

Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad

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Free drinking water scheme caught in inter-dept dispute

Water Board, threatened with power cut over huge dues, says can't pay

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Implementation of the free drinking water scheme for supply of 20kilolitre per month by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) is caught in an inter-departmental wrangle.

The Water Board claims it cannot clear the pending dues of about ₹1,100 crore and bear the electricity charges for the supply of the water. Citing its weak financial condition, it has urged the electricity department not to disconnect power until a budgetary allocation for this purpose was made by the state government.

Notably, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had intervened in the matter and previously promised suitable budgetary allocations. On this basis, the Water Board urged the power depart-

ment to continue the power supply for three months by which time, it said, the issues could be sorted out with the government.

In a request to the TS Electricity Regulatory Commission (TSERC), the Water Board said it had incurred a net loss of ₹232.33 crore for 2016-17, ₹330.01 crore for 2017-18, ₹299.95 crore for 2018-19, ₹577.49 crore for 2019-20 and ₹265.86 crore for 2020-21 up to October.

The board said the deficit was on account of operations of the board which does not include capital expenditure. "Due to the vast spread of urbanisation, it has become a challenging job to supply potable water to all citizens in and around Hyderabad. The maintenance of sewer systems has also become a challenging job for the HMWS&SB."

The present operational area is about 1,570 sq km,

which includes the GHMC area extending up to the Outer Ring Road (ORR). The supply of drinking water has become more challenging due to the concessional tariff and with an average cost recovery of ₹10 per kilo litre against a cost of production of ₹47.

The board proposed a concessional power tariff, which was sanctioned by the government. "This could be a great help for sustenance of our operations and also help achieve self-sufficiency over a period. Otherwise, the operations would suffer." It said the cost of production was increasing by the day, while the tariff has been retained for the last nine years.

The electricity department responded claiming that it too was in a sad condition. There was no revision of tariff since 2017-18. If the orders dated July 18, 2020 of the regulatory commission

were to be implemented with effect from 2018-19, distribution companies (discoms) were bound to incur a revenue loss of ₹244.57 crore, for fiscal 2018-19, ₹257.38 crore for fiscal 2019-20, ₹63.59 crore for the first quarter of fiscal 2020-21. Further the discoms would be losing ₹21.19 crore per month till the revised tariff orders are approved. This loss was due to lack of tariff revision and fall in revenue.

Hence, the total impact on revenue for discoms is ₹538.95 crore up to June 2020, including ₹83.35 crore towards surcharge.

It said the commission has given its nod to supply power to all water supply pumping stations of HMWS&SB at a tariff linked to energy charges at ₹3.95 per unit as decided by the government in August 3, 2018, and as per the directions given to the commission in the letter dated June 26, 2020, from

fiscal 2018-19.

It would continue to do so till a final view is taken by the commission on determination of tariff for retail supply for fiscals 2019-20 and 2020-21 and also in a true up of retail supply tariff for fiscal 2018-19.

A senior Water Board official told *Deccan Chronicle* that the issue has been brought to the notice of the Chief Minister. The CM has asked the Water Board to make part payment immediately and assured that he would make suitable budgetary allocation for the present fiscal.

He also advised the electricity department not to disconnect power supply to HMWS&SB for the next three months until the budgetary allocation is made. The CM said the free drinking water supply scheme would continue as the government has given such an assurance to the people.

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K'taka to oppose TN river project

Karnataka has decided to "strongly oppose" Tamil Nadu's Cauvery-Vellaru-Vaigai-Gundar river-linking project, with the state government announcing its readiness to wage a legal battle against its neighbour.

15-member House panel to probe water scam

BENGALURU, DHNS: A joint house committee, headed by senior BJP legislator Araga Jnanendra, will probe the alleged irregularities in the setting up and maintenance of pure drinking water units in rural areas.

The 20-member committee is expected to submit its report before June 30, 2021, according to a notification by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly secretariat. The joint house committee has 15 MLAs and five MLCs from across parties as its members.

In the legislature session in December 2020, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, on the floor of the Assembly, ordered a probe into what he called 'a big scam' concerning pure drinking water units in rural areas. Several legislators had raised a hue and cry on a large

number of pure drinking water units being defunct. Karnataka has 18,937 water purification plants. Of them, 12,691 - or 67% - are operational. But in official records, the number of operational plants was 14,172, according to an audit commissioned by the government, which became the basis for the government to consider a probe.

The joint house committee's members are: Appacchu Rangan, A S Patil Nadahalli, Veeranna Charantimath, K Shivanagouda Naik, B C Nagesh, P Rajeev, Achar Halappa Basappa, U Rajesh Naik, K J George, Krishna Byre Gowda, U T Khader, Eshwar Khandre, A T Ramaswamy, Venkatarao Nadagouda (MLAs), S Ravi, Vijay Singh, H M Ramesh Gowda, A Devegowda and S V Sankanur (MLCs).

TN acting as if surplus Cauvery belongs to them: Govt

Will oppose river-linking project tooth and nail: Bommai

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka has decided to "strongly oppose" Tamil Nadu's Cauvery-Vellu-Vaigai-Gundar river-linking project, with the state government announcing its readiness to wage a legal battle against its neighbour.

"Tamil Nadu's project is against the interests of Karnataka," Law Minister Basavaraj Bommai said after a high-level meeting with Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi and senior officials.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami laid the foundation stone for the first phase of the Cauvery-Vellu-Vaigai-Gundar project,

which will be built at a cost of Rs 6,900 crore.

"Tamil Nadu wants to use the surplus Cauvery river water of about 45 tmcft. Surplus water should also be shared between states. But officially or legally, there is no decision on sharing the surplus water. That being the case, it's not right to come up with a project that seeks to use surplus water," Bommai said.

"That surplus water should be shared between the states is a fundamental principle. But going against this, Tamil Nadu is acting as if even the surplus water is theirs. We have decided to strongly oppose this and wage a legal fight," he said.

Out of the 740 tmcft estimated



A file picture of River Cauvery at Makedatu. Tamil Nadu moved the Supreme Court when Karnataka proposed to build a balancing reservoir at Makedatu to utilise surplus water.

DH PHOTO

ed by the Supreme Court in the entire Cauvery basin, 483 tmcft is generated up to the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border at Biligundlu.

"As per the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, even surplus water needs adjudication. The matter is still pending before the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. So, Tamil Nadu's project goes against the Act also," Bommai stressed.

When Karnataka proposed to build a balancing reservoir at Makedatu to utilise surplus water to provide drinking water to Ramanagara and Kanakapura towns, Tamil Nadu filed a petition in the Supreme Court opposing the project.

Tamil Nadu, according to Bommai, has "consistently" opposed Karnataka's projects. "When we wanted to modernise anicuts that are 300-400

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
Home Minister

“As per the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, even surplus water needs adjudication. The matter is still pending before the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. So, Tamil Nadu's project goes against the Act also.

years old, they opposed. They opposed when we sought an allocation for drinking water to Bengaluru," he said. "In the Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri region, Tamil Nadu took up the Hogenakkal project to provide drinking water to four districts. We filed our objections and then we got 9 tmcft allocation for Bengaluru," he added.

"Like this, they've been consistently creating conflicts. They have started a new project just like how they started the Hogenakkal project without any permission," he said.

BSY asks Centre not to allow TN water project

The project is against Karnataka's interests, says minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Government on Friday reiterated that it will not allow Tamil Nadu's project to use surplus Cauvery water by taking up a river linking project by building a canal from Cauvery to Vaiga and Gundar, and said it would fight against it legally and politically.

As the project is expected to affect the state's interests, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa has written to the Central Government asking it not to allow Tamil Nadu to go ahead with the project, Home, Law and Parliamentary Minister Basavaraj Bommai told mediapersons after a meeting with Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi and legal experts, including the Advocate General Prabhuling Navadgi, to discuss the inter-state river water dispute.

Bommai said the TN project to utilize 45 TMC water is in violation of Inter State Water Dispute Act and Karnataka will question it in the court. As per the Act, even surplus water has to be allocated and that has to be decided in the tribunal. Even before that happens, TN has gone ahead with a project that is against Karnataka's interests, the Law Minister said. The state government has decided to implead in a case filed by a farmer in

Madurai Court.

"Individuals cannot file a case in inter-state cases as they do not have a locus standi to do so, and such petitions are dismissed earlier. They have not made Karnataka a party, but we have decided to implead in that case and present our case in Madurai High Court and oppose it strongly," he said, adding: "The state's legal team will strongly oppose it when it comes before the SC."

The minister said TN has been opposing any project taken up by Karnataka, even to modernize 300-year-old dams that were in a bad condition, besides opposing even the allocation of drinking water for Bengaluru.

Elections or political developments in Tamil Nadu have nothing to do with it and protecting the state's interest is important for the government, Bommai said while responding to a question on whether the Centre was supporting TN keeping assembly elections in mind. "We have decided to fight it legally and politically," Jarkiholi added.

Bommai and Jarkiholi said the government will take all the measures to protect the state's interests in all inter-state river water disputes. Ministers and officials also discussed steps needed to be taken in the Mahadayi project.

SARABANGA IRRIGATION SCHEME INAUGURATED

Chennai: Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami inaugurated the mega ₹565 crore Sarabanga lift irrigation project at Thippampatti. Totally, 4,238 acres in 40 villages will benefit from it, apart from 38 villages which will be provided with drinking water |

Alteration of water channel in Erode?

HC tells State to respond to plea alleging encroachments in the name of Smart City project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Madras High Court on Friday issued notices to the State government to respond within a week to a plea alleging altering of the Perumalpalla odai, a water channel in Erode, as part of the Smart City project.

According to the petitioner, K Shanmugasundaram, president working for the protection of the water channel, despite the High

Court order to remove all encroachments in water channels, the authorities failed to address the issue. With Erode being selected under the Smart City programme, the revenue authorities involved used the scheme in their favour and gradually began to acquire the channel, he stated.

The channel has been a lifeline carrying water to at least 10 vil-

lages, where a majority of people practise agriculture. However, the authorities failed to act against encroachments along the channel. The petitioner alleged the authorities planned to affix paver blocks on the sides of the channel to make a pathway under the pretext of beautifying the city, without removing any encroachments alongside. Altering the

length or the width of the channel by constructing walls on either side will hinder the flow of water, said the petitioner.

The counsel for the petitioner sought an interim stay on the proceedings carried out by Revenue authorities. Recording the submissions, the division bench comprising justices R Subbiah and Sathikumar Sukumara Kurup directed the State to file its counter in a week.



Sarabanga irrigation scheme inaugurated

The ₹565-crore project, completed within two years, stands to benefit nearly 40 villages in eight panchayat unions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Salem

CHIEF Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on Friday inaugurated the mega ₹565 crore Sarabanga lift irrigation project at Thippampatti. The project, launched following requests from farmers, was completed within two years. Floodwater from Mettur dam will be pumped from Thippampatti to the lake in M Kalipatti from where it will be pumped to 42 lakes through Vellalapuram and Kannantheri. Through another pipeline from Thippampatti, 31 lakes would be filled via Nangavalli. Totally, 4,238 acres in 40 villages in eight pan-

chayat unions will benefit from the scheme apart from 38 villages which will be provided with drinking water, he said.

A total of 0.5 TMC would be required for the project. About 214 cusecs would be pumped for 30 days to make the quantity available. Further, he hailed former Chief Secretary K Shanmugam for his role in the project. Stating that his government gave importance to agriculture, Palaniswami recalled the schemes announced for the sector. "We solved the Cauvery water dispute, declared Cauvery delta as Protected Special Agricultural Zone, and waived crop loans to the tune of ₹12,110

crore to benefit 16.43 lakh farmers. My government is the only one which waived crop loans twice (2017 and 2021) in a five-year term," he said.

A total of ₹2,247 crore was distributed to farmers as drought relief, the highest by any government. Crop insurance claims to the tune of ₹9,257 crore were settled over the last four years, Palaniswami pointed out. "Through Kudimaramathu, waterbodies all over the State were desilted which helped harness rains

better. Paddy cultivation increased and 32.41 lakh MT was procured year as against the usual procurement of 27

lakh MT. Tamil Nadu received the award for best water management practices for the year 2019-20.

The first phase of ₹14,400 crore Cauvery-Gundar linking project was launched recently," the Chief Minister said.

Meanwhile, in Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, and Thanjavur, a few farmers expressed disappointment with the project. They alleged that

the project would deprive farmers in the tail-end of the Delta of their water requirement. Farmers of Thamizhaga Kaviri Vivasayigal Sangam and Tamizhaga Cauvery Farmers Association staged a protest

24-hour power from April 1

Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on Friday announced that farmers would be provided 24-hours three-phase free electricity from April 1, a promise he made earlier this month. He also laid the foundation stone for 23 projects worth ₹ 5.36 crore and inaugurated 36 completed projects worth ₹62.63 crore.



Pioneer, Delhi

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A bleak future without sustainable water resources

India has an extremely low rainwater harvesting percentage, varying from three-six per cent of the annual rainfall. Hence, watershed management is imperative

The farmers' protest reflects their approach towards securing their future, and soon there would be a solution to that. But there still looms a larger crisis for India and its people, including the farmers. One of the most fertile lands on Earth today stands as the most water challenged nations in the world. India has the highest number of people in the world without access to safe water. Over 80 million people — a majority from impoverished communities — living on less than \$4 a day, are forced to collect dirty water from open ponds and rivers or spend most of what they earn buying water from tankers.

A report by the NITI Aayog in 2018 revealed that 75 per cent of households do not have drinking water on the premises; 84 per cent of rural households do not have piped water access; 70 per cent of the



SASHIDHAR VEMPALA

The writer is a conservationist, wildlife photographer, documentary film-maker and sustainability professional. The views expressed are personal.

water is contaminated and wastewater treatment remains stuck at the national average of over 33 per cent, leading to the high burden of waterborne diseases.

More than 600 million people in India face high to extreme water stress and 21 cities, including New Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai, will run out of groundwater soon, affecting 100 million people. Critical groundwater resources, which account for 40 per cent of our water supply, are being exploited at unsustainable rates. India is already plagued with groundwater contaminated with iron, nitrate, chlorine, along with the predominant arsenic and fluoride, both posing human health risks.

A study published by Duke University in 2018 found uranium contamination in aquifer-drawn groundwater in 16 Indian States. Water Index

scores vary widely, but most States have achieved a score below 50 per cent and could significantly improve their water resource management practices.

Because of this, food security is at a risk as the low performers on the Water Index are home to over 50 per cent of the country's population and its agricultural baskets. The low performers, worryingly, comprise the populous northern States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Haryana and others, and are home to over 600 million people. Given the combination of rapidly declining groundwater levels and limited policy action this is also likely to be a significant food security risk for the country going forward.

Critical groundwater resources, which account for 40 per cent of our water supply, are being depleted at unsustainable



rates. Droughts are becoming more frequent, creating severe problems for India's rain-dependent farmers (over 53 per cent of agriculture is rainfed). When water is available, it is likely to be contaminated, resulting in nearly 2,00,000 deaths each year. Interstate disagreements are on the rise, with seven major disputes currently raging, pointing to the fact that limited frameworks

and institutions are in place for national water governance.

By 2030, the country's water demand is projected to be twice than the available supply, implying severe water scarcity for hundreds of millions of people and an eventual over six per cent loss in the country's GDP. As per the report of the National Commission for Integrated Water Resource Development of MoWR, water requirement by 2050 in a high use scenario is likely to be a milder 1,180 BCM, whereas the present-day availability is 695 BCM.

The total availability of water possible in country is still lower than this projected demand, at 1,137 BCM. Thus, there is an imminent need to deepen our understanding of water resources and usage and put in place interventions that make water use efficient and sustainable. Israel is the world

leader in water governance. And India has partnered with them to share methods and technology. There is a need for more such partnerships, knowledge transfer but more than that, it is awareness that is needed by common users about the impending water crisis.

With nearly 70 per cent of the water being contaminated, India ranks 120 out of 122 countries on the water quality index. Policymakers face a difficult situation because there is not enough data available on how households and industries use and manage water.

There is an urgent need to deepen understanding of our water resources and usage and put in place interventions that make water use efficient and sustainable. Consumers and industries need to look at the 4Rs with renewed rigour. "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,

Recharge." India has an extremely low rainwater harvesting percentage, varying from three-six per cent of annual rainfall. Large-scale watershed management is imperative for holistic management of ecosystems. Coupled with stronger implementation policies and regulations, an ecosystem management approach will bring in adoption of newer conservation technologies.

The agriculture sector will evolve further to improve irrigation and water use efficiency. All this is not possible without investment in education and awareness. Community governance and partnerships, water pricing a strong wastewater recycling ecosystem and increasing rainwater, stormwater harvesting will make people realise the importance of every drop of water and promote sustainable use.

Pioneer, Delhi

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Time for an eco-friendly development model

GURINDER
KAURARJUN
KUMAR

The people living in hilly regions and the country at large demand that the Govt adopt a pro-people and pro-nature development model instead of a pro-corporate one

The recent havoc in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand — where a large part of the Nanda Devi glacier fell into the Alaknanda stream near Joshimath and caused severe flooding that resulted in the hydropower projects of Rishi Ganga and NTPC Tapovan Vishnugad plus many buildings being destroyed and scores of people being killed — has raised the pertinent question: Is this development or the destruction of the environment and people? The Chamoli incident has brought back the traumatic memories of the June 2013 tragedy when the Mandakini river was suddenly flooded after a cloudburst and the flow of water killed more than 5,000 people and left millions stranded in floodwater for days. The fact remains that though Uttarakhand is blessed with natural beauty and invaluable resources such as dense forests, rivers and mountains, it has a very fragile ecosystem. Hence, the State is prone to natural disasters. An earthquake of the magnitude 6.8 on the Richter scale hit the district of Uttarkashi in 1991, killing hundreds of people and destroying thousands of houses. Another earthquake in 1999 in Chamoli killed hundreds, too. The entire Malpa village of Pithoragarh was devastated by a massive landslide in 1999 and 250 people lost their lives.

Though earthquakes, cloudbursts, landslides, massive avalanches and other natural disasters have been a part of natural processes in Uttarakhand for centuries, the increase in their frequency and depth of intensity is due to human activities. The natives of Uttarakhand are acutely aware and have widespread knowledge about the fragility and eco-sensitivity of their environment. For centuries they have lived in harmony with the environment, but now, this stability is being threatened by indiscriminate development and flagrant violation of environmental rules. They have been trying to save their State for a long time.

As early as June 1950, Mira Behn, an environmental activist of Garhwal, published an article titled 'Something is wrong in the Himalayas' documenting that the flash floods in Uttarakhand are bound to wreak havoc as the sensitivity of the environment is being overlooked during the economic development process. Later, she also wrote to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the issue. It is pertinent to note that the site of the recent mishap is the cradle of the Chipko Movement that was initiated to save trees from commercial lumber firms. The first protest occurred near the village of Mandal in the upper Alaknanda valley in April 1973. Alas, governments past and present have neither listened to the cries of locals and environmental activists nor learnt any lessons from the tragedy of 2013. Still, more than 50 hydroelectric projects are under way on the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi rivers, even though a committee of experts warned that such projects were a threat to the State and its frail ecology.

In fact, Uma Bharti, a senior BJP leader and former Water Resources Minister, in her time had requested the Centre not to build power projects on the Ganga river and its major tributaries since the Himalayas are a fragile area. Following the recent catastrophe in Uttarakhand, the Government needs to seriously reconsider its stance on building hydroelectric dams in the region. It should no longer ignore the advice and warnings



EVEN IF THE GOVERNMENT CUTS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT, ONE-THIRD OF THE GLACIERS OF THE HIMALAYAN AND HINDU KUSH MOUNTAIN RANGES WILL MELT BY THE END OF THE 21ST CENTURY. HENCE, URGENT ACTION NEEDS TO BE TAKEN SOONER AS NATURAL DISASTERS ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE WITH TEMPERATURE RISE

Kaur is professor, Department of Geography, Punjabi University, Patiala, and Visiting Professor, IMPRI, while Kumar is Director, IMPRI. The views expressed are personal.



of experts. Magsaysay Award winner Chandi Prasad said that he had written a letter to the then Environment Minister in 2010 warning about the adverse effects of hydropower project on Rishi Ganga. His worst fears were realised in 2021. He claimed that if his warning had been heeded in 2010, the catastrophe would have been prevented. Rising temperatures are melting the glaciers rapidly and, according to a report by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), this melting doubled between 1980-2005. Even if the Government cuts greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in accordance with the Paris Climate Agreement, one-third of the glaciers of the Himalayan and Hindu Kush mountain ranges will melt by the end of the 21st century. Hence, urgent action needs to be taken sooner as natural disasters are likely to increase with temperature rise.

An increase in natural disasters in India is a result of climate change, but an increase in their impact is due to overexploitation of natural resources. The Centre and State Governments have been pursuing pro-corporate development by ignoring environmental norms.

Uttarakhand is inviting climatic tragedies and destroying its beauty by regularly flouting the Environmental Impact Assessment Laws to build a 900-km-long stretch of the Char Dham route. Shockingly,

these roads pass through an environmentally-sensitive zone. The construction of this 900 km stretch was done by dividing it into 53 small sections.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Department's permission has to be sought to construct more than 100 km of a road that is passing through environmentally sensitive areas. This road's width is being kept at 12 metres, for which land with a width of 24 metres would be required. Significantly, most European countries have kept the width of their roads in the mountains to eight metres.

In the aftermath of the February 7 catastrophe, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that the country stands by Uttarakhand. He also announced financial assistance to the families of the victims. But such promises and financial aid are of no use for Uttarakhandis as continuous negligence of environmental regulations by successive governments has led to repeated natural disasters. A few lakhs in assistance from the Centre and State won't help people rebuild their houses or bring back their loved ones. To prevent such emotional and financial losses to the people, the Government should mend its pro-corporate economic development methods.

The massive loss of life and property resulting from natural disasters should serve as a warning signal to the Central Government and make it realise that it must strictly

abide by environmental norms. However, the Government seems to be in no mood to hear the alarm bells as the Central Government is planning to relax environmental standards for Mopa Airport in Goa, sand mining in Uttar Pradesh, Sterlite Copper in Tamil Nadu and construction activities in and around Delhi, which have been blocked by the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal. Meanwhile, the NITI Aayog — the Government's apex think tank — has commissioned a study that seeks to examine the "unintended economic consequences" of judicial decisions that have hindered and stalled big projects on environmental pretexts.

If mountainous areas of the country, including Uttarakhand and their people, are to be saved, then it is incumbent upon the Central Government not to carry out development work in these areas without seeking the opinions of geologists and the locals.

The Government should immediately ban unsustainable development projects in the hilly regions, be it the Char Dham route or hydropower projects. If this does not happen, the people of these areas will be forced to endure frequent natural disasters in the future. The people living in the hilly regions and the country at large demand that the Central Government adopt a pro-people and pro-nature development model instead of a pro-corporate economic development one.

Karnataka to move SC against T.N. project



River of discord: The Cauvery flowing through Dabbaguli on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border. •MURALI KUMAR K.

Move to use surplus Cauvery water illegal, says Bommai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Terming Tamil Nadu's decision to utilise surplus water in the Cauvery basin 'illegal', Karnataka Home, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday said the State would approach the Supreme Court for a legal recourse.

"The link scheme that Tamil Nadu has started will hurt Karnataka's interest. Officially and legally, the surplus water has not been distributed among the riparian States," he told reporters

here after a high-level meeting of technical and legal experts to decide the future course of action.

The Minister said Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa had already written to the Centre to advise Tamil Nadu not to go ahead with the project.

The decision follows Tamil Nadu's move to lay foundation to the Cauvery-Vellaru-Vaigai-Gundar link scheme last Sunday. The link scheme proposes to utilise the surplus water in the Cauvery basin and transfer it

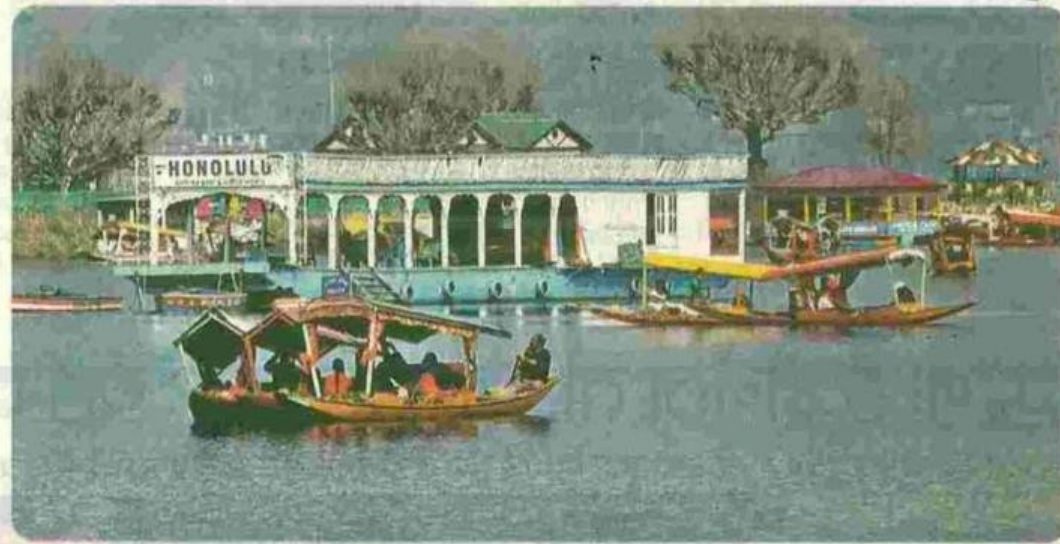
to its Southern region.

Mr. Bommai said: "It is not right on the part of Tamil Nadu to utilise surplus water before it is allocated. Under the provisions of The Inter State Water Disputes Act, it is illegal and cannot happen without proper allocation."

He also accused Tamil Nadu of being an impediment to every project proposed by the State in the Cauvery basin.

He said Karnataka's stand was that even the surplus water had to be shared between the riparian States.

डल झील: 'स्वच्छ पर्यटन स्थल' की 12 जगहों में हुई शामिल



श्रीनगर, डल झील में शिकारे की सवारी का आनंद लेते हुए पर्यटक। देश में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए केंद्र सरकार के जल शक्ति मंत्रालय की पहल 'स्वच्छ पर्यटन स्थल' में देशभर के कुल 12 पर्यटन स्थलों का चयन किया है। डल झील भी इनमें से एक है, जहां स्वच्छता व पर्यटन को अधिक गति दी जाएगी।

दिल्ली में नहीं रुकेगी पानी की आपूर्ति

चड़्हा के आरोपों को बीबीएमबी ने किया खारिज, हरियाणा ने भी कहा-नहीं दी पानी रुकने की सूचना

जागरण टीम, नई दिल्ली: दिल्ली के लोगों को परेशान होने की जरूरत नहीं है। उन्हें पानी की कमी से जूझना नहीं पड़ेगा। पानी की आपूर्ति घटाए जाने संबंधी दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के उपाध्यक्ष व आम आदमी पार्टी के नेता राघव चड्ढा के आरोपों पर आपूर्ति जताते हुए भाखड़ा ब्यास मैनेजमेंट बोर्ड (बीबीएमबी) और हरियाणा के सिंचाई विभाग ने इसे गलत और भ्रामक बताया है।

बीबीएमबी ने स्पष्ट किया है कि नंगल हाइड्रल चैनल की मरम्मत की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। यदि पावर प्लांट के गेटों की मरम्मत की जरूरत पड़ी भी तो कोई गेट बंद नहीं किया जाएगा और दिल्ली को पानी की आपूर्ति पर कोई विपरीत असर नहीं पड़ेगा। इसपर चड़्ढा ने कहा कि उन्हें हरियाणा से ऐसी सूचना मिली थी कि दिल्ली का पानी रोक जा रहा है। यदि दिल्ली की ओर से दबाव बनाए जाने के बाद पानी रोकने का

यमुना में भी फिलहाल पानी कम बह रहा

हरियाणा के अधिकारियों ने दिल्ली को पानी की आपूर्ति रोकने की कोई सूचना देने से साफ इन्कार किया है। हरियाणा के सिंचाई विभाग के चीफ इंजीनियर (कॉन्डिनेशन) संदीप बिश्नोई का कहना है कि यमुना में भी फिलहाल

पानी कम बह रहा है। इसके बावजूद दिल्ली में पानी की आपूर्ति बाधित नहीं है। बारिश आने व पहाड़ों में बर्फ पिघलने के बाद स्थिति में और सुधार होगा। गमी पड़ने के साथ ही पहाड़ों में बर्फ पिघलेगी।

66 सालों में एक दिन भी बंद नहीं हुई नहर

वर्ष 1954 में आठ जुलाई को भाखड़ा बांध से निकलने वाले नंगल हाइड्रल चैनल का उद्घाटन हुआ था। यह नहर 12,500 क्यूसेक पानी भाखड़ा नहर के माध्यम से हरियाणा, दिल्ली व

राजस्थान तक उपलब्ध करवाती आ रही है। पिछले 66 वर्षों में एक भी दिन ऐसा नहीं हुआ, जब यह नहर बंद हुई हो। इस नहर के निरीक्षण व मरम्मत का काम नहर को बंद किए बिना किया जाता है।

फैसला बदला जा रहा है तो यह अच्छी बात है। उन्होंने कहा, 'ऐसे हर मुद्दे पर हमारा संघर्ष जारी रहेगा। हमारा मकसद है कि दिल्लीवालों को पूरा पानी मिले।'

चड़्ढा ने बृहस्पतिवार को केंद्र सरकार पर आरोप लगाया था कि वह दिल्ली में पानी की आपूर्ति एक महीने तक बंद रखना चाहती है। पंजाब में पड़ने वाले नंगल हाइड्रल चैनल की मरम्मत होनी है, जिसके कारण इस चैनल के जरिये हरियाणा की मूनक नहर के रास्ते आने वाले

232 एमजीडी पानी की आपूर्ति ठप हो जाएगी। वहीं, बीबीएमबी के अधिकारियों ने दैनिक जागरण को बताया कि जलापूर्ति व्यवस्था की समीक्षा की गई है। चैनल बंद नहीं किया जा रहा है, दिल्ली समेत किसी भी राज्य के लिए पानी की आपूर्ति में कमी भी नहीं की जा रही है।

गेटों की होगी मरम्मत: नंगल में भाखड़ा बांध के मुख्य अभियंता कमलजीत सिंह ने भी कहा कि भाखड़ा बांध से निकलने वाली नंगल हाइड्रल चैनल नहीं, बल्कि नहर के रास्ते में

बने गंगुवाल व कोटला पावर प्लांट के गेटों की मरम्मत की जानी है। हर साल इन गेटों की मरम्मत की जाती है, लेकिन पिछले साल लाकडाउन के कारण नहीं की जा सकी थी। उन्होंने बताया कि मरम्मत के लिए यह समय सबसे सही है, क्योंकि इन दिनों भाखड़ा बांध के भागीदार राज्यों पंजाब, हरियाणा व राजस्थान से पानी की मांग कम हो जाती है। ऐसे में कम पानी छोड़ना पड़ता है। मरम्मत के समय भी कम से कम आठ हजार क्यूसेक पानी नहर में

चलता रहता है।

पानी कम करने से पहले होती है राज्यों की बैठक: पानी की आपूर्ति कम या ज्यादा करने का निर्णय पंजाब, हरियाणा, राजस्थान व दिल्ली के साथ बैठक के बाद ही लिया जाता है। बीबीएमबी के चीफ इंजीनियर (कैनाल) संजीव गुप्ता के मुताबिक, शनिवार को चंडीगढ़ में इन राज्यों की बैठक होने जा रही है। यह हर माह होने वाली रूटीन बैठक है, जिसमें राज्यों की जरूरत के मुताबिक पानी की आपूर्ति तय होती है।

सुधरेगी यमुना रिवर फ्रंट की दशा, एलजी ने जारी किए निर्देश

राज्य ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : दिल्ली में यमुना के दोनों किनारों पर करीब 1,476 हैक्टेयर में फैले डूब क्षेत्र के पुनर्विकास और किनारों को सुंदर बनाने वाले दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण (डीडीए) के महत्वाकांक्षी प्रोजेक्ट यमुना रिवर फ्रंट को प्रगति का जायजा लेने के लिए उपराज्यपाल (एलजी) एवं डीडीए के अध्यक्ष अनिल बैजल ने शुक्रवार को डीडीए अधिकारियों के साथ समीक्षा बैठक की। इस दौरान

एलजी ने निर्देश दिए कि इस क्षेत्र में जीरो वेस्ट शौचालय, पीने का पानी, बाहर बैठने के लिए सुविधाएं, सोलर लाइट आदि की व्यवस्था भी की जाए, ताकि ज्यादा से लोग आ सकें।

इस प्रोजेक्ट को दस हिस्सों में विकसित किया जा रहा है, जिसके तहत यमुना के पांच किलोमीटर के हिस्से को पुनर्विकसित किया जाएगा। हाल ही में डीडीए ने अपने बजट में इस प्रोजेक्ट के लिए 105 करोड़ रुपये

समीक्षा बैठक

- उपराज्यपाल ने शुक्रवार को डीडीए के अधिकारियों से की बात
- इस प्रोजेक्ट के लिए 105 करोड़ रुपये का बजट किया है निर्धारित

का प्रविधान किया है। यह इलाका इस तरह से विकसित किया जाएगा कि यहां आकर पर्यटक खुद को यमुना और प्रकृति से जुड़ा महसूस करें।

इस प्रोजेक्ट से यमुना को प्रदूषण से बचाने और वन्य जीवों को सहारा देने वाले स्थानीय वातावरण के अनुकूल पौधों की विविध प्रजातियों के विकास में भी मदद मिलेगी। इस इलाके में बड़ा वोटिंग क्लब भी खोला जाएगा और यमुना में गिरने वाले नालों को नदी से अलग कर दिया जाएगा।

योजना में ये इलाके होंगे शामिल: इस योजना में पुराने रैलवे पुल व गीता कालोनी पुल से आइटीओ बैराज

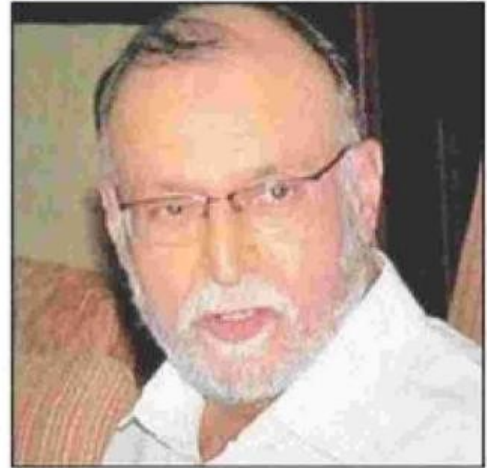
(पश्चिमी तट व पूर्वी तट), एनएच 24 से डीएनडी फ्लाई-वे (पश्चिमी तट), डीएनडी से प्रस्तावित कालिंदी बाइपास (पश्चिमी तट), एनएच 24 से डीएनडी फ्लाई-वे (पूर्वी तट) भाग एक, एनएच 24 से डीएनडी फ्लाई-वे (पूर्वी तट) भाग दो, वजीराबाद बैराज से आइएसबीटी पुल (पूर्वी तट) गद्दी मांढू और उस्मानपुर गांव के आसपास, वजीराबाद से आइएसबीटी पुल (पूर्वी तट) शामिल हैं।

एलजी ने की यमुना रिवर फ्रंट के विकास कार्य की समीक्षा

नई दिल्ली। उपराज्यपाल अनिल बैजल ने शुक्रवार को अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक कर यमुना रिवर फ्रंट की मरम्मत एवं विकास कार्यों की समीक्षा की। उन्होंने वेटलैंड की लैंडस्केपिंग, हरियाली बढ़ाने और पौधारोपण के साथ ही नदी पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की बहाली का कार्य समयबद्ध तरीके से पूरा करने पर जोर दिया।

उपराज्यपाल कार्यालय ने इस मुद्दे पर कई ट्वीट कर बताया कि बैजल ने डीडीए तथा विशेषज्ञों के साथ बैठक की अध्यक्षता की। इसमें डीडीए उपाध्यक्ष तथा विशेषज्ञों के साथ बैठक में विकास कार्य की समीक्षा की गई। उन्होंने अब तक किए कार्य की प्रशंसा की और लैंडस्केपिंग, हरियाली बढ़ाने तथा वेटलैंड को बढ़ाने के लिए पौधारोपण तथा जल स्रोतों के पारिस्थितिकी के सुधार कार्य को समयबद्ध रूप से पूरा करने पर जोर दिया।

एक अन्य ट्वीट में बताया गया कि उपराज्यपाल ने अधिक से अधिक लोगों को आकर्षित करने के लिए इन क्षेत्रों में पर्यावरण अनुरूप जीरो वेस्ट टॉयलेट, पेयजल, बैठने के स्थान, सोलर लाइटें, साइन बोर्ड, जन सुविधाएं बढ़ाने की सलाह दी।



अनिल बैजल

हरियाली बढ़ाने और पौधारोपण कार्य को समयबद्ध तरीके से पूरा करने पर जोर दिया

उन्होंने इसके अलावा पीएम स्वनिधि तथा प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना जैसी कई अग्रणी योजनाओं को लागू करने पर भी वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों के साथ चर्चा की। उन्होंने इन योजनाओं की प्रगति तथा समस्याओं को सुलझाने की सराहना की। बैठक के दौरान उन्होंने पीएम स्वनिधि के अंतर्गत ऋण स्वीकृति तथा शीघ्र वितरण के लिए प्रत्येक बैंक में नोडल अधिकारी नियुक्त करने नगर निगमों को सलाह दी। उन्होंने इन योजनाओं को जन हित प्रभावी रूप से लागू करने के लिए कार्य को शीघ्र पूरा करने के लिए कहा। एजेसी