Telangana Today- 14- September-2022

State moves SC on Polavaram

Backwaters flooding Bhadrachalam and surrounding areas

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Vexed with the Central government for ignoring Telangana's repeated pleas on comprehensive reassessment of flood analysis and submergence of Bhadrachalam due to Polavaram backwaters, the State government filed a case in Supreme Court, according to Finance Harish Rao.

Members from both TRS and Congress in the Assembly protested over the threat of Bhadrachalam, including the Lord Sri Rama temple and surrounding areas getting submerged due to backwaters of Polavaram project. Congress MLA P Veeraiah, TRS MLA Sandra Venkata Veeraiah said the Central government had not assessed the flood analysis and submergence impact properly due to construction of Polavaram project.

They wanted the five gram panchayats merged with Andhra Pradesh to be included in Telangana. Even to construct the retaining wall around Bhadrachalam to avoid flooding, land was required and it was essential to merge the five villages with Telangana, said Venkata Veeraiah.

Members from both TRS and Congress protested over the threat to Bhadrachalam getting submerged

During a short discussion on Central government failures in implementing the assurances made under AP Reorganisation Act in the House, the Finance Minister said Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao had personally taken up the submergence and increasing the project height issue with Central government. During his stint as Irrigation Minister, he had explained about the adverse impacts of Polavaram to the then Union Minister of Water Resources Nitin Gadkari. Telangana government had hired the best lawyers for arguing the case and was constantly pursuing it, Harish said.

"There was no option left but to file a case in the Supreme Court to save the temple and Bhadrachalam from getting submerged in the backwaters," Harish Rao said.

Transport Minister P Ajay Kumar said generally flood water recedes immediately in Bhadrachalam but due to Polavaram, there was obstruction.

On humanitarian grounds, the Andhra Pradesh Government should stick to the earlier plan of 36 lakh cusecs capacity and not increase the project height to store 56 lakh cusecs, he said.

Deccan Chronicle- 14- September-2022

Twin lakes fail to meet water needs: TS to HC

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHAR | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 13

'NO REAL NEED'

GO 111 PROHIBITS development or construction works in the catchment area of Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar lakes up to 10 km from FTL, covering 84 villages.

GO 69 LIFTS various curbs imposed under GO 111.

- **ALLOWS** construction activity within 10-km radius of catchment areas of Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar lakes.
- **WATER** reliance from the reservoirs is only **1.25** per cent, therefore the two lakes do not serve as a drinking water source for the city.

The argument is that when GO 111 was issued, the two lakes accounted for **27.59%** of the installed capacity of drinking water.

The state government submitted an affidavit before the Telangana High Court to support its decision to lift the restrictions imposed in accordance with GO 111 arguing that the twin water bodies—Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar—no longer meet the city's drinking water needs and that Hyderabad is not at all dependent on them.

Despite the state government lifting curbs under GO.111, Arvind Kumar, special chief secretary of Telangana State Municipal Administration & Urban Development Department, filed an affidavit before the High Court contending that the curbs were still in place and they would remain so until the government issued guidelines and detailed regulations to protect the twin reservoirs, after taking into account the report provided by the experts committee.

According to the special CS, the experts' panel was set up in accordance with GO 69 of April 12, 2022, in order to develop guidelines and specific regulations to protect the twin reservoirs even after GO 111 restrictions are lifted.

The affidavit was submitted to the High Court in response to a petition filed by Dr. S. Jeevananda Reddy seeking the suspension of GO.69, which invalidates GO.111 and prohibits the construction of industries, major hotels, residential colonies, and other establishments that cause pollution in the twin water bodies' catchment area up to 10 km from FTL, covering 84 villages.

The special CS further informed the HC that the GO.111 issued by the previous governments in 1996 does not fulfil its intended purpose because the twin water bodies' installed total water capacity does not fulfil the anticipated water needs of Hyderabad's current population.

These twin reservoirs accounted for 27.59 per cent of the city's installed drinking water capacity at the time when the GO was issued.

Because the installed capacity has increased from 145 Mgd to 602 Mgd and an additional 344 Mgd is now being used, the reliance on these lakes is less than 1.25 percent, he contended. Therefore, the twin water bodies cannot fulfil the city's drinking water needs.

Millennium Post- 14- September-2022

Falling through the cracks

Bengaluru floods should draw our attention towards the tragic story of loss of waterbodies in almost all Indian cities. But will it?

SUNITA NARAIN

The high-tech city of Bengaluru has been brought to its knees — incessant rains have drowned the city. Its residents have had to leave their luxury homes and cars in lowly tractors; offices remain closed; and livelihood and economic losses have been massive. This is the revenge of nature that I speak about but, it seems, to little avail.

We should have known the following by now: One, this kind of devastation, from floods to droughts and extreme heat or cold waves, is not going to go away. This is the result of the changing climate and is happening because of the emissions we humans have pumped into the atmosphere to satiate our need for energy for economic growth.

Two, flooding will increase, particularly in the South-Asian region, as a warming planet means that the atmosphere can hold more moisture. This in turn will add to the extreme rain events we are already witnessing — extensive floods have submerged two-thirds of our neighbour, Pakistan.

Three, and this one is most critical, climate change is not the only reason we are in this situation. We have also deliberately and mercilessly destroyed our waterbodies that would have been the channels and sponges for this excess water.

We know all this. So, why do we not act? We know that we are not doing enough to rein in the runaway greenhouse gas emissions. We know that we need to hold countries accountable for their emissions and for reparations to be paid in terms of losses and damages for the horrendous and heartbreaking human losses we are seeing in our world today.

But this still does not answer why we do not act to fix what we can to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change. We are so wrapped up in the newfangled science of adaptation that we do not consider what is under our noses; all that we need to do is invest in our local waterbodies so that our cities can cope with these, now more-frequent, extreme rain events.

Thanks to climate-related aberrations, devastation caused by floods is here to stay

The fact is, we do not act because we really do not need to. Our cities get their water supply from sources which are disconnected from the local waterbodies. We really do not have any necessity to invest in rainwater harvesting or in protecting our lakes, ponds or their catchment systems. We have successfully disengaged from our local environment. Our lakes are only useful for recreation — as part of the beautification of our cities. So, when the next infrastructure project comes along or a builder plan for residential or commercial complexes, this water's land is considered to be available and vacant.

This is why the mega city of Hyderabad has built its new airport on the catchment of its most important waterbody; this is why more than 100 lakes in Ahmedabad have been lost — built over and vandalised. Every city, literally, has the same tragic story of loss of its waterbodies. This is also because every city has turned its back on its source of water — it is either not sufficient, too polluted or just not grand enough to depend upon. And now, cities are on the march to look for their water supply from as far as they can go.

In 2012, we published *Excreta Matters*, in which we documented the water-waste tale of 71 cities in the country. We explained how each city neglects its local water source and then is in search of its supply from faraway lands. Bengaluru, which had its own river (the Arkavathi) and its extensive network of lakes — all connected for water recharge and flood management — had moved past this.

It now sources its water supply from the Cauvery, 100 km away and 1,000 metres below the level of the city. This water has to be pumped up and transported over a long distance. Delhi, with the Yamuna at its doorstep, is dependent on the water of Tehri dam, 300 km away. Hyderabad's waterbodies, river Musi, Hussain Sagar, Osman Sagar and even Himayat Sagar, are either polluted or dry. So, it brings water from the Manjira, Singur IV and Nagarjuna Sagar dams, all 80-120 km away.

This long-distance transport of water means that the cost of electricity for pumping goes up; water losses are high; and the end cost of the supplied water is exorbitant. It adds to the inequity in supply.

Cities also struggle to recover costs of water supply from their residents and end up with no funds to invest in taking back the sewage that is discharged from homes. This adds to the pollution of local water sources. The fact is in this situation where water is supplied, there is no necessity for cities to revive their waterbodies.

Now, climate change with its extreme rain is once again teaching us that there is value in the local water system which cannot be written off. It is not notional. It is real. Let's hope we learn this now or the future will only be worse. DTE

The writer is the Director-General of CSE and editor of DownToEarth. Views expressed are personal

Long-distance transport of water means that the cost of electricity for pumping goes up; water losses are high; and the end cost of the supplied water is exorbitant

Hindustan Times- 14- September-2022

NMCG organises 10th edition of 'Igniting Young Minds'

The 10th edition of 'Igniting Young Minds Rejuvenating Rivers' webinar was organised on September 8 by the National Mission for Clean Ganga with the aim of connecting youth and students with river conservation programmes. The theme of the webinar was natural farming. In this special session, the need to effectively educate the youth about natural farming in Ganga basin states under Arth Ganga Project was discussed. Giving the keynote address, DG, NMCG, G. Asok Kumar gave an overview of the Namami Gange programme and informed about the various steps being taken to make Ganga nirmal. Kumar highlighted the concerns of seepage of chemicals from fields into the river basin, and the need for chemical-free farming for improved biodiversity and water quality. He said that natural farming is one of the most important pillars of Arth Ganga which can address several issues related to Ganga rejuvenation. He mentioned that interactions with farmers is being undertaken to educate farmers and bring a behavioural change.

The Hindu - 14- September-2022

Long-term Periyar river rejuvenation plans in limbo

Govt. yet to sanction financial aid for key projects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The key long-term measures proposed as part of the Periyar rejuvenation plan are pending for allocation of funds and lack of proper project deadlines, according to an analysis of action taken by the authorities.

The gaps in the projects mentioned on paper and the action taken are evident, especially along the Aluva-Kalamassery-Edayar stretch of the river.

The Periyar River Action Plan proposed by the State government had included eight long-term projects.

The plan envisaged installation of modern abattoirs, including poultry and meat rendering plants, faecal sludge treatment plants for septage treatment at least at the block level, construction of walkway, ring roads near the river bank, and fencing of the river along the banks to prevent waste dumping. The other proposals included beautification of river stretches, collection and disposal of domestic hazardous waste, electronic waste, and biomedical waste.

- Fencing of river banks to prevent waste dumping, construction of walkway and ring roads near river banks among proposals

Quoting the progress report of the river action plan prepared by the State-Level River Rejuvenation Committee, the Department of Industries informed the Kalamassery Municipality that land was not available for setting up a modern abattoir on the industrial estate at Edayar.

On the Aluva stretch, the report said the municipal authorities had sought assistance from the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) to purchase machinery and other equipment for the modern abattoir.

Though mentioned as a long-term project, there has been no progress yet on the setting up of faecal sludge treatment plants at the block-level to check the discharge of untreated sewage into the river.

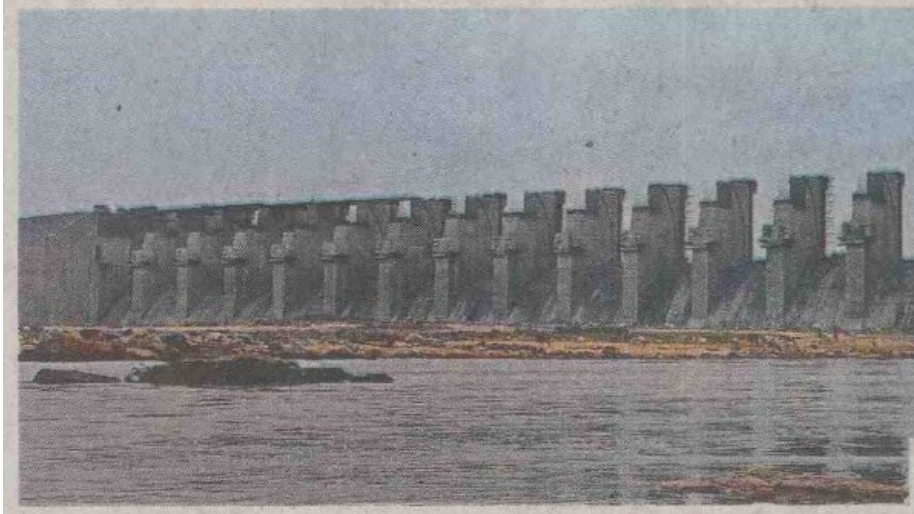
On the long-term measure of constructing walkways and ring roads near the river banks for better pollution watch, the Irrigation department has submitted a preliminary estimate of ₹12 lakh towards the construction of a surveillance road and dyke wall along the banks of the river in the Eloor-Edayar industrial belt.

The government is yet to grant financial sanction for the initial estimate. Besides, work on fencing of river banks and beautification along the Edamula stretch is also pending.

According to the authorities, these projects have been included in the canal rejuvenation project undertaken by Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) under the Integrated Urban Regeneration and Water Transport System (IURWTS).

Dainik Bhaskar- 14- September-2022

हद है: छत्तीसगढ़-यूपी बॉर्डर पर 45 साल से नहीं बन पाया बांध, लागत 30 करोड़ से 2200 करोड़ रु. पहुंची



अंबिकापुर (लव दुबे) | छत्तीसगढ़-यूपी बॉर्डर पर अमावर बांध का काम 45 साल से चल रहा है। 1977 में यूपी के सोनभद्र जिले के अमवार में शुरू की गई कन्हर अंतर्राज्यीय सिंचाई परियोजना का निर्माण कई बार रुकने-शुरू होने के बाद भी 30% काम अभी भी बाकी है। योजना की शुरुआती लागत करीब 30 करोड़ थी, जो अब 2,239 करोड़ रुपए पहुंच गई है। यूपी सरकार ने छत्तीसगढ़ को पुनर्वास के लिए 70 करोड़ रुपए दिए। लेकिन प्रभावितों को न मुआवजा बंटा, न ही गांव बसा। अमवार बांध का निर्माण तत्कालीन मुख्यमंत्री एनडी तिवारी के कार्यकाल में शुरू हुआ था। सर्वे के बाद पता चला कि इसमें झारखंड और छत्तीसगढ़ के गांव भी प्रभावित हो रहे थे। इस पेच से ढाई दशक काम बंद रहा। अब तक यूपी में बीस बार सत्ता का बदलाव हो चुका लेकिन योजना पूरी नहीं हुई।