

New era of TV connectivity in Jalalabad

On August 9, the people of Nangarhar province received a new gift — in the form of the brand new Jalalabad television studio. Until now, the people of the province were confined to viewing programmes produced elsewhere, but now with the setting up of the TV studio, together with a TV transmitter, a mobile TV satellite uplink and five TV relay centres, they will be able to catch the national programmes from Kabul as well as be able to transmit their own programmes countrywide, including to the surrounding regions. The era of connectivity has finally caught up with them.

The TV studio is part of India's contribution of \$1.5 million for the revamping, restoration and augmentation of the information set-up in Jalalabad. The project has been executed by the Broadcast Engineering Consultants of India Limited. The new studio and facilities speak of a modern phase in the province which is also a major trading post.

The inauguration ceremony for the TV studio was held at the Nangarhar Governor's Palace and presided over by Governor Gul Agha Sherzai. A host of other local dignitaries graced the occasion, including Deputy Governor Mohammad Alam Esaqzai, Director of Culture Mohd. Hashmi, Director of RTA-Nangarhar Engr Zalmay, Nangarhar Police Chief Abdul Bashir Salangi, members of the local diplomatic corps, local community leaders, Nangarhar University



The swanky new Jalalabad television complex, set up with Indian aid.

teachers, and journalists. Director General, Radio Television Afghanistan, N. Roshan, travelled from Kabul to participate in the event.

In their speeches, the dignitaries expressed appreciation for the "concrete and substantial" contribution made by India in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan, symbolised by the sprawling Jalalabad TV studio complex in the centre of the city.

Handing over the TV studio to the Afghan side, Indian Consul General Pratap Singh said that this was one of the many important projects being undertaken by India in the different

provinces of Afghanistan, and that despite constraints, India's efforts were continuing.

The Jalalabad TV studio is being seen as yet another manifestation of India's commitment towards the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, with greater national integration and connectivity. The facilities being provided under the project are expected to contribute greatly to the strengthening of Afghanistan's national and provincial TV services. The project is part of India's overall developmental plan in the information sector for extension of TV coverage in all the provinces in Afghanistan.

Whilst the people in some of the other provinces may have to wait just a bit longer, the people of Nangarhar are already revelling in the new facilities — which can carry their empowered voice throughout the country. ■

Tubewells in Herat in the time of drought

In the context of the severe drought conditions prevalent in the north-western region of Afghanistan, the recent inauguration of two deep tubewells in Injil and Gozrah districts of Herat, each with a capacity to draw 75,000 litres of water per hour, was greatly welcomed.

The two tubewells are part of the eight being undertaken by the Government of India in Herat, as part of its developmental assistance to Afghanistan. Overall, 26 tubewells are being dug in north-west Afghanistan by the Indian Water and Power Consultancy Services Ltd. (WAPCOS).

Incidentally, the inauguration took place on August 15, India's 60th Independence Day. The symbolism of the date, heralding a new phase in Herat's development, could not be missed.



Inauguration of a tubewell in Injil district of Herat by Governor Al Haj Sayed Hussain Anwari and Consul General Singh.

At the function arranged by the district administration of Injil, the Governor of Herat, Al Haj Sayed Hussain Anwari, spoke of the extreme requirement of such projects for the people of the district. He was effusive

in his praise for the Indian Government which, he said, has always supported the Government and people of Afghanistan, politically and economically. Mention was also made of another large project being undertaken by the Indian Government in Herat, that of the reconstruction of the Salma Dam, expected to provide 42 MW of power to the people of Herat. The Governor's words also found echo in the statements of the Ministry of Energy and Water officials in Kabul, who said that the timely action initiated by the Indian Government would go a long way in relieving some of the water scarcity problems in the area.

For the people of Herat, with the digging of the new tubewells, the scarce water will, no doubt, taste even sweeter. ■