

Telangana Today- 22- November-2021

Dam that became sorrow of many

KADAPA

The Annamayya project on Cheyyeru river has turned out to be the sorrow of many a village in Rajampet Assembly constituency in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh. Togurupeta, Mandapalli, Pulapathur and Gundlur presented a picture of haunted villages in the wake of the devastation.

The flash flood caused due to a breach of the project's earthen bund caught at least 18 people in a watery grave and left many others missing in these villages. A sudden gush of about two lakh cusecs of floodwater on Friday, with the level reach-



Vast swathes of land under water in Kadapa district of AP.

ing up to 10 feet height, caught the villagers un-awares and scampering for their lives. Tens of houses in

these villages downstream the project were reduced to rubble. The villagers literally lost everything, except

the clothes on their person. Agricultural crops in hundreds of acres stood destroyed. Tens of cattle heads were washed away. Nothing of the household items was left as the deluge gulped them.

"It all happened in a flash. There was no warning whatsoever about the impending disaster and we were left to face the fury. Now, our lives are in total ruin," the sobbing villagers of Togurupeta and Mandapalli said.

In Pulapathur village, 12 people were swept away in the swirling flood in Cheyyeru, nine in Mandapalli and five in Gundlur. So far, only 18 bodies have been

recovered, with no trace of the rest. Annamayya is a medium irrigation project with a gross capacity of only 2.24 tmc ft on Cheyyeru, a tributary of Penna river, in Rajampet constituency. It caters to an ayacut of 22,500 acres, besides fulfilling the drinking water needs of 140 habitations.

"It was nothing but gross mismanagement on the part of the administration. Didn't they know about the flood when there was such heavy rain? Why were we not even alerted about the coming danger before it destroyed us?" angry villagers of Mandapalli and Togurupeta questioned. PTI

Millennium Post- 22- November-2021

HUNDREDS OF VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS STRANDED

Floods bring Andhra to its knees, death toll climbs to 31

OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMARAVATI: In Andhra Pradesh, hundreds of vehicles and passengers were stranded, traffic was either closed or suspended in arterial highways and over 100 trains cancelled snapping rail-road link between southern and other parts of the country as the Penna river in spate caused heavy destruction on Sunday.

Toll in rain-related incidents in different districts of Andhra Pradesh touched 31 as more bodies were retrieved from the flooded streams.

The Chennai-Kolkata National Highway-16 remained cut off for traffic between Nellore and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh as was the Chennai grand trunk rail route severing the all important link between the southern and eastern and northern parts of the country.

The South Central Railway informed that more than a 100 express trains were cancelled because of the damage caused to the rail track at Padugupadu near Nellore and 29 more diverted via other routes.

In Kadapa district alone, at

least 18 people were dead, crops on hundreds of acres destroyed, heads of cattle washed away and tens of houses in villages were reduced to rubble as flash floods due to a breach of the Annamayya project's earthen bund on Cheyru river caused havoc.

In Kadapa city, a mother and child, who were trapped on the second floor of a building were rescued in the nick of time by police and fire services personnel, just before the three-storied building folded like a pack of cards in the wee hours. Floodwater gushing out from the Veligallu reservoir led to the collapse of a bridge on river Papagni cutting off road link between Kadapa and Anantapuramu districts.

As floods caused devastation, the Chennai-Kolkata National Highway-16 had to be closed down for traffic in SPS Nellore district following a heavy breach at Padugupadu.

The State Disaster Management Authority said more than two lakh cusecs of floodwater flowed out of the Somasila reservoir in SPS Nellore district, leading to the deluge. This caused breach of the National



Residents wade through a flood-affected area in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh

Highway-16 at Kovuru as well.

Consequently, traffic on the NH-16 between Nellore and Vijayawada has been suspended, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded for kilometers on either side.

Hundreds of passengers were stuck in the Nellore RTC bus station as bus services were disrupted.

Vehicular traffic coming from Srikalahasti has been stopped at Tottembedu check post and diverted via Pamuru and Darsi, officials said.

Togurupeta, Mandapalli, Pulapathur and Gundlur pre-

sented a picture of haunted villages in the wake of the devastation due to the breach vis-a-vis the Annamayya project's earthen bund.

Annamayya is a medium irrigation project with a gross capacity of only 2.24 tmc ft on Cheyru, a tributary of Penna river, in Rajampet constituency. It caters to an ayacut of 22,500 acres, besides fulfilling the drinking water needs of 140 habitations.

The Pincha project upstream breached, letting out all floodwater into Annamayya while water from Seshachalam

too came gushing in because of very heavy rainfall, resulting in an overall discharge of over two lakh cusecs.

That pushed Cheyru river into spate, inundating at least 10 villages downstream in Rajampet and Nandaluru mandals, and leaving widespread destruction in its wake.

Meanwhile, the Chittoor district administration in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday evening issued public warnings asking people of 16 villages to immediately vacate as some minor openings were developed on the tank bund in the 500-year old massive water tank called 'Rayalacheruvu' in the Ramachandra Mandal.

Due to recent downpour, the oldest colossal tank had waters to its full capacity now for the first time and started developing minor breaches, officials said.

Special Officer PS Pradyumna, Chittoor district Collector M Harinarayanan, Tirupati Superintendent of Police Ch Venkata Appala Naidu along with revenue and irrigation officials visited the tank and efforts were being taken to avert any danger.

The Hindu- 22- November-2021

Central team in Chennai to assess damage

It will visit 12 rain-affected areas in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry this week

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Union Government's team, deputed for an on-the-spot assessment of the rain damage in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, arrived in Chennai on Sunday and held discussions with senior officials.

The team will visit 12 affected districts in Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory this week.

The seven-member team is led by Joint Secretary in the Union Home Ministry Rajiv Sharma. The other members are Consultant in the

Union Ministry of Finance R.B. Kaul; Director in the Department of Agriculture Vijay Rajmohan; Assistant Director in the Union Ministry of Power Bhavya Pandey; Under-Secretary in the Union Ministry of Rural Development M.V.N. Varaprasad; Director in the Union Ministry of Water Resources R. Thanigamani; and Regional Director in the Union Ministry of Road Transport Rananjay Singh.

On Sunday evening, the team held discussions with Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu,

Commissioner of Revenue Administration K. Phanindra Reddy, Revenue Secretary Kumar Jayant and senior officials at the Secretariat.

Meeting with GCC chief

It also met Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner Gagandeep Singh Bedi in the Ripon Building.

Four of the seven members, led by Mr. Rajiv Sharma, will visit the flood-affected areas in Chennai, Chengalpattu and Kancheepuram districts on the forenoon of Monday before pro-

ceeding to Puducherry in the afternoon. On November 23, the team is expected to visit the affected areas in Cuddalore and Mayiladuthurai districts in the forenoon and Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur and Tiruchi in the afternoon.

The three other members will fly to Thoothukudi on Monday morning and then proceed to Kanniyakumari by road. On Tuesday, it will return to Chennai and proceed to Vellore and Ranipet. Both the teams will return to Chennai by Tuesday evening.

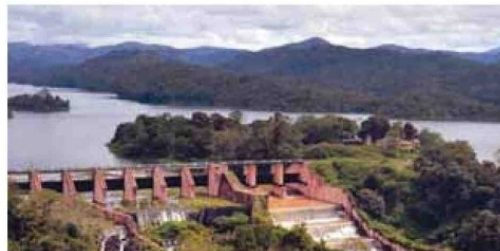
The Pioneer- 22- November-2021

Mullaperiyar dam's 999-yr lease a mystery to experts!

150-yr-old lease for 999 years a scam, Maharaja forced to sign deal: Historians

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Nearly 150 years after the signing of the agreement between the then princely State of Travancore and the Madras Presidency to build the Mullaperiyar dam, a controversy has erupted over the tenancy and lease terms. Legal



experts and historians have expressed reservations and doubts over the 999-year-long lease agreement signed on October 29, 1886 between the British-ruled Madras Presidency and the State of Travancore.

"There is a major scam

behind the drafting and signing of the Mullaperiyar dam agreement," P Sujathan, a seasoned scribe-turned-historian told *The Pioneer*. There are no lease and tenancy agreements anywhere in the world that hold valid for 999 years.

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Mullaperiyar dam's 999-yr lease a...

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"The Mullaperiyar agreement is for 999 years and this itself is shrouded in mystery and secrecy. The then Maharaja is on record telling his Diwan that he was forced to sign the dotted line with his own blood," said Sujathan, who studied the comprehensive history of the Mullaperiyar dam.

Thiruvanchur Radhakrishnan, former Kerala Minister for Water Resources and Forests, who had led the State in many of the discussions held with his Tamil Nadu counterparts, said that then Maharaja Sree Mulam Thirunal Rama Varma was forced to sign the agreement at gunpoint by the British rulers.

"The signatory for Travancore was KKV Rama Aiyangar who would have hoodwinked the Maharaja by tampering the figure of 99 years with 999 years. You should understand that Aiyangar was from Madras and it was natural that his loyalty was more towards his native State," said Sujathan.

John Peruvanthanam, environmentalist who has dedicated his life to be with the people staying on the banks of Periyar, too, has his own doubts over the authenticity of the agreement. "Nowhere in the world have we come across any such agreement. There are many missing links in this agreement. EMS Namoodirippad and VR Krishna Iyer were from outside Travancore. Their loyalty was elsewhere," said John. Both Namoodirippad and Iyer were from British Malabar which was part of Madras Presidency.

The dam which was constructed with a mixture of surky and lime has outlived its utility and it should have been decommissioned long back, according to Sujathan and John. Even KT Thomas, a highly respected former judge of the Supreme Court, who is highly critical of persons skeptical about the safety of Mullaperiyar dam, too expressed his apprehensions. "The water level should be brought to a safe level, may be 130 ft or even less. This dam is not

going to stay safe for another 100 years. In the eventuality of the bursting of the dam, it is the population of Kerala that is going to be affected," said Thomas. He said that the 2018 deluge in Kerala as a result of the opening of the Idukki reservoir was just a warning signal," he said.

Tamil Nadu would lose nothing if the Mullaperiyar dam caves in, but it is Kerala which would literally disappear from the face of the earth, said John. The cost of construction of the dam which was built in Kerala's territory was borne by the Government of Travancore. "More than 8,500 acres of reserve forest was slaughtered to build the dam and the entire woods were exported to Britain from the ports of Madras and Thoothukudi," said Sujathan.

Radhakrishnan and John said the only option to save Kerala from a "water bomb" that is ticking live is to bring down the water level below the 130 feet and dig a tunnel through which Tamil Nadu could draw water as per its requirement.

Haribhoomi- 22- November-2021

प्रदेश के लिए एक और सौगात की खबर

हरिभूमि न्यूज ॥ मोपाल

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के उग्र दौरे के बीच मप्र के लिए एक और राहत की खबर आई है। एक दिन पहले महोबा में अर्जुन सहायक योजना के लोकार्पण के बीच मोदी ने संकेत दिए कि पिछले 15 साल से अटकी केन-बेतवा लिंक परियोजना का काम जल्द शुरू हो जाएगा। इससे नॉन मानसून सीजन (नवंबर से अप्रैल के बीच) में मप्र को 1834 मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर पानी व यूपी को 750 मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर पानी मिलेगा। इस योजना से सागर-विदिशा समेत एमपी के 8 जिलों को पानी पहुंचाना है। परियोजना को लेकर मप्र और उत्तरप्रदेश के बीच चल रहा विवाद केंद्र सरकार के हस्तक्षेप के बाद 8 महीने पहले सुलझ गया था।

सरकार के सूत्रों का कहना है कि यूपी में चुनाव से पहले नदी जोड़ी अभियान के तहत देश की पहली केन-बेतवा लिंक परियोजना की आधारशिला रखी जाएगी। इसका भूमिपूजन अगले माह दिसंबर में

दिसंबर में हो सकता है केन-बेतवा लिंक प्रोजेक्ट का भूमिपूजन मप्र के सागर और विदिशा समेत आठ जिलों को मिलेगा पानी

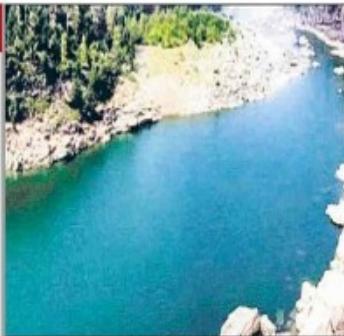
» नॉन मानसून सीजन नवंबर से अप्रैल के बीच में मप्र को 1834 मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर मिलेगा पानी

» परियोजना में 90% राशि केंद्र सरकार देगी, जबकि शेष 5-5% हिस्सेदारी मध्यप्रदेश व उत्तर प्रदेश वहन करेंगे

सालाना करीब 10.62 लाख हेक्टेयर जमीन पर सिंचाई और 62 लाख लोगों को पीने का पानी देने का लक्ष्य

बेतवा की सहायक नदियों पर बनेंगे बांध

प्रोजेक्ट के पहले फेज में केन नदी पर डेडव गेज के पास बांध बनाकर पानी रोका जाएगा। यह पानी नहर के जरिया बेतवा नदी तक पहुंचाया जाएगा। वहीं, दूसरे फेज में बेतवा नदी पर विदिशा जिले में 4 बांध बनाए जाएंगे। इसके साथ ही बेतवा की सहायक बीन नदी जिला सागर और उर नदी जिला शिवपुरी पर भी बांधों का निर्माण किया जाएगा। प्रोजेक्ट के दोनों फेज से सालाना करीब 10.62 लाख हेक्टेयर जमीन पर सिंचाई का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है। साथ ही 62 लाख लोगों को पीने के पानी के साथ 103 मेगावाट हाइड्रो पावर भी पैदा किया जाएगा। केन-बेतवा लिंक परियोजना में दो बिजली प्रोजेक्ट भी प्रस्तावित हैं, जिनकी कुल स्थापित क्षमता 72 मेगावाट है।



12 जिलों को मिलेगा फायदा

परियोजना से बुंदेलखंड के उग्र और मप्र के 12 जिलों को पानी मिलेगा। मप्र के पन्ना, टीकमगढ़, छतरपुर, सागर, इमोह, दतिया, विदिशा, शिवपुरी को पानी मिलेगा। वहीं, उत्तर प्रदेश के बांदा, महोबा, झांसी और ललितपुर जिलों को राहत मिलेगी।

2005 में दोनों सरकारों ने किए थे हस्ताक्षर

परियोजना में पानी के बंटवारे को लेकर वर्ष 2005 में तत्कालीन प्रधानमंत्री डॉ. मनमोहन सिंह की मौजूदगी में दोनों प्रदेशों के बीच अनुबंध हुआ था। तब मप्र के तत्कालीन मुख्यमंत्री बाबूलाल गौर और उत्तर प्रदेश के तत्कालीन मुख्यमंत्री मुलायम सिंह यादव ने एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर किए थे। तब परियोजना का डीपीआर (डिटेल्ड प्रोजेक्ट रिपोर्ट) तैयार नहीं हुआ था। अब डीपीआर तैयार है। इस कारण पानी की भराव क्षमता में कुछ बदलाव हुआ है। इस कारण से तीनों सरकारों के बीच संशोधित एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर किए जा रहे हैं।

क्यों अटका था मामला?

वर्ष 2005 में उत्तर प्रदेश को खरीफ फसल के लिए 547 एससीएस और खरीफ फसल के लिए 1153 एससीएस पानी देना तय हो गया था। वर्ष 2018 में उत्तर प्रदेश को मांग पर खरीफ फसल के लिए 700 एससीएस पानी देने पर सहमति बन गई थी। केंद्र सरकार ने उत्तर प्रदेश को 788 एससीएस पानी देना तय कर दिया था, लेकिन यूपी सरकार ने जुलाई 2019 में 930 एससीएस पानी मांग लिया था, जिसे मप्र ने इनकार कर दिया था।

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के हार्थों कराने की तैयारी है। इससे पहले शिवराज कैबिनेट दोनों राज्यों और केंद्र के बीच हुए समझौते के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी जाएगी। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने महोबा में कहा कि केन-बेतवा लिंक का समाधान भी हमारी ही सरकार ने निकाला है। सभी पक्षों से संवाद करके रास्ता निकाला है। हम बुंदेलखंड से पलायन को रोकने के लिए इस क्षेत्र को रोजगार में आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं। इसी साल विश्व जल दिवस पर 8 मार्च को पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी की मौजूदगी में केन-बेतवा लिंक परियोजना के लिए (एमओए) मेमोरैंडम ऑफ एग्रीमेंट पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए थे। इस एमओए पर केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत, मप्र के सीएम शिवराज सिंह चौहान और उग्र के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने हस्ताक्षर किए। 35,111 करोड़ रुपये की लागत की इस परियोजना में 90% राशि केंद्र सरकार देगी, जबकि शेष 5-5% हिस्सेदारी मध्यप्रदेश व उत्तर प्रदेश वहन करेंगे।