Telangana Today- 07- October-2022

Uphold spirit of ISRWD Act

The Centre should refer Section-3 complaint to a Tribunal and withdraw the amendment to the Gazette immediately

SALLA VIJAYA KUMAR

THE AMENDMENT TO GAZETTE FACILITATES LARGESCALE DIVERSION OF KRISHNA WATER OUTSIDE BASIN FROM SRISAILAM WHILE LIMITING TELANGANA FROM DIVERTING INSIDE THE BASIN

Recently, the Centre issued an amendment to last year's gazette notification, which notified that projects of Krishna basin be brought under the jurisdiction of the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB). The amendment has exempted head works of surplus-water-based projects, listed in Para 10 of schedule-XI of AP Reorganisation Act (APRA), 2014, from obtaining time-bound approval of competent authorities. It facilitates large-scale diversion of Krishna water outside the basin from Srisailam reservoir while limiting Telangana from diverting inside the basin.

The projects taken up by erstwhile AP were selective from 1956 to 2014 and, as a result, only a few projects serving inside the Krishna basin in the Telangana region were taken up. The list of projects in Para-10 of Schedule-XI is not comprehensive and doesn't include even those projects which were taken up by erstwhile AP, namely Palamuru-Rangareddy, Dindi and Srisailam Left Bank Canal.

KWDT-I on Future Projects

During adjudication, the Bachawat Tribunal (KWDT-1) considered that projects existing or committed as of September 1960 should be protected and projects committed after it should be regarded as new or future projects. It stipulated that for allocation to future projects, priority should be given to inside basin diversions. It is important to know that while deciding on future projects, the KWDT-I negated demands for outside basin projects placed by erstwhile AP and allocated water to the Jurala project.

However, after the KWDT-I Award in 1976, violating its stipulation, the erstwhile AP took up six projects to divert water to outside basin Andhra areas; two projects namely, Srisailam Right Branch Canal (19 TMC in 1981) and Pulichintala project (9 TMC in 1996) were redistributed with dependable water; and four were proposed, namely Galeru Nagari, Handri Niva, Veligonda and Telugu Ganga, under surplus water. These four projects were placed in Para 10 of Schedule-XI of APRA 2014.

KWDT-I & KWDT-II

The Bachawat Tribunal allocated 811 TMC as en bloc to the erstwhile AP out of 2,130 TMC in the Krishna basin at 75% dependability. The erstwhile AP has distributed 512 TMC for projects serving Andhra areas (68% of it is diverted to outside basin) and 299 TMC for projects serving inside basin areas of Telangana. The Brijesh Kumar Tribunal (KWDT-2) forwarded its Award in 2013 to the Centre and has not yet been published due to Supreme Court stay orders.

The KWDT-2 didn't change the KWDT-1's 811 TMC allocation and further allocated water up to average flows which includes 150 TMC carryover storage at Srisailam and Nagarjunasagar. Hence, after the KWDT-1 & KWDT-2 awards, combined AP got 1,005 TMC of the total 2,578 TMC in the Krishna basin. The existing KWDT-II was extended in 2014 under Section-89 of APRA, 2014, to make project-wise specific allocation and prepare operational protocol.

AP's pleadings before the existing KWDT-II are as follows: of the 811 TMC, 512 TMC and 299 TMC to AP and Telangana respectively; beyond 811 TMC up to 1,005 TMC, about 80% to AP and about 20% to Telangana; beyond 1,005 TMC, six projects in Para 10 of Schedule-XI be given allocation out of surplus water, ie, AP's four projects 150.5 TMC and Telangana's two projects 62 TMC; all the remaining water after project-wise marking to Schedule-XI projects, be allowed to be utilised only by AP.

These pleadings of AP are similar to what was made by it at the time of State bifurcation in 2014. Sadly, AP wants to deny any water, even remaining water, to the three projects taken up by the erstwhile AP and not included in Schedule-XI, namely Palamuru-Rangareddy, Dindi and Srisailam Left Bank Canal of Telangana.

Telangana placed its pleadings before the existing KWDT-II for fair and equitable share based on the basin parameters and for reasonable limitations on outside basin diversions. Further, as the references given to the existing KWDT-II had limited scope, Telangana made a complaint under Section-3 of ISRWD Act, 1956, to the Centre to refer its grievances to a Tribunal. It is pending for the last eight years with the Centre. Unfortunately, though Telangana withdrew the case before Supreme Court a year ago based on the union Minister's assurance, the complaint is not yet referred.

It is pertinent to know that Schedule-XI of APRA 2014 contains only principles governing the functioning of KRMB and it is not an allocation of surplus water by Parliament. Allocation of water of inter-State rivers is the prerogative of the Tribunal as per Article 262 of the Constitution. The list in Para 10 of Schedule-XI is not comprehensive and Parliament did not put any restriction on the number of projects.

KRMB and Sharing of Water

The KRMB has to function as per the Tribunal Awards. Since the project-wise specific allocation is yet to be finalised by the Tribunal, since 2015-16, year-to-year basis, an ad hoc agreed ratio of sharing of available water between the two States is followed. However, as projects of Telangana are increasingly operationalised, more water is being sought by Telangana. In the latest KRMB meeting, AP asked for continuation of last year's ratio of sharing of 66:34 (AP:TS) for which Telangana disagreed and sought 50:50. But the KRMB decided to continue with 66:34 for this year too.

Of the six projects in Schedule-XI, four projects of AP have a diversion capability of 5.15 TMC/day outside the basin from Srisailam reservoir and two projects of Telangana have 0.53 TMC/day (0.28 TMC/day from Srisailam; 0.25 TMC/day from Jurala). The storage capacity in AP linked with these projects is about 300 TMC and that in Telangana is only about 20 TMC. Taking advantage of these existing capabilities, AP is demanding to allow diversion of surplus flows when all dams are spilling, without accounting them as 'use' by the States. At present, at KRMB, it is being attempted to demarcate surplus flows on the same lines.

Centre Should Act

The amendment to the Gazette on head works of projects in Schedule-XI and not referring Section-3 complaint to a Tribunal by the Centre, coupled with the recent KRMB's actions, are facilitating all the dependable and surplus-water-based projects of AP be sustained in perpetuity by diverting water up to 700 km away from the basin and denying diversion to drought-prone Krishna basin areas adjacent to Krishna river in Telangana. These actions will prejudice the cause of Telangana before the Tribunals and Supreme Court.

The Centre should refer the Section-3 complaint to a Tribunal and withdraw the amendment to the Gazette immediately. It should take steps to allow a fair share to Telangana at KRMB and restrain it from demarcating surplus water in the way it is being done now. It is the responsibility of the Centre to safeguard the democratic aspirations of the people of Telangana and uphold the spirit of ISRWD Act, 1956, and APRA, 2014.

(The author is Secretary, Telangana Engineers JAC)

Financial Express- 07- October-2022

IMPACT OF HIGHER-THAN-NORMAL MONSOON

Water reserves up 9%, to boost rabi prospects

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, October 6

THE AVERAGE WATER level in 143 major reservoirs in the country is up 9% on year, and 16% more than the last 10 years' average, the Central Water Commission (CWC) said in its latest report on Friday.

With the beginning of rabi or winter crops' sowing, higher water levels would help in providing irrigation to farm land. About 48% of the agricultural land in the country is irrigated.

Of 143 reservoirs whose water levels monitored by the CWC, 112 are located in the west, central and southern regions, which have received more than normal rainfall so far in this monsoon.

Water reservoirs are filled with 158 billion cubic metres (BCM) of water, 89% of their combined capacity. A year ago, the water available in the reservoirs was 146 BCM, and the average of the last 10 years was 136 BCM, according to the latest CWC note. "Current water level of reservoirs was 109% of the live storage of the corresponding period of last year and 116% of storage of the average of last 10 years," the CWC stated.

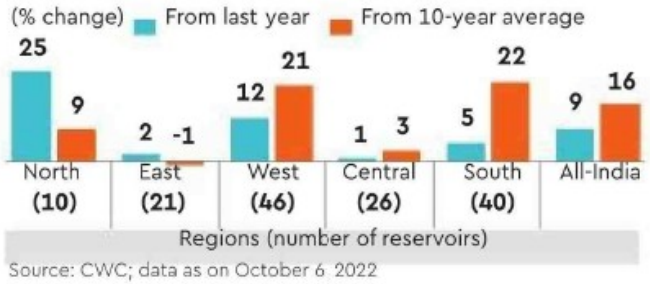
A higher water table in reservoirs helps in meeting the requirement for irrigation through canal systems. Of these reservoirs, 46 generate hydropower with an installed capacity of more than 60 MW.

In terms of regional variations in water levels, 26 reservoirs of the central region — Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh — and 39 reservoirs in the southern region — Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu — have more water than last year and the average of the last 10 years.

The water level of 21 reservoirs in the eastern region — Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Tripura, Nagaland and Bihar — is higher than a year ago; but the current water level is lower than the average of the last 10 years. In 46 reservoirs in the western region — Gujarat and Maharashtra — the water level now is higher than during the corresponding period last year, as well as the average storage of the last decade. Similarly, 10 reservoirs in the northern region, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan, have more water at present compared to last year and last the 10 years' average.

India's monsoon rainfall was 6.5% higher than normal in the June-September season, as excessive precipitation in the central and southern areas offset deficits in the eastern and northern states, the India Meteorological Department had said.

Current water levels in 143 reservoirs



Source: CWC; data as on October 6 2022

Mint- 07- October-2022

India is not ready to trade water as just another commodity yet

Market promises of superior price discovery and allocation must contend with our ground realities

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India has 18% of the world's population with only 4% of its water resources, making it one of the most water stressed geographies in the world. Climate change is likely to exacerbate this pressure on water resources. Ironically, India faces drought and flood at the same time in different parts. The centrality of water in agriculture, business and human existence makes this scarcity and uncertainty difficult to ignore.

One solution being suggested is the creation of a formal water market for its trading. In an unprecedented move, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange launched water trading, like for oil, gold, etc, in 2020. Water-commodity contracts, known as 'water futures', have been linked to California's $1.1 billion spot water market. The Murray-Darling basin in Australia is another example; it allows water trading at the regional level using tradable permits. Along similar lines, the Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Act, 2005, is experimenting with bulk-water entitlements as a precursor to introducing individual water entitlements and eventually trade in water. India is planning to start water trading at commodity exchanges. The Niti Aayog is in the process of putting out draft recommendations for public consultations, pitching various options, including futures and spot trading of water and tradable licences.

The aim is to establish water as an economic asset, as scarcity will increase its value exponentially. Also, once a market is created, voluntary trading between rational buyers and sellers would help in efficient price discovery. An efficient price would guide water resources to its highest valued use and help establish relative values, which is essential to understand the value of competing use cases. It also helps in achieving allocative and productive efficiency.

Besides, rain-dependent agriculture could be insured against droughts by locking in prices in the water futures market, which would substantially reduce the government's expense on drought relief. It would also attract investment, leading to better technologies adopted and water wastage reduced.

In reality, however, given high transaction costs, asymmetries of information, power dynamics and weak institutions, the gains from trade may not be as high as economic theory suggests. Also, it is not always obvious that the creation of a market would solve the problem. Before taking the initial steps towards a market, we must recognize that existing trading systems in the US, Australia, China and Chile are more of an exception than the norm. Against this backdrop, this policy intervention requires careful analysis. Here we present a few challenges with Indian realities in mind.

QUICK READ

As we explore introducing water trading via exchanges the way it's done in the US and elsewhere, we must move carefully, given our conditions and its potential to infringe fundamental rights.

It can improve water allocation in theory, but unless we have clarity on the implications to water availability and access rights within India, such an experiment is best held off.

The first step towards creating any market is defining property rights to the assets that are to be traded. Currently, rights over water resources in India are linked with land—the owner of a piece of land effectively owns the groundwater. This limits the supply of water to the economically vulnerable. Water futures can help solve this problem, but a lot depends on how our legislation is crafted. How, for example, to calculate the water available for futures contracts? It is important that the baseline should be set only after fulfilling basic domestic needs of water. Such water markets are known as right-based; China and Australia follow this model. Further, if such a market is not regulated well, it will lead to corporates and high-value users dominating the sector. There is also the possibility of cartels arising, which could hinder the access to water of a majority of people. There is also a potent risk of the fundamental rights of equality and life being infringed. Note that about 80% of ground water is used in agriculture, which employs about half of our workforce. Commercial commodification might have implications for the rights to food, employment and water that must be assessed. Finally, India faces massive water conflicts between states, making it critical for the political economy.

There is a thriving informal water market in the country, as we witness neighbourhood supply through water tankers increase during summer months. This unregulated market ensures the right to water is protected without the obligation being placed entirely on the state. But this comes at a cost, both in terms of its price and the quality of water supplied. Here, there is a critical trade-off between water as a basic human right and an economic asset. The key is to regulate it in a way that rights are protected and speculators/cartels do not get the upper hand. Perhaps the big challenge is to administer water rights: grant licences, permits or other legal titles, i.e, that allow for tradable rights and extraction from water bodies.

The Tribune- 07- October-2022

Jal Shakti Ministry to promote natural farming along Yamuna

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), an agency of the Union Jal Shakti Ministry, will promote natural farming under its Namame Gange programme in areas of the state contiguous to the banks of the Yamuna, tributary of the Ganga.

This is to help rejuvenate the Ganga and its tributaries.

The director-general of the NMCG, G Asok Kumar, said a "Vishaal Kissan Sammelan" workshop, organised in Bayyanpur village in Sonepat in this respect, was a success.

The thrust of the NMCG, which has been entrusted with the exercise to keep the Ganga clean, is to promote alternate mode of farming and diversified cropping matter other than the traditional paddy and wheat plantations which consume more water.

With underground water depleting at an alarming rate in the state, diversified farming is of utmost importance to keep the Ganga and its tributaries clean.

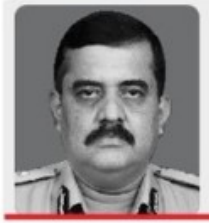
The Yamuna flows through Haryana and is one of the main sources of irrigation waters. The river merges with the Ganga at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh. Hence, keeping the Yamuna clean and improvement of the ecosystem along its banks is integral to the exercise to keep the Ganga river and its basin clean.

A farm visit to Gurukul Farms in Kurukshetra was also organised, where the NMCG officials learned about various technologies being used for natural farming. — TNS

Rajasthan Patrika- 07- October-2022

सरस्वती, संस्कृति और सभ्यता : सरस्वती नदी को जानना, सदियों पुराने भारत को जानना है

देश में जल संकट का समाधान सुझाते हैं सरस्वती नदी से जुड़े तथ्य



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हालांकि आर्यों के आगमन और सिंधु घाटी सभ्यता को लेकर भी विशेषज्ञों के अलग-अलग मत हैं, पर जैसे सिंधु नदी के तट पर सभ्यता का विकास हुआ, वैसे ही सरस्वती नदी के प्रवाह वाले क्षेत्रों में भी हुआ।

सरस्वती नदी के प्रति एक आम भारतीय के मन में बहुत आस्था है। जहां गंगा, यमुना, गोदावरी, रावी, सतलुज, ब्यास, नर्मदा, कावेरी, कोसी, गंडक, ब्रह्मपुत्र, गोदावरी आदि नदियों से व्यक्ति का सहज सुलभ परिचय हो जाता है, वहीं सरस्वती नदी के बारे में सामान्यतः आज के समय में हर व्यक्ति को कुछ जानकारी या अधिक जानकारी हो ऐसा निश्चित तौर पर नहीं कहा जा सकता।

सरस्वती नदी के बारे में जानने का पहला अवसर प्रायः स्कूलों के पाठ्यक्रम में सामाजिक विज्ञान या अन्य विषय में नदियों या ईसा पूर्व भारत का जिक्र आते समय होता है। मेरा स्वयं का सरस्वती नदी से परिचय कुछ तो स्कूली किताबों से हुआ और कुछ परिवार में बड़े बुजुर्गों की भारतीय संस्कृति, हवन आदि में रुचि होने से। मेरी दादी जब कार्तिक महीने में कार्तिक स्नान व पूजा करती थीं, तब प्रातःकाल तुलसी को दीपक लगाते समय कई नदियों के एक ही लय में, एक ही भजन में नाम लेती थीं। उनके उच्चारण में सरस्वती नदी का भी नाम आता था। मेरे गांव के पास रामदेवरा का प्रसिद्ध तीर्थ है, जहां की आरती में एक पंक्ति आती है - 'गंगा ,जमुना, बहे रे सरस्वती, रामदेवजी बाबो स्नान करे।' इस प्रकार सरस्वती नदी लोक जीवन व लोक आस्था से गहराई से जुड़ी है।

सरस्वती नदी के बारे में विशेषज्ञों की अलग-अलग राय है। पर एक समग्र आकलन करें तो ईसा पूर्व तीन या दस हजार वर्ष पूर्व तक यह नदी पूर्ण जलराशि के साथ, हिमखण्ड से शुरू होने वाली एक बड़ी नदी के रूप में बहती थी। तब यह पूर्व से पश्चिम तक वर्तमान के हिमाचल प्रदेश, पंजाब, हरियाणा, राजस्थान, गुजरात और सिंध में से रास्ता तय करती हुई अरब की खाड़ी तक जाती थी। प्रवाह कम होने पर इसके प्रवाह क्षेत्र में वर्ष भर या कुछ समय बहने वाली नदियां अलग-अलग नाम से पहचानी जाने लगी। सरस्वती नदी के कुछ अंचलों में प्रचलित ऐतिहासिक नाम आज भी यथावत हैं। माना जाता है कि एक जमाने में यह यमुना और सतलुज के बीच में बहती थी, फिर भूकम्प आदि के कारण इसके मार्ग में परिवर्तन होता गया और कालांतर में यह लुप्त हो गई।

ऐसी मान्यता है कि जब आवड माता जी ने सिंध से अपनी बहनों व भाई के साथ मांढ क्षेत्र में आगमन किया, तब उन्होंने हाकड़ा नदी को पार किया। ऐसी मान्यता है कि हाकड़ा नदी के अपनी विशाल जलराशि समेट कर रास्ता न देने पर आवड माता जी ने इसे समाप्त कर दिया। यह हाकड़ा नदी, जिसे समुद्र भी कह दिया जाता था, तब सरस्वती नदी का वह अंतिम भाग होता था, जो अरब की खाड़ी में मिलता था। ऋग वैदिक व महाभारत काल की भी कई कथाएं इससे जुड़ी हैं।

सिंधु घाटी सभ्यता से सरस्वती नदी के प्रवाह वाले इलाके का संबंध रहा है। भूभाग और नदियों के रास्ते व प्रवाह की दृष्टि से भारतवर्ष में बहुत परिवर्तन हुआ है। माना जाता है कि अरब सागर पहले वर्तमान कच्छ तक समुद्र के रूप में था। तब सरस्वती नदी पूरी जलराशि के साथ अरब सागर में मिलती थी। जब पानी कम हुआ तो इसने दलदली कच्छ का रूप ले लिया। हालांकि आर्यों के आगमन और सिंधु घाटी सभ्यता को लेकर भी विशेषज्ञों के अलग-अलग मत हैं, पर जैसे सिंधु नदी के तट पर सभ्यता का विकास हुआ, वैसे ही सरस्वती नदी के प्रवाह वाले क्षेत्रों में भी हुआ। आज जैसलमेर, बाड़मेर, थार या चोलिस्तान रेगिस्तान में कई बहुत पुराने कुएं आते हैं, जिनके पानी की आइसोटोप पद्धति से जांच करने से पता चलता है कि यह जल तब का है जब सरस्वती और सहायक नदियां बहती थीं। आज भी जहां पुरानी धाराएं थीं, वहां सुगमता से पीने योग्य पानी प्राप्त हो जाता है। जबकि कई बार ऐसे किसी कुएं से कुछ किलोमीटर दूर ही पानी खारा होता है और पीने लायक नहीं होता। भारतवर्ष के उत्तर पश्चिमी व पश्चिमी क्षेत्र में सरस्वती नदी ने बहुत अहम भूमिका निभाई है। सरस्वती नदी को याद करना और उसको समझना हमारी संस्कृति के ईसा से हजारों वर्ष पूर्व के अध्याय से परिचित होना है।

सरस्वती नदी के प्रवाह क्षेत्र के आसपास विकसित सभ्यता में नगरों-गांवों का विकास हुआ, वास्तुकला, खेती, भाषा, काव्य का विकास हुआ, धातु-विज्ञान और ईरान तक व्यापार आदि का विकास हुआ। सरस्वती नदी के प्रति इसलिए सम्मान और अधिक जानने की उत्कंठा प्रायः हर भारतीय के मन में बनी रहती है। सरस्वती नदी के बारे में ज्यादा जानना हमें बताता है कि हिमालय क्षेत्र के भूकम्प व अन्य कारणों के चलते सरस्वती नदी को कालांतर में यमुना और सतलुज का पानी मिलना बंद हो गया और सरस्वती नदी शिवालिक की पहाड़ियों से बरसात के पानी के रूप में बहने वाली घग्घर नदी में परिवर्तित हो गई। ये तथ्य बताते हैं कि नदियों को आपस में जोड़कर पूरे देश की पानी की समस्या का हल निकालना एक बहुत व्यावहारिक सोच है क्योंकि स्वयं प्रकृति में ऐसा होता रहा है।

Haribhoomi- 07- October-2022

नेपाल में भारी बारिश से उत्तर बिहार पर खतरा

वाल्मीकि नगर बैराज के सभी 36 फाटक खोले, अलर्ट जारी

एजेंसी ▶▶| पटना

नेपाल में पिछले 48 घंटे से लगातार हो रही बारिश के बाद सूबे की नदियों में उफान है। खासकर गंडक खतरनाक ढंग से बढ़ रही है। पिछले 24 घंटे में ही नदी का पानी छह गुना बढ़ गया। गुरुवार की शाम वाल्मीकिनगर बराज पर गंडक में 3 लाख क्यूसेक पानी का प्रवाह हो रहा था। इसमें लगातार बढ़ोतरी हो रही है। यहां नदी खतरे के निशान को पार कर चुकी है। गोपालगंज समेत कई इलाकों में भी नदी देर रात खतरे के निशान के पार हो गयी। बराज पर पानी का दबाव अत्यधिक बढ़ जाने के बाद इसके सारे 36 फाटक खोल दिए गए हैं।

जल संसाधन विभाग ने संपूर्ण उत्तर बिहार में अलर्ट जारी कर दिया है। खतरनाक ढंग से बढ़ रही नदियों की चौकसी भी बढ़ा दी गई है। तटबंधों की रात्रि पेट्रोलिंग का निर्देश दिया गया है। कटाव निरोधक सामग्री का भंडारण करने के साथ-साथ संवेदनशील स्थलों की मानटरिंग की जा रही है।

गंडक में उफान के बाद गोपालगंज समेत कई इलाकों में बाढ़ का खतरा उत्पन्न हो गया है। उधर, बागमती, कमला और कुछ और स्थानों पर कोसी के भी लाल निशान के पार होने का अनुमान है। कोसी, गंडक, कमला और बागमती के अलावा अधवारा, महानंदा, बूढ़ी गंडक, घाघरा नदियों का जलस्तर भी तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। कोसी के वीरपुर बराज पर 1.25 लाख क्यूसेक पानी था। यहां नदी खतरे के निशान के ऊपर बह रही है।