

Editorial

Siang River System in Eastern Himalaya: Ethos and Concern

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Year 2017! The mighty Siang river flows through the Himalayan mountain ranges and north eastern region of India appears in different look. Originated from Manas Sarovar of Tibet, the Siang river flows a total distance of 1800 kilometers from its origin to the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh. Peoples Republic of China, India and Bangladesh is influenced by this river system. More than one thousand kilometres is shared by India. The mighty Siang is one of the major river systems of Indian subcontinent and life line of north east India. Maximum reaches of the river has been stretches running through the rugged mountains of Eastern Himalayan region including mountains of Arunachal Pradesh and plains of Assam. In millions of years, thousands of civilizations have been settled on the bank of this river writing the story of epical thought, humanity and nature. This river, which is known in different names in three different countries, not only a simple water flow but an integral part of lives and mother earth in the Himalayan zone. It is the origin of climatic variation, floral distribution, ecology, agriculture, pattern of life and development of culture as well in the society. It is the source of drinking water not only for society but for the wild lives too. The water of Siang and Brahmaputra inundates its banks and basin creating the fertile land for agriculture, development of forest, feeding and breeding ground of wild organisms.

The cool, clean snow melt flow of water of mighty Siang has influenced the climate, life of flora, fauna and microbes in this tropical part of the earth. During last few decades, the Eastern Himalayan zone has drawn attention of World scientific community and the Governmental organizations due to its varied climate and diversity of organism. It has been discovered as one of the Biodiversity

Hot spots. Thousands of species of this zone show the nature and character of endemism. These organisms are adapted to the unique terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of eastern Himalayan region.

However, in recent times, the great Siang river creates concern over its water quality in a stretch of more than one thousands kilometres. The people of north east India, Governmental and non governmental organizations express deep concern over the water quality of Siang river in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The Siang river which is known for its crystal clear blue water of melting snow during winter has lost its glory being filled with muddy and highly turbid content. The water gets muddy with turbidity in entire stretch of Arunachal Pradesh from Gelling of Upper Siang district to Pashighat in Siang district covering a distance more than four hundred kilometres. Crossing Arunachal Pradesh the muddy water has been spread to Brahmaputra in Assam. The stretch of this muddy turbid water is more than one thousand kilometers starting from Chino-India border of Upper Siang to the delta of Bay of Bengal. Certain organization has come forward with report that Siang's muddy water is the result of earthquake at upstream of the river. The report is not confirmed. On the other hand massive earth work like making tunnels, construction of dams, cutting of mountains may too causes the serious consequences as described. A thorough research is needed to find out the causes and consequences of the abnormal deviation of water quality of the river. Natural disaster is part of earth evolution; Civilization shall have to manage it. However, human interference to natural events could be devastating for the civilization. Therefore, an integrated approach of research is the need of the hour on Siang river valley of Tibet and Arunachal Pradesh as well as

Brahmaputra basin in Assam and Bangladesh. This urgent need is to make best use of the river, to fight against climate change, conservation of bioresources and biodiversity, ecological habitat and for survival of life. Natural disaster is a part of evolution of the earth, inevitable could surfaced without warning. Its implications on life shall have to manage efficiently following scientific methods. However, human interference on any natural process should be a matter of concern and not be persuaded.

Today, the human civilization across the globe is facing crisis of drinking water. Life on earth needs pure

drinking water for sustainability. The Eastern Himalayan zone is a rich source of clean water. On these clean water resources of the lotic and lentic water system, human interference should not be encouraged. Efficient management of the water system is a must required social need for humanity. Sufficient amount of Research work on this river system is yet to be done. Let there be integrated research on mighty Siang, its tributaries not just for interest of selected few, but for the existence of life on earth, especially in the Himalayan zone.

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