्रवाह को रोकने की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है। गंगा नदी के किनारे बसे तकरीबन 118 शहरों से रोजाना गिरने वाले औद्योगिक कचरे पर काबू पाने के लिए केंद्र आधुनिक प्रौद्योगिकी युक्त यंत्र लगाएगा। इससे 15 मिनट से ज्यादा प्रदूषित जल प्रवाहित करने वाले उद्योगों की पहचान हो जाएगी जिससे उनके खिलाफ कानूनी कार्रवाई हो सके।

विभिन्न सरकारी एजेंसियों की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, गंगा नदी के किनारे बसे इन 118 शहरों से प्रतिदिन 363.6 करोड़ लीटर अपशिष्ट और 764 उद्योगों के हानिकारक तत्व इस नदी में प्रवाहित हो रहा है।

एसएमएस बताएगा प्रदूषण : वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्रालय के एक अफसर ने कहा, इन कारखानों से निकलने वाले प्रवाह को हम 24 घंटे चलने वाले प्रदूषण निगरानी उपकरण से

इन शहरों से बहता कचरा

शहर	प्रदूषित जल की मात्रा	कौन कर रहा है गंगा मैली
कोलकाता	53.4	गंगा नदी के किनारे कुल
कानपुर	42.6	444 चमड़ा
वाराणसी	29.5	उद्योग, 27
पटना	25.2	रासायनिक
इलाहाबाद	2.32	उद्योग, 67
मुरादाबाद	11.7	चीनी मिल अन्य उद्योग शामिल हैं।

(आंकड़े : करोड़ लीटर में)
स्रोत : जल संसाधन एवं नदी विकास मंत्रालय

जोड़ेंगे। यह नई प्रौद्योगिकी पर आधारित है। इसमें कई तरह की श्रेणियों में हैं। अगर किसी उद्योग से नदी में पांच मिनट से ज्यादा प्रदूषित जल गिरा, तब एसएमएस आ जाएगा। हम प्रौद्योगिकी के जरिये नदियों में प्रदूषण पर लगाम लगाना चाहते हैं।

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मानसून के साथ फैल सकती है महामारी

काठमांडू | एजेंसी

दि-3-5-15
नेपाल में विनाशकारी भूकंप के एक हफ्ते बाद अब मलबे में और लोगों के जिंदा मिलने की संभावना नहीं है। लेकिन कीचड़ और कचरे से भरी हजारों ध्वस्त इमारतों का मलबा नए संकट की आहट दे रहा है। यूनिसेफ ने चेतावनी दी है कि कुछ हफ्ते बाद आने वाले मानसून से नेपाल में महामारियों का प्रकोप फैल सकता है।

यूनिसेफ नेपाल के उप प्रमुख रोवनाक खान ने शनिवार को बताया कि 17 लाख युवा प्रभावित इलाकों में गुजर बसर कर रहे हैं। जबकि अब तक 6700 लोग मारे जा चुके हैं और 14023 घायल हुए हैं। खान ने कहा कि

तैयारी जरूरी

- यूनिसेफ ने चेताया, कुछ हफ्तों बाद होगी वर्षा
- मलबे में लोगों के जिंदा मिलने की संभावना नहीं

अस्पतालों में जरूरत से ज्यादा भीड़ है। पानी की भारी किल्लत है। मलबे में अभी शव दबे हैं। सिर्फ काठमांडू में 24 हजार लोग खुले में सो रहे हैं। लेकिन मानसून के पहले इन समस्याओं का हल जरूरी है। डब्ल्यूएचओ की आपात टीम के प्रमुख रोड्रिको ओफ्रिन ने कहा है कि बारिश से खुले में जीवनयापन से डायरिया, श्वसन संबंधी बीमारियां, चेचक और कालरा का प्रकोप फैलने की आशंका है।

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भूकंप और लापरवाही - दि-4+5-15

नेपाल में पिछले दिनों आए रिक्टर पैमाने पर 7.9 तीव्रता के भूकंप से हजारों लोग मारे गए, हजारों जखमी हुए, लाखों बेघरबार हो गए। इसकी तुलना तकरीबन एक साल पहले चिली में आए भूकंप से करें, जो 8.2 तीव्रता का था, तो उसमें सिर्फ छह लोग मारे गए। नेपाल का भूकंप शायद ही भुलाया जा सकेगा, चिली का भूकंप अभी कितने लोगों को याद है? चिली का भूकंप नेपाल के भूकंप से ज्यादा तीव्रता का होते हुए भी उससे कम नुकसान हुआ इसकी एक बड़ी वजह तो भूकंप से बचने के इंतजाम में है। चिली में 9.5 तीव्रता का भूकंप 1960 में आया था, जिसमें हजारों लोग मारे गए थे, उसके बाद चिली सरकार ने बचाव के इंतजाम करने के लिए कमर कस ली। इमारतों को भूकंपरोधी बनाया गया, जिससे जान-माल का नुकसान रोका जा सका। इसके लिए दृढ़ इच्छाशक्ति और पैसे की जरूरत थी, जो चिली में था। दूसरी ओर, नेपाल में राजनीतिक अस्थिरता लंबे वक्त से है और नेपाल एशिया का सबसे गरीब देश है। लेकिन सिर्फ पैसा और इच्छाशक्ति प्रकृति के प्रकोप से बचने के लिए काफी नहीं हैं। जापान में सन 2011 में जो भयानक भूकंप और सुनामी आया था, उसमें जितनी धन हानि हुई, उतनी किसी प्राकृतिक आपदा में कभी नहीं हुई। उस कुदरती आपदा में 45,700 इमारतें नष्ट हो गई थीं,

1,44,300 इमारतों को नुकसान पहुंचा और 15,891 लोग मारे गए। जापान दुनिया के संपन्नतम देशों में है और भूकंप से बचने की तैयारी उससे ज्यादा किसी देश ने नहीं की होगी।

भूकंप के विनाशकारी होने में एक बड़ी भूमिका उस क्षेत्र की भौगोलिक संरचना की होती है। अक्सर भयानक भूकंप उन जगहों पर आते हैं, जहां महाद्वीपों के हिस्से एक-दूसरे से टकराते हैं। नेपाल एक ऐसी ही दरार पर है। ये दरारें भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप के यूरोएशियन महाद्वीप से मिलने की

वजह से बनी हैं। भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप हर साल 1.5 इंच की रफ्तार से यूरोएशियाई महाद्वीप में मिल रहा है। इन दरारों का पता लगाना इसलिए काफी कठिन है, क्योंकि मानसून से बहकर आई मिट्टी की मोटी परत और घने जंगल सतह पर मौजूद हैं। वैज्ञानिक लगातार कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि पूरी दुनिया में ऐसी दरारों का नक्शा बनाया जाए, ताकि वक्त पर सचेत हुआ जा सके। जापान द्वीप समूह यूरोएशियाई महाद्वीप से करीब डेढ़ करोड़ साल पहले अलग हुआ था। कई सारी भूगर्भीय सतहों के एक-दूसरे से टकराने और मिलने से यह प्रक्रिया हुई थी। जापान ज्वालामुखियों के एक क्षेत्र में आता है। दूसरी वजह से यहां भूगर्भीय हलचल आम है। अगर समुद्र में भूकंप आता है, तो सुनामी बनती है, जो ज्यादा विध्वंसक होती है।

महाद्वीपों के टकराने की दरारें दूर तक फैली होती हैं, इसलिए उनके बीच जगहें भी ज्यादा होती हैं और बड़ा भूकंप भी दशकों में एकाध आता है। नेपाल में इतना भयानक भूकंप सन 1934 के बाद पहली बार आया। ऐसे में, सरकारें और जनता भी लापरवाह हो जाती हैं। उसके बरक्स जापान और चिली जैसे देश, जो समुद्र किनारों पर हैं, वहां भूकंप समुद्री प्लेटों की द्वीपों या महाद्वीपों में गतिविधि से आते हैं और इसलिए अमूमन हर साल एकाध बड़ा भूकंप आता है। ऐसे में, ये देश भूकंप की तबाही से बचने की तैयारी भी ज्यादा करते हैं। जापान में अक्सर 7 से 8 तीव्रता के भूकंप आते हैं, लेकिन शायद ही कभी ज्यादा जान जाती है, सन 2011 का भूकंप एक अपवाद ही था। जानकारों का कहना है कि भूकंप के बाद राहत और पुनर्वास में जितना खर्च होता है, उसके पांचवें हिस्से में भूकंप की तबाही से बचने का इंतजाम किया जा सकता है। प्रकृति के प्रकोप से पूरी तरह बचना तो नामुमकिन है, लेकिन यह लापरवाही अक्षम्य है।

जिन देशों में भयानक भूकंप दशकों में आते हैं, वहां न ही सरकार और न ही जनता भूकंप से बचने के प्रति ज्यादा सतर्क रहते हैं।

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एनजीटी ने हिंडन में कचरा फेंकने पर लगाई रोक

नई दिल्ली, (ब्यूरो): नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (एनजीटी) ने हिंडन नहर में किसी भी तरह का कचरा फेंकने पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया है। जस्टिस स्वतंत्र कुमार की अध्यक्षता वाली बेंच ने हिंडन के प्रदूषण को गंभीर चिंता का विषय माना है। बेंच ने अपने निषेधात्मक को उत्तर प्रदेश के लोगों और सार्वजनिक प्राधिकरणों पर समान रूप से लागू करने का सख्त निर्देश दिया है। यह नहर इस राज्य से होकर बहती है, लिहाजा सभी को आदेश मानना होगा। एनजीटी ने इस नहर से ठोस कचरा न हटाने और इसकी जिम्मेदारी को दूसरों पर लादने के लिए अधिकारियों को आलोचना भी की।

एनजीटी ने सभी अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिया है कि वे इस नहर के आसपास रहने वाले लोगों के लिए



स्वच्छ और अच्छा वातावरण सुनिश्चित करें। एनजीटी ने इसके लिए अधिकारियों की एक समिति का गठन भी किया है। जरूरी उपाय सुझाने के लिए समिति को रिपोर्ट जमा करवाने के लिए कहा गया है।

बेंच ने कहा कि हमारे सामने मौजूद रिकॉर्ड से साफ पता चलता है कि सभी सार्वजनिक प्राधिकरण किसी न किसी बहाने से जिम्मेदारी को एक-दूसरे पर डालने में लगे हैं। यह

अवैध पानी निकासी पर पुलिस को नोटिस

नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (एनजीटी) ने नोएडा में बिल्डर्स द्वारा अवैध रूप से पानी की निकासी पर पुलिस को फटकार लगाई है। साथ ही नोएडा पुलिस अधिकारी से इनके खिलाफ दंडात्मक कार्रवाई न करने का कारण भी पूछा है। जस्टिस स्वतंत्र कुमार की अध्यक्षता वाले बेंच ने नोएडा एक्सप्रेस वे एसएचओ को इस बाबत नोटिस जारी किया और ट्रिब्यूनल के समक्ष व्यक्तिगत रूप से उपस्थित होने का निर्देश भी दिया है। बीते 23 अप्रैल को, ट्रिब्यूनल ने दिल्ली-एनसीआर क्षेत्र में चल रहे प्रोजेक्टों का दौराकर भूजल स्तर जांचने व रिपोर्ट पेश करने के लिए दो कमिश्नरों को नियुक्त किया था। सभी एसएचओ को इन्हें सुरक्षा प्रदान करने व अपने आदेशों के अनुपालन का निर्देश दिया गया था। कमिश्नर ने जब पुलिस स्टेशन जाकर एसएचओ पंकज पंत को ट्रिब्यूनल का ऑर्डर दिखा सुरक्षा की मांग की तब एसएचओ ने ट्रिब्यूनल के आदेश का पालन करने से इंकार कर दिया। इस पर बेंच ने कहा कि यह आशा की जाती है कि निरीक्षण की गंभीरता को देखते हुए एसएचओ को ट्रिब्यूनल द्वारा नियुक्त लोकल कमिश्नर को सुरक्षा देनी चाहिए।

दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है कि पर्यावरण और जन स्वास्थ्य के मामले में अधिकारियों का रवैया इस तरह का है। एनजीटी ने यह आदेश वसुंधरा इंकलेव निवासी जेपी

शर्मा की याचिका पर सुनवाई करते हुए दिया है। शर्मा ने नहर से कचरा साफ करने के लिए याचिका दायर की थी।

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राजस्थान पत्रिका

देश-दुनिया

पत्रिका

चेतावनी | नेपाल में भूकंप की चेतावनी देने वाले भूवैज्ञानिकों को आशंका

उत्तराखंड में भी नेपाल जैसे भूकंप का खतरा!

पत्रिका-4-5-15

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नेपाल में भूकंप की चेतावनी देने वाले भूवैज्ञानिकों ने उत्तराखंड में भी ऐसे ही भूकंप की आशंका व्यक्त की है। जवाहर लाल नेहरू सेंटर फॉर एडवांस्ड साइंटिफिक रिसर्च, बंगलूरु से संबद्ध शोध लेखक सी.पी. राजेंद्रन ने बताया कि भूदृश्य और भूक्षरण की दर से पता चलता है कि उत्तराखंड में जमीनी परत के विच्छेदन के कारण बड़ी भूकंपीय गतिविधि की संभावना बन रही है।

वैज्ञानिकों ने इससे पहले मार्च में अपने एक अध्ययन में बताया था कि लगभग 700 किलोमीटर लंबी केंद्रीय भूकंपीय खाई हिमालय के अगले हिस्से का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है, जो पिछले 200-500 सालों के दौरान आए बड़े भूकंपों में भी विच्छेदित नहीं हुआ है। लिहाजा इस लंबी भूकंपीय निष्क्रियता के कारण एक लाख से अधिक आबादी वाले इस क्षेत्र में बड़ा भूकंप आने का खतरा अभी भी बना हुआ है। यह शोध लीथोस्फियर जर्नल में प्रकाशित हुआ है।

राहतकर्मी खुद करें बंदोबस्त

बड़ी मात्रा में बचावकर्मियों के पहुंचने पर नेपाल सरकार ने कहा कि राहतकर्मियों को यहां आवास, खाद्य एवं परिवहन के लिए अपना बंदोबस्त स्वयं करना होगा। जबकि राहत एवं बचाव कार्यों के एकपक्षीय कवरेज पर सोशल मीडिया यूजर्स ने आक्रोश व्यक्त किया है। बचावकर्मियों ने रविवार को पर्वतीय गांव स्याउली के पास से दो पुरुष और



भूकंप पीड़ित लोगों को हेलीकाप्टर तक पहुंचाते सेना के जवान।

भारी विमानों को एयरपोर्ट पर रोका

नेपाल ने काठमांडू हवाईअड्डे पर दबाव के चलते भारी विमानों के उतरने पर रोक लगा दी है। त्रिभुवन इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के प्रबंधक बीरेंद्र प्रसाद श्रेष्ठ ने

बताया कि एयरपोर्ट की एकल रनवे की स्थिति को देखते हुए 196 टन से ज्यादा वजन वाले विमानों को काठमांडू हवाईअड्डे पर उतरने की इजाजत नहीं दी गई है।

प्राकृतिक बांधों पर आफत

विनाशकारी भूकंप के कारण प्राकृतिक (मोरेन) बांधों पर मार पड़ने की आशंका है। ये बांध कमजोर हो सकते हैं जिस कारण भविष्य में बाढ़ की स्थिति उत्पन्न हो सकती है। आईसीआईएमओडीके अनुसार, बर्फ पिघलने और मानसून आने के बाद भविष्य में भूस्खलन और ग्लेशियर में विस्फोट का खतरा उत्पन्न हो सकता है।

एक महिला को जीवित निकाला। वहीं, केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री अरुण जेटली ने एनजीओ से अपील की है कि वे भूकंप से बर्बाद हुए नेपाल के

पुनर्वास में आगे आकर सहायता दें। जेटली ने कहा कि पड़ोसी देश में राहत तो पहुंचाई जा चुकी है, मगर पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था करना जरूरी है।

पचास शव और मिले

नेपाली पुलिस के एक दल ने मलबे में दबे 50 शवों को बाहर निकाला। इनमें से कई शव विदेशी पर्वतारोहियों के भी हैं। शवों की अभी शिनाख्त नहीं हो पायी है। अभी भी इलाके में 200 से अधिक लोग लापता हैं जिनमें स्थानीय लोग और पर्वतारोही शामिल हैं।

खोजी कुत्ते मददगार

भूकंप के बाद बचाव कार्यों में पोलैंड के खोजी कुत्तों की मदद ली जा रही है। पोलैंड के खोजी कुत्ते गॉर्डनज ने अब तक मलबे से चार मृतकों को ढूंढने में मदद की है। पोलैंड के बचाव दल में 12 कुत्ते शामिल हैं, जिनमें 10 लैब्राडोर और दो जर्मन शेफर्ड हैं।

विरासत स्थल नष्ट

काठमांडू, ललितपुर और भक्तपुर की 90 प्रतिशत प्राचीन विरासतें नष्ट हो गई हैं। इनका दोबारा निर्माण करने में कम से कम सात से दस साल का समय लगेगा। अभी यह पता नहीं चल सका है कि इनके दोबारा निर्माण में कितनी धनराशि लगेगी। नेपाल के पुरातत्व विभाग ने यह जानकारी दी। ये प्राचीन धरोहर स्थल और स्मारक अपनी उत्तम दर्जे की वास्तुकला शैली के साथ ही इन तीनों शहरों के आकर्षण का केंद्र थे। मंदिरों के शहर के रूप में विख्यात काठमांडू दशक पुरानी बसंतपुर दरबार और नौ मंजिला धराहरा टॉवर के नष्ट होने के साथ अपने इस गौरव को खो दिया है। पशुपतिनाथ मंदिर का परिसर और स्वयंभूनाथ क्षेत्र जैसे कई धार्मिक स्थलों को भी क्षति पहुंची है। काठमांडू, ललितपुर और भक्तपुर में पुराने स्मारक, मंदिर और प्राचीन धरोहर या तो नष्ट हो गए हैं या आंशिक रूप से क्षतिग्रस्त हैं।

Central Water Commission
Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

725(A), North, Sewa Bhawan,
R.K. Puram, New Delhi – 66.

Dated

5/5/15

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.


5/5/15
Assistant Director (publicity)

Encl: As stated above.


Editor, Bhagirath (English) & Publicity


5.5.15

Director (T.D.)

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
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