Telangana Today- 24- September-2022

Eight projects almost full

With incessant rains in Aug & Sept, storage level at Srisailam and NSP reaches 99%

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Water levels in at least eight major irrigation projects in the Godavari and Krishna basins in the State crossed 94 per cent of the Current Storage Capacity (CSC) due to the incessant rains that lashed the State in August and September, officials said.

With the dams receiving huge inflows from upstream and catchment areas, water levels in Srisailam and Nagarjuna Sagar Project (NSP) in Krishna basin touched 99 per cent of the CSC while Singur dam and Sriram Sagar Project reached 99 per cent. The Nizam Sagar touched 100 per cent.

The CSC in Lower Manair Dam (LMD), Kaddam and Sripada Yellampally project hovered between 94 and 98 per cent. The Singur dam, SRSP, Nizam Sagar, LMD, Kaddam and Sripada Yellampally project were in Godavari basin, officials said adding that the CSC in Priyadarshini Jurala Project (PJP) in Krishna basin reached 80 per cent.

Barring PJP and Srisailam, inflows into the remaining water bodies had dropped considerably. Both PJP and Srisailam were getting 94,600 cusecs and 1.20 lakh cusecs of water, respectively, from upstream areas.

Presently, engineers at all irrigation projects in the State were closely monitoring the water levels by gradually reducing outflows. Since Srisailam dam was getting 1.20 lakh cusecs of inflows, 71,029 cusecs of water was being released downstream to NSP.

The Kaddam project in Adilabad, which received record inflows of over five lakh cusecs of water from upstream areas in Maharashtra during the rains in August, was now getting only 5,505 cusecs of inflows. The water levels had earlier overflowed from the radial crest gates posing threat to the dam structure. Luckily, the inflows started dipping as the rains receded.

Telangana Today- 24- September-2022

TS groundwater levels rise by 4.26 m

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The increase was observed in 83 per cent of the State's mandals; extraction of subsoil water reduced by 8 per cent compared to 2020

A report on 'Dynamic Ground Water Resources computed for Telangana State for the year 2022' has revealed that the average groundwater level in the State has increased by more than 4.26 metres in the last seven years.

The report, released by Special Chief Secretary, Irrigation and Command Area Development (CAD) Rajat Kumar, said the rise was observed in 83 per cent of the mandals and was the highest in the country. According to the report, the total extractable groundwater availability stood at 680 TMC, which was more than twice the water allocation to Telangana in the Krishna basin. Also, groundwater extraction in the State was reduced by eight per cent compared to 2020.

Telangana, which constitutes 3.5 per cent of the geographical area of the country, contributed 3.5 per cent of extractable groundwater resources in 2014 which had increased to 4.8 per cent by 2022. The Centre has appreciated the State's efforts in raising the water table and reducing dependability on groundwater. The water levels have risen because of multipronged efforts made by the State government, Rajat Kumar said.

The efforts include the restoration of 27,472 tanks under Mission Kakatiya, lifting of water through KLIS, filling of irrigation tanks regularly by linking them with major and medium projects and construction of artificial recharge structures such as check dams, percolation tanks and recharge shafts.

Complimenting the Ground Water Department, Rajat Kumar said a sub-committee, comprising officers of Groundwater, Industries, Agriculture and Panchayat Raj departments, was constituted to recommend specific measures.

The Times of India- 24- September-2022

A View Of The Ganga: How Varanasi Cleaned Up Its Act

Shailvee.Sharda
@timesgroup.com

These days, the rooftop view of the Ganga from any of the old houses built on Varanasi's famous Dashashwamedh Ghat is clear and awe-inspiring, framed by the Malviya Bridge and the Ramnagar Bridge. For scores of tourists and professional photographers, that's a must-have image.

But just a few years back, that photo would have only captured haze. "Pilgrims and visitors were turned off by the haze over the Ganga. Many of them wore masks because of pollution. But things are improving," says Dinesh Shankar Dubey, resident of Dashashwamedh Ghat and secretary, Gangotri Sewa Samiti.

Boatmen on the Ganga agree, and they say boats using CNG-fuelled engines is the major reason. Shambhu Sahani of the Banaras Naukayan Sewa Samiti (a body of more than 600 motor boatmen) says: "Though there are teething troubles, many of us are willing to embrace the new technology as pollution tarnishes the image of Varanasi all over the world". A tourist guide at Chausatthi Ghat, Durga Shankar, says battery-powered rickshaws and CNG buses have made a difference. Homestay owner Amal Kumar Roy identifies "road cleaning activities by civic authorities" as another factor.

Varanasi's cleaner air recently made national headlines. A Central Pollution Control Board study of 132 cities, all of which were under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), showed Varanasi achieving the biggest decline, 53%, in PM10 levels between 2017 and 2021.

So, how did the world's oldest city clean up its act?

Measuring The Change

In Varanasi, air pollution is monitored by the UP Pollution Control Board. It has set up monitoring stations in four locations in the city while a fifth is coming up soon. These stations track the air quality against parameters for PM10, PM2.5, oxides of sulphur and nitrogen (SOx and NOx).

The station in Ardhali Bazar (incidentally Ardhali is the Hindi for 'orderly') is the oldest. It's a busy crossing. Despite the crowds, average PM10 levels declined from 204 units (microgram per cubic metre) in 2017 to 142 in 2021. The decline continues – PM10 levels have been around 79.7 in the current calendar year. Even PM2.5 (the main current cause of concern vis-à-vis air pollution) levels are declining. The average was around 95 units in 2018 and has dropped to 26.99 in 2022.

Monitoring at other stations began in July 2021. The one at Maldahiya is placed at a busy crossing. The average for PM10 in July-December 2021 was 107.20 units. It dropped to 91.57 for January-August. PCB's measure of good days in terms of AQI – good days are those with AQI of less than 200, higher than that mark are bad days – also shows an uptick. In 2018, there were 143 good days, in 2022, the number jumped to 225.

Getty Images

SWEEPING CHANGE: CNG buses and boats and e-rickshaws are credited with bringing about an improvement in Varanasi's air quality

According to GoI data, the world's oldest city has shown the sharpest decline nationally in PM10 levels. Among other things, what helped was a mist gun

How It All Changed

Director, IESD, BHU, Akhilesh Raghubanshi says, "The decline in PM10 is an outcome of several factors, including regular monitoring, road development, cleaning, improved power supply (this checked the use of diesel generators), and the switch from traditional to electric and CNG buses." His colleague Teerthankar Banerjee, who studies PM10 and PM2.5 trajectories, says the biggest reason is mechanisation of road-cleaning work. "Road dust is the biggest source of PM10 and over the past few years civic authorities have focused on pavement development and road cleaning," he points out.

The Varanasi Municipal Corporation (VMC) is perhaps that rare urban body that's an agent of change and not a dogged defender of the status quo. UP's principal secretary, urban development, Amrit Abhijat, says VMC deploys two mechanical sweeping machines, uses two water sprinklers of 6,000 litres capacity each, and one mist gun of 10,000 litres capacity.

The mist gun is particularly effective – it creates mist in a 30-meter radius at 180 degrees angle. That removes fine dust in the air and on treetops. This gun-carrying vehicle covers around 50-60 km of roads every day. And even unpaved roads – an Indian reality – were factored in.

The Other View

Some have a different take. "The BHU campus is greener than the rest of the city while Ardhali Bazar is one of the busiest crossings. Still, the readings of Ardhali Bazar are lower than those for BHU. This raises doubt," says Ekta Shekhar of The Climate Agenda. She says while VMC has installed sensors to monitor pollution, the data is not in public domain unlike data from central and UP PCBs. Shekhar also argues four sensors are too few to track pollution in a city as big as Varanasi.

So, What Next?

Tackling PM2.5 levels, say experts, is the big challenge. Equally crucial, says Pravin Rana, BHU faculty member, is sustaining current efforts.

The boatmen's association points to one hurdle in terms of sustaining the tempo. "There is only one CNG refilling station for us. We need three stations and it's difficult to get CNG engines repaired," points out Sahani. Officials insist everything's on track. At stake, among other things, is that famous view.

Hindustan Times- 24- September-2022

REVIEW STUDY ON POLAVARAM DAM EFFECTS: T'GANA

Srinivasa Rao Apparasu

letters@hindustantimes.com

HYDERABAD: The Telangana government has appealed to the Centre to commission an independent study to observe the effects on the backwaters of Godavari river due to the construction of Polavaram major irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh, persons in the know of the development said on Friday.

In a letter to Union irrigation secretary Pankaj Kumar on Wednesday, Telangana special chief secretary (irrigation) Rajat Kumar said a committee of a technical team comprising of chief engineers from all riparian states — Telangana, AP, Chhattisgarh and Odisha — besides experts from Central Water Commission and National Institute of Hydrology may be set up to study backwater effects of Polavaram project on the riparian states.

"There is every need for transparency in sharing the data and formulating a sound technical solution acceptable to all," Kumar said.

Rashtriya Sahara- 24- September-2022

भूजल मामले में दिल्ली सबसे निचले पायदान पर : गुप्ता

भाजपा ने कई स्थान पर चलाया जल संरक्षण अभियान

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। भाजपा की ओर से चलाए जा रहे सेवा पखवाड़े के तहत कई स्थानों पर जल संरक्षण अभियान चलाया गया। इस मौके पर दिल्ली भाजपा अध्यक्ष आदेश गुप्ता ने किशनगढ़ गांव के 200 साल पुराने सूखे तालाब को पुनर्जीवित करने के प्रयासों और जल संरक्षण का उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करने के लिए ग्राम वासियों और डीडीए को धन्यवाद दिया।

गुप्ता ने मुख्यमंत्री केजरीवाल के 200 तालाबों को पुनर्जीवित करने के वायदों को याद दिलाते हुए कहा कि केजरीवाल सिर्फ सुर्खियों में रहने के लिए काम करते है। आज तक जिन 200 तालाबों को पुनर्जीवित करने का वायदा किया था, उनका क्या हुआ। उन्होंने कहा कि केंद्रीय भूजल बोर्ड की एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक दिल्ली का भूजल स्तर तेजी से नीचे गिर रहा है। हर वर्ष अलग-अलग इलाकों में .5 से 2 मीटर तक भू जल स्तर में गिरावट दर्ज की जा रही है। सबसे बुरी हालत दक्षिणी दिल्ली, दक्षिण-पूर्वी दिल्ली, नई दिल्ली, शाहदरा और उत्तर पूर्वी दिल्ली में है। कार्यक्रमों में भाजपा के प्रदेश प्रभारी बैजयंत जय पांडा, प्रदेश संगठन महामंत्री सिद्धार्थन, प्रदेश महामंत्री कुलजीत सिंह चहल, हर्ष मल्होत्रा एवं दिनेश प्रताप सिंह, प्रदेश उपाध्यक्ष, राजन तिवारी, कार्यक्रम के संयोजक सुनील यादव, महिला मोर्चा की अध्यक्षा योगिता सिंह शामिल हुए।