

Telangana Today- 30- October-2021

'Govt lacks commitment on Palamuru project'

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

TPCC president A Revanth Reddy said the National Green Tribunal's orders on Palamuru Rangareddy project would result in a severe loss to Southern Telangana. Foundation for Palamuru Rangareddy LI Scheme was laid in 2015 and it had been six years but the project works were being taken up at a snail's pace, he said.

"This exposes State government's lack of commitment towards welfare and development of erstwhile Palamuru," said Revanth, adding that it should have roped in an experienced advocate to fight the case on behalf of Telangana.

On the contrary, Andhra Pradesh government had completed the Pattiseema project, which lacked environmental clearances, much before the tribunal's verdict, he charged.

Lashing at the BJP leaders in the State, he said BJP State president Bandi Sanjay and Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy should initiate measures for obtaining environmental clearances for Palamuru Rangareddy project in 10 days.

Deccan Chronicle- 30- October-2021

NGT stays PRLIS, asks TS to get Centre's green nod

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 29

In a jolt to the Telangana state government, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Friday ordered a stay on the construction of Palamuru-Ranga Reddy lift irrigation project scheme (PRLIS) until environmental clearances were obtained from the Centre.

According to D. Madhuri Reddy, counsel for the Andhra Pradesh government in the NGT, the southern bench of the tribunal in Chennai issued orders to this effect on Friday.

The AP government had impleaded in a petition filed by a resident of Mahbubnagar district in the NGT in August this year against the project, alleging environmental violations.

However, TS irrigation officials said that NGT has only issued 'interim orders' and allowed the TS government to raise its objections on this issue.

They said NGT has posted the case for hearing on November 24 to raise objections on the report of joint committee which inspected the PRLIS. They said it's not final disposal of the case by the NGT.

In July, the NGT had ordered the constitution of the joint committee to inspect project works following the petition filed by D. Chandramouleswara Reddy, a farmer from Kadapa, along with others from Rayalaseema and Prakasam, Guntur and Krishna districts against the project.

In the petition, the AP government alleged that the TS government 'dubiously and artificially' divided the PRLIS into two phases – irrigation (83.9 tmc ft) and drinking water with evaporation losses (6.1 tmc ft) – to evade legal scrutiny. It complained that the TS government was taking up irrigation project works under the guise of drinking water project works.

The NGT's joint committee inspected project works in September and submitted a report in October first week stating that the TS government had taken up irrigation works in the PRLIS, instead of permitted drinking water component works. The NGT said it was a violation of the

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification, 2016. The joint committee suggested imposition of an environmental compensation of ₹3,70,87,500 on Telangana state.

Following this, the NGT Chennai bench ordered a stay on PRLIS works. "We are satisfied that there is prima facie case and balance of convenience in favour of the applicant and if the relief is not granted, then there will be irreparable and irreversible injury will be caused to the environment and as such in order to protect the environment, the Telangana state government has to be restrained by an interim order of injunction from proceeding with the project

without completing the process of obtaining environmental clearance as required under EIA notification, 2016. So, the Telangana state government is restrained from proceeding with the PRLIS as it stands now pending before the MoEF&CC for environment clearance as a combined project as required under EIA Notification, 2016," the bench comprising Justice K. Ramakrishnan and Dr K. Satyagopal noted.

The bench stated, "The preliminary objection raised by the Telangana state government is not sustainable and the same is rejected and hold that the application is maintainable and not barred by limitation."

Deccan Chronicle- 30- October-2021

TS DOUBTS PLAN FOR GODAVARI, CAUVERY LINKING

**L. VENKAT RAM REDDY |
DC**

HYDERABAD, OCT. 29

The state government raised several concerns and doubts on the proposed Godavari-Cauvery river linking project mooted by the Centre. The National Water Development Agency on Friday held a meeting with officials of seven states including TS to discuss the Godavari-Cauvery linking project through video-conferencing. The meeting was attended by officials from AP, Chhattisgarh, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, and TN.

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TS questions feasibility of Godavari, Cauvery project

**L. VENKAT RAM
REDDY | DC**
HYDERABAD, OCT. 29

The state government raised several concerns and doubts on the proposed Godavari-Cauvery river linking project mooted by the Centre.

The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) on Friday held a meeting with irrigation officials of seven states including Telangana to discuss the Godavari-Cauvery linking project through video-conferencing.

The meeting was attended by officials from AP, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha, MP and Tamil Nadu.

Official sources said TS officials wanted the Central Water Commission to study the availability of water in the Godavari after meeting the drinking water and irrigation needs before going

ahead with the project.

TS officials reiterated the demand that the Centre should divert the Mahanadi waters to the Godavari and then the surplus waters in the Mahanadi should be diverted to the Cauvery basin.

They stated that the TS government planned several irrigation projects on the Godavari to utilise the assured waters as well as surplus waters in the Godavari and same was the case with AP. They questioned where was the availability of surplus waters in the Godavari under these circumstances.

TS officials raised doubts over NWDA proposal to divert 243 tmc ft of water of Indravati unutilised by Chhattisgarh to the Godavari. They said Chhattisgarh had planned projects to utilise its share of water.

The Centre convened the meeting to seek the support of all partner states to construct the Godavari-Cauvery link project with an estimated cost of ₹80,000 crore.

It prepared a detailed project report (DPR) to lift 250 tmc ft of Godavari waters for the project and sent the DPR to stakeholders to seek their opinion and suggestions last year.

The DPR proposes to construct the link project at Icchampally in Karimnagar district.

Officials said TS needed 250 tmc ft water in the Godavari to meet its needs, which was not available at Icchampally.

The TS government is concerned that its existing and future projects on the Godavari would face water shortage if the Cauvery link is taken up without addressing these issues.

The Hindu- 30- October-2021

3 shutters of Mullaperiyar dam opened

Two gates opened at 7.30 a.m., one at 9 p.m.

A CORRESPONDENT
IDUKKI

The spillway shutters of the Mullaperiyar dam were opened at 7.30 a.m. on Friday, releasing 544 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of water into the Periyar.

The dam was last opened during the floods in August 2018.

The third and fourth gates were opened up to 35 cm in the presence of Water Resources Minister Roshy Augustine, Revenue Minister K. Rajan and Idukki District Collector Sheeba George. At 9 p.m., one more shutter was opened, releasing 275 cusecs of water.

Upper rule curve level

Officials manually opened the spillway shutters after issuing two warnings in the wake of the water level reaching 138 ft, the upper rule curve level.

Life remained quite normal downstream of the dam, though the district administration had made elaborate arrangements to shift people close to the riverbanks and opened relief camps in Peerumade, Udumbanchola and Idukki taluks.

According to revenue officials, they opened six relief camps at Manjumala, Elapara, Periyar, Upputhara, and Anavilasam. They said 288 people from 98 families were still staying in the relief camps.



Water flowing from the Mullaperiyar reservoir to the Periyar after the opening of the spillway shutters on Friday.

Sebastian, a resident at Vallakkadavu, the first residential area downstream of the Mullaperiyar dam, said he did not see an increase in water flow in the Periyar af-

ter the opening of the spillway shutters.

However, in 2018, there was heavy flow in the Periyar and the opening of the spillway shutters had caused

wide damage.

Mariappan, a resident at Chappathu, said the water had overflowed the main bridge across the river connecting Kottayam and Kattappana a few days ago. "Now there is only normal flow and only those noticed the water flow just before the opening of the spillway shutters could gauge if there was an increase in the water flow," he said.

The water released through the spillway shutters moved through Manjumala, Vandiperiyar, Mlammala, Santhipalam, Chappathu, Alady and Upputhara to join the Idukki reservoir at Ayappancoil, which is 35 km away from the Idukki arch dam and Cheruthoni dam.

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The Hindu- 30- October-2021

Impact on Idukki reservoir minimal

Water level falls in Idukki, while that in Mullaperiyar goes up

GIJI K. RAMAN
IDUKKI

The opening of the spillway shutters of Mullaperiyar dam made little impact on the downstream Idukki reservoir by Friday evening.

Saju M.P., assistant engineer, Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB), told *The Hindu* that the water released from the Mullaperiyar dam was very less when compared to the reservoir area of the Idukki dam, one of the largest in Asia. The water released was at 534 cusecs (cubic feet per second), which was not enough to



First to be hit: A view of the Periyar at Vallakkadavu, the first residential area downstream of the Mullaperiyar dam, after the release of water from the spillway shutters on Friday.

make an impact on the Idukki reservoir, he said.

The water level in the reservoir fell from 2,398.31 ft (red alert level) in the morning to 2,398.30 ft (orange alert level) by evening. The fall in the water level is attribut-

ed to the near absence of rainfall in the catchment area and the reduced inflow through the main tributary, the Periyar.

The water released from the Mullaperiyar dam in the morning reached the Idukki reservoir by noon.

To make an impact

A dam safety official said an inflow of at least 2 mcm (million cubic metres) of water was needed to make any impact on the Idukki reservoir in the present situation.

At least 16 mcm of water should flow into the reservoir for the water level to increase by one foot, he said. Power generation in the Moolamattom power plant of the Idukki reservoir was at the maximum.

The upper rule curve level

of the Idukki dam is set in a way to accommodate the water released from Mullaperiyar as per the new rule curve level set by the Central Water Commission (CWC) for the two dams.

Inflow into Mullaperiyar

Because of good inflow, the water level in Mullaperiyar rose after the opening of the spillway shutters at 7.30 a.m. on Friday. The water level was 138.75 ft at 7 a.m. and it rose to 138.85 ft at 6 p.m. Tamil Nadu was drawing water at 2,335 cusecs while the average inflow was 3,744 cusecs on Friday.

KSEB sources said Kerala was pressurising Tamil Nadu to release more water from the dam as the upper rule curve for the dam till October 31 is 138 ft.

The Hindu- 30- October-2021

Design of new dam likely by December

Estimated to cost ₹2,000 crore

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

The design of a new Mulla-periyar dam, which will replace the old one, will be ready in two months as experts are busy working on the hydrological safety of the proposed structure.

The dam is back in news after Tamil Nadu opened the shutters of the dam on Friday following heavy rain in the catchment area and Kerala evacuating families living in the downstream areas. Kerala has also restarted its campaign for constructing a new dam.

Though the dam would be designed by Kerala, it would require the concurrence of Tamil Nadu for the State to go ahead with the construction. The new design and its detailed project report will have to be handed over to Tamil Nadu, according to experts.

Prospect of flooding

While designing the new dam, the maximum flood that can happen in the region needs to be taken into account. Earlier, a study by the Delhi IIT had estimated that 3.06 lakh cusecs of water could reach the reservoir in case of an extreme flood event. Kerala also needs to take into account the 2018 and 2019 floods.

The new dam should be designed in such a way as to withstand future floods and heavy inflow of water, according to those at the Irrigation Design and Research Board (IDRB) of the State Irrigation Department.

According to R. Priyesh,

Director, IDRB, the hydrological safety is of utmost significance given the steep nature of the catchment area of the dam, spread over 620 sq km. The rain received in the catchment area can reach the dam in no time. As the State is witnessing extreme weather events frequently, the new dam should be designed to resist flooding caused by such events, he said.

Kerala has been highlighting the hydrological, seismic and structural safety aspects of the old dam in its Supreme Court litigations. The height of the new dam, its water holding capacity and the spillway levels are yet to be finalised. The new dam could cost around ₹2,000 crore and take four years to complete, said Mr. Priyesh.

T.N. gets this year's highest monthly realisation of Cauvery water

In October, it was 24 tmc ft higher than prescribed

T. RAMAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI

With October witnessing the highest monthly realisation of Cauvery water during the current water year (June 2021-May 2022), Tamil Nadu's shortfall in realisation of its share of the river water has gone down to about seven thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft).

On September 30, the deficit was around 32 tmc ft. But with rainfall in the withdrawal phase of southwest monsoon being heavy over several parts of the southern States, including the catchment of the Cauvery this month, the difference between realisation and the stipulated quantity has got drastically narrowed. The realisation during October alone, as on October 27, was around 24 tmc ft higher than the prescribed quantity for the month.

The cumulative realisation of Cauvery water since June 1 was about 133.4 tmc ft. Considering the average rate of realisation during November-May between 2013 and 2020, the State is expected to get about 40 tmc ft more in the next seven months. But if the average rate from 1991, when the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal gave its interim order, to 2020 is

Tracking flow | With rainfall in the withdrawal phase of the Southwest monsoon being heavy over many parts of the southern States, including the catchment of the Cauvery this month, the difference between realisation and the stipulated quantity has got drastically narrowed

REALISATION OF CAUVERY WATER

Month	Quantity prescribed as per the Supreme Court's judgment of Feb. 2018 (TMC)	Inflow realised (TMC)	Difference (TMC)
June	9.19	7.6978	-1.4922
July	31.24	27.989	-3.2510
August	45.95	22.6417	-23.3083
September	36.76	33.1394	-3.6206
October (up to Oct 27)	17.611	41.9056	24.2946
TOTAL	140.751	133.3735	-7.3774

TMC - THOUSAND MILLION CUBIC FEET

NOTE: AS REALISED AT THE BILIGUNDULU GAUGE AND DISCHARGE STATION OF THE CENTRAL WATER COMMISSION.



taken into account, around 69 tmc ft of water is likely to be realised during the rest of the water year. Going by the pattern of flows in the two sets of years, the overall realisation of water for the en-

tire year will not, in any way, exceed the 200-tmc ft mark.

On Friday, the Mettur dam recorded an inflow of about 25,560 cubic feet per second of water. Its storage was around 76.6 tmc ft.

'Over 1 million participants from 113 countries participated in Ganga Quest 2021'

Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General of National Mission for Clean Ganga, responsible for executing the Namami Gange mission, spoke about the mission for conservation of Ganga river basin and Ganga Utsav in an interview. Excerpts

Q. What are the key focus areas of the Namami Gange mission?

Namami Gange is a multi-sectoral integrated mission for conservation of Ganga river basin. It focuses holistically on the entire riverine ecosystem including components such as pollution abatement, improving ecology and flow, sustainability-oriented policies, knowledge management and strengthening people-river connect. Simultaneously, the mission also acknowledges the importance of citizen engagement as a cornerstone of its strategy. Dedicated cadres of Ganga saviors like Ganga Praharis, Ganga Doots, Ganga Mitras and Ganga Vichar Manch conduct public outreach activities to sensitize people. Simultaneously, activities such as Ganga Utsav, Ganga Run, River Rafting, Ganga Quest Quiz, Plantation Drives, etc. are also conducted. I'm happy to share that this year's Ganga Quest 2021 had an overwhelming response with over 1 million participants from 113 countries.

Q. Can you tell us more about the Ganga Utsav?

Ganga symbolizes the cultural heritage and collective consciousness of the people as the divine mother and lifeline providing us sustenance. Utsav represents an endeavor to celebrate the river and reconnect the people, especially the youth who are keen to undertake activities for river rejuvenation.

Following Hon'ble Prime Minister's clarion call for celebrating river festivals, Namami Gange is organizing a chain of River Utsavs through the 'Ganga Utsav 2021-The River Festival' from 1st - 3rd November 2021, to celebrate Ganga and



all rivers in India. Various activities have been planned from New Delhi through hybrid mode and also in 150 districts in the country - 112 in the Ganga Basin and the rest along other major rivers. The Utsav will start with launch of the Continuous Learning and Activity Portal providing a forum for continuous year-round engagement through its portal at

<http://www.clap4ganga.com/> (active from 1st November post formal launch). In partnership with TREE Craze Foundation, it is especially attractive to children and youth. The Utsav includes the launch of the promo and a panel discussion on the National Geographic film - 'Ganga: River from the Skies', which captures the journey of the river, its challenges and the initiatives being undertaken by the Mission to rejuvenate the river basin. The event will also see activities such as Ganga Dialogue and River Story Telling through Kahani Junction, Mini Ganga Quest, Literary Festival representing the rich literary heritage inspired by rivers, cultural performances, etc. It will also flag off Ganga Mashaal, an expedition to connect people throughout its journey from Uttarakhand to West Bengal.

Q. How can the larger audience participate in the Ganga Utsav?

Various activities have been planned to include the participation of different age groups, and I also encourage all to participate in our attempt to set a new world record, the details are available at our website - <https://gangautsav.com>. To watch live telecast, people can visit our social media handles - Facebook, Twitter and Youtube or scan the QR code.

—As told to Alok Sinha