

Hindustan Times- 18- March-2023

Punjab refusing to finish SYL canal link, top court informed

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NEW DELHI: The Punjab government has refused to construct the remaining portion of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal, saying it does not have additional river waters to share with Haryana, the Union government informed the Supreme Court on Friday in a progress report.

The report, containing the crux of the two meetings between the chief ministers of the two states in October 2022 and January this year, said the Punjab government has been emphatic that there is no need to construct the SYL Canal because the state cannot share any water.

"During the meeting (on January 4), Punjab was of the view that the water availability in the Ravi, Beas and Sutlej system of rivers has reduced and there is no excess water for sharing with Haryana... As there is no excess water in Beas and Sutlej rivers to be shared with Haryana, the need for construction of SYL Canal does not arise," said the report, submitted before a bench led by justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul.

The Bhagwant Mann government also raised a contention on law-and-order. "In 2016, Punjab had already de notified the land acquired for construction of SYL Canal and returned to farmers. Therefore, construction of SYL now may raise law and order problems," it claimed.

The Centre's progress report further disclosed that the Punjab government has sought to



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann with his Haryana counterpart, Manohar Lal Khattar, in New Delhi on January 4. ANI

reopen the 1985 Punjab Memorandum of Settlement (Rajiv-Longowal Accord) on the sharing of river waters with other states.

The accord was signed on July 24, 1985 between then prime minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi and then president of Shiromani Akali Dal, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal. Its first clause states that the farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan will continue to get water not less than what they are using from the Ravi-Beas system as on July 1, 1985. The claim of Punjab and Haryana regarding the shares in their remaining waters, the second clause laid down, will be adjudicated by a tribunal to be presided over by a Supreme Court judge. The third clause of the Accord held that the construction of the SYL canal shall continue.

According to the Centre's report, the Punjab government said that the first two clauses of the 1985 Accord "must be settled" before discussing the stipulation regarding the completion of the SYL Canal. Punjab also

argued that the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act (PTAA), 2004 is still in force and as per this law, no additional water shall be given to Haryana.

In the meeting, the Haryana government declined to deliberate on any aspect other than the construction of the canal, as per the Accord and also in terms of the Supreme Court judgment in 2002. "The Hon'ble Supreme Court has already passed the decree for completion of SYL and this needs to be implemented by Punjab... On PTAA, Haryana stated that the law has been declared unconstitutional by the Hon'ble Supreme court in its Advisory Opinion," said the report.

The Centre, thus, said: "Even after the best efforts by the Centre, there has been no agreement on the issue of construction of SYL among the two states in the meeting. However, both states agreed to discuss a workable solution on the issue in future. The Ministry of Jal Shakti is making all efforts to bring the states together for an amicable solution." On January 4, Punjab and Haryana chief ministers met for a third time since 2020 but stuck to their stands during a meeting chaired by Union water resources minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi.

While Punjab CM Mann said his state does not have "even a single drop of water" to share, his Haryana counterpart Manohar Lal Khattar said the full construction of the canal and getting water through it was a matter of "right" for his state.

The Morning Standard- 18- March-2023

Water stress to hit India's food production by 2050, says report

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

A new report on global temperatures and food situation has revealed that India will face a reduction of over 16 % in food supply due to water and heat stress in 2050, increasing the food insecure population by over 50%. However, the report placed China at the top, where food supply would be reduced by 22.4%, followed by South America 19.4%.

The report says many Asian countries, including China and ASEAN members, who are currently net food exporters, would become net food importers by 2050. The water stress means the demand for clean or usable water is exponentially growing while sources are shrinking. India ranks 13 globally on the facing water stress in 2019.

The water supply availability in India is between 1100-1197 billion cubic meters (bcm). In contrast, the demand is expected to grow from 550-710 bcm in

'ADDRESS WATER STRESS URGENTLY'		
<p>The report points out that India's poor water policy design is a major barrier in addressing water stress</p> <p>It targets India's energy subsidies to farmers, which promote greater water use, thus leading to aquifer depletion</p>	<p>The report emphasises trade to mitigate water scarcity.</p>	<p>It calls for water-constrained countries to import water-intensive farm products than producing it domestically</p>



2010 to around 900-1,400 bcm in 2050.

The report is titled 'The What, Why and How of the World Water Crisis: Global Commission on the Economics of Water Phase 1 Review and Findings' published by Global Commission on the Economics of Water (GCEW).

The Commission was launched in 2022 at the World

Economic Forum and is composed of 17 experts, community leaders and practitioners from a broad range of science, policy and front-line practice expertise from all regions of the globe. The report made projections to 2050, and how the situation will impact on global irrigated food production and food security till the year 2050 from the base year of 2014.

The Times of India- 18- March-2023

'India's investment in water treatment will positively impact its economic development'

Michael Kremer won the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2019. Speaking to Srijana Mitra Das at Times Evoke, Kremer, who teaches at the University of Chicago, discusses his pathbreaking work in child health (the full interaction is at TOI Online):

What is the core of your research?

■ My work focuses on using the tools of economics to develop practical innovations that are useful for people in the real world. I work sometimes with governments or firms to identify ideas which can address the challenges that they face and then rigorously test those — depending on the results, policy makers can be better informed.

Can you tell us about your recent work on water treatment and child mortality?

■ Diarrhoeal disease is a big killer of children globally — it seems quite intuitive that water treatment could save many children's lives. Yet, there had been some controversy over its impacts. There was reasonably convincing historical evidence from when various countries, including the United States, installed water treatment equipment and mortality reduced. But medical researchers typically want to see randomised trials, like the ones conducted for new drug approvals or vaccines. The problem is, the technology to treat water has been around for 100 years and companies cannot patent basic chlorination now. Hence, they won't invest money in a large-scale study of water treatment's impacts.

So, we took the approach of combining all the individual studies — putting them together, we'd get a large enough sample. We combined multiple studies using a technique



ENERGISED: Kremer shows how clean water boosts learning and earning

India has been a leader in child deworming programs — the Jal Jeevan Mission for piped water is a great opportunity for the country now



A NOBEL RECOGNITION: Michael Kremer, along with fellow economists Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee, was awarded 2019's Nobel Prize for alleviating global poverty through rigorously tested interventions

called meta-analysis — that gave us a sample of over 25,000 children with a global geographical spread. The results were very surprising — our study showed a huge reduction in child deaths due to this intervention. We estimate that water treatment reduces child mortality by about a quarter — 1 in 4 child deaths from different causes could be averted by having this.

What are the costs for an economy like India to invest in this intervention?

■ Water treatment is actually very inexpensive and India is currently in the fortunate position of the government delivering piped water to all households. Once there are pipes reaching a home, it's very economical to treat water using diverse methods like chlorine. The objective of India's Jal Jeevan Mission is to provide safe water to all and such treatment can be done for a few hundred rupees per household per annum. This is a fantastic investment — it's a great opportunity for India.

The costs of not doing this, of

TIMES evoke EVOLVE

course, is having one out of every four children dying unnecessarily. Such interventions really matter — early in life is a critical period for child development, with important consequences in the long run... I've done research on the impacts of treating children for worms. From this work conducted in Kenya, which we followed for 20 years, we found that children who received deworming treatment earned 14% more as adults. There is even a historical study from the early 20th century in the United States on the results of treating children for worms in the US South — that also found improvements in child education and literacy and their earnings as adults. Deworming

interventions themselves are very inexpensive, costing about 50 cents per child per year.

Again, this is an area where India has been a leader — first, individual states moved ahead with programs. Then this became a national initiative when the Prime Minister created National Deworming Days. India is now treating hundreds of millions of children against worm diseases — and this will also have very positive long-run consequences for its economic development.

1 in 4 child deaths can be prevented by investing in affordable water treatment — climate change makes this need even more urgent

In addition to diverse germs, is climate change also impacting drinking water?

■ Climate change is having key impacts on multiple areas, including agriculture, food security and livelihoods. We are now seeing increases in food prices globally. The war in Ukraine is part of the story — but I think fluctuations in production due to weather shocks could be an even bigger part. Policy makers must help

societies prepare for climate change, both with safety net measures and steps like improved weather forecasting, advice to farmers on adjusting crop patterns, etc. Climate change is already affecting the quality of drinking water too — in some places where the water table has been depleted, wells are drying up. People have to rely more on groundwater — this is more likely to be contaminated. Floods can also increase water contamination — climate change is posing major risks to water supplies. It further highlights the urgent need for water treatment.

What has been the most meaningful experience in your work so far?

■ Well, I was quite thrilled about the Nobel Prize which is a wonderful recognition from the research community. But ultimately, researchers like me try to produce work that will be useful to people — the most exciting moment for me was when



A SEA CHANGE: Growing droughts impact both water level and quality

India's government, based on evidence from my work and others, decided to make sure that children who needed medication against worms would receive it. This decision is already positively affecting hundreds of millions of lives.

You can see Times Evoke Evolve's full video interaction with Michael Kremer at: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/times-evoke>

Share your thoughts at: timesevoke@timesgroup.com
Read Times Evoke online at: www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/times-evoke

Millennium Post- 18- March-2023

Steps taken to dewater areas near Saraswati river: Hry CM

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said that the present state government has taken concerted steps to ensure dewatering in the nearby residential area of Saraswati River. Besides this, dedicated efforts are being made to ensure a smooth flow of water. If there is any obstruction in the flow of water, it will be fixed, informed Manohar Lal Khattar while responding to a question regarding the removal of the illegal bridges constructed on the Saraswati River from Kurukshetra G.T. road to Jhansa during the question hour in the Budget session of State Vidhan Sabha held here on Friday.

He said that most of the bridges built on Saraswati River from GT Road, Kurukshetra to Jhansa Road are illegal. Eight bridges were built before the year 2010. A bridge was built in the year 2014-15. These bridges were built only on the demand of the villagers.

MPOST

Telangana Today- 18- March-2023

KLIS: TS counters Centre with facts

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

Finance Minister T Harish Rao ripped apart the BJP-led Central government over what he termed as 'false claims' that there was no proposal from the Telangana government seeking national status for the Kaleshwaram project.

The Minister on Friday produced letters written by Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and State government to the Ministry of Water Resources seeking national status for the Kaleshwaram project in the past.

The strong reaction from the Telangana government came after Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Bisweshwar Tudu told Lok Sabha that the Telangana government had not submitted any proposal to the Centre seeking inclusion of Kaleshwaram or Palamuru Rangareddy projects in the National Project scheme. He was replying to a question raised by Mahabubnagar MP Manne Srinivas Reddy on Thursday. Strongly objecting to the

Harish tweets letters written by Chief Minister to the Prime Minister and Ministry of Water Resources

Union Minister's reply, Harish Rao termed it as "false propaganda" as he, as the Irrigation Minister (earlier) along with the Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao made several representations to the PMO and the Minister of Water Resources on the same issue.

Clearances

The Minister also refuted Tudu's observation that the Kaleshwaram did not get all clearances from the Central Water Commission and Technical Advisory Committee of Ministry of Jal Shakti. Harish Rao took to Twitter to share the Kaleshwaram project's clearances report and maintained that the union Minister had uttered a blatant lie on the floor of the House and was misleading people as well. (SEE PAGE 4)

KLIS: TS counters Centre with facts

The Kaleshwaram project was given all clearances by the CWC and also got approvals from the Technical advisory committee of the Ministry of Jal Shakti. It was only after that the Chief Minister requested the Prime Minister to accord national status to the project, but to no avail, he reminded. The Finance Minister also laid threadbare the Central government's discrimination towards Telangana. He recalled that when BRS members raised the issue of national project status to Kaleshwaram in Parliament in 2018,

the then Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari told the House that there were no plans to accord national project status to any project in the country. However, the Central government had accorded national project status to the Upper Bhadra Project of Karnataka and the Ken-Betwa project of Madhya Pradesh, both ruled by the BJP.

"It is nothing but political vengeance of BJP government against Telangana," he said in a series of tweets along while the clippings of news reports on his meeting with

Nitin Gadkari on July 18, 2018. The CWC approved the Upper Bhadra Project in Karnataka ruled by the BJP when the KWDT II award was stayed by the Supreme Court in 2013. The CWC gave clearances and the union government gave national project status to the Upper Bhadra project when the whole matter was subjudice. However, Kaleshwaram had everything in clear but national project status was not given in spite of repeated requests by Telangana. "Is it not political vengeance?" he asked in a tweet.

The Pioneer- 18- March-2023

'Bottled water industry can slow SDG's progress'

It masks world's failure to supply safe water for all: UN report

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With more than 1 million bottles of water being sold every minute around the world, the industry is raking in huge moolah but this has come at a huge climate, health, social and environmental costs at the same time exposing limited progress in and many failures of public water supply systems, a UN report has flagged concerns ahead of the World Water Day on March 22.

While sales are expected to almost double by 2030, from \$270 billion to \$500 billion, the report by the UN University's Canadian-based Institute for Water, Environment and Health has expressed concern that the rapidly-growing industry can undermine progress towards a key sustainable development goal (SDG): Safe water for all.

"This points to a global case of extreme social injustice, whereby billions of people worldwide do not have access to reliable water services while others enjoy water luxury," said the report which is based on an analysis of literature and data from 109 countries including

India. It noted that in just five decades bottled water has developed into "a major and essentially standalone economic sector," experiencing 73% growth from 2010 to 2020, but the unrestricted expansion "is not aligned strategically with the goal of providing universal access to drinking water or at least slows global progress in this regard, distracting development efforts and redirecting attention to a less reliable and less affordable option for many, while remaining highly profitable for producers."

"The rise in bottled water consumption reflects decades of limited progress in and many failures of public water supply systems," the report says, noting that providing safe water to the roughly 2 billion people without it would require an annual investment of less than half the US\$ 270 billion now spent every year on bottled water. Bottled water per litre can cost 150 to 1,000 times more than the price a municipality charges for tap water.

The study quotes surveys showing bottled water is often perceived in the Global North as a healthier and tastier product than tap water - more a luxury good than a necessity. In contrast, in the Global South, sales are driven by the lack or absence of reliable public water supplies and water delivery



infrastructure limitations due to rapid urbanization.

What's worst, in mid- and low-income countries, bottled water consumption is linked to poor tap water quality and often unreliable public water supply systems - problems often caused by corruption and chronic underinvestment in piped water infrastructure.

UNU-INWEH researcher and lead author Zeineb Bouhlef pointed out that beverage corporations are adept at marketing bottled water as a safe alternative to tap water by drawing attention to isolated public water system failures. He added that "even if in certain countries piped water is or can be of good quality, restoring public trust in tap water is likely to require substantial marketing and advocacy efforts."

Dr. Bouhlef further noted in the report that the source of bottled water (municipal sys-

tem, surface, etc.) the treatment processes used (e.g. chlorination, ultraviolet disinfection, ozonation, reverse osmosis), the storage conditions (duration, light exposure, temperature), and packaging (plastic, glass), can all potentially alter water quality.

Enlisting examples from over 40 countries in every world region of contamination of hundreds of bottled water brands and all bottled water types, researchers further said, "the mineral composition of bottled water can vary significantly between different brands, within the same brand in different countries, and even between different bottles of the same batch."

Co-author Vladimir Smakhtin, past Director of UNU-INWEH, underscores the report's finding that "bottled water is generally not nearly as well-regulated and is

tested less frequently and for fewer parameters. Strict water quality standards for tap water are rarely applied to bottled water, and even if such analyses are carried out, the results seldom make it to the public domain."

Bottled water producers, he says, have largely avoided the scrutiny governments impose on public water utilities, and amid the market's rapid growth, it is "probably more important than ever to strengthen legislation that regulates the industry overall, and its water quality standards in particular." On the environmental front too, the industry has come under the scanner. The researchers noted that the industry produced around 600 billion plastic bottles and containers in 2021, which converts to some 25 million tonnes of PET waste - most of it not recycled and destined for landfills.

Also "little data available on water volumes extracted, largely due to the lack of transparency and legal foundation that would have forced bottling companies to disclose that information publicly and assess the environmental consequences," it said.

As per the report, five companies - PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Nestlé S.A., Danone S.A. and Primo Corporation have combined sales of \$65 billion, over 25% of the global total.

Amar Ujala- 18- March-2023

सतलुज-यमुना नहर विवाद का नहीं निकला अब तक कोई समाधान : केंद्र

सुप्रीम कोर्ट में हलफनामा दाखिल कर कहा, पंजाब सरकार ने पानी साझा करने से किया इन्कार

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। केंद्र सरकार ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट से कहा है कि विवादास्पद सतलुज-यमुना लिंक (एसवाईएल) मुद्दे का अब तक कोई समाधान नहीं हो सका है। केंद्र ने कहा है कि जल शक्ति मंत्री की पंजाब और हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्रियों के साथ हुई बैठक बेनतीजा रही लेकिन समाधान के लिए आगे भी प्रयास जारी रहेगा।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट में शुक्रवार को दायर एक हलफनामे में केंद्र सरकार ने कहा है कि गत वर्ष 6 सितंबर को शीर्ष अदालत के दिए आदेश के मद्देनजर जल शक्ति मंत्री के आग्रह पर पंजाब और हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री की बैठक हुई थी। इसके बाद जल शक्ति मंत्री की दोनों मुख्यमंत्रियों के साथ बैठक हुई। केंद्र सरकार ने कहा है कि बैठक के दौरान पंजाब का कहना था कि रावी, ब्यास व सतलुज नदियों में पानी की उपलब्धता कम हो गई है और ऐसे में हरियाणा के साथ साझा करने के लिए कोई अतिरिक्त पानी उसके पास नहीं है। 1985 के पंजाब बंदोबस्त (राजीव-लॉगोवाल समझौते) की एसवाईएल को पूरा करने से संबंधित खंड पर चर्चा करने से पहले अन्य मुद्दों पर चर्चा की जाए। चूंकि ब्यास और सतलुज नदियों में हरियाणा के साथ साझा करने के लिए अतिरिक्त पानी नहीं है इसलिए एसवाईएल नहर के निर्माण का सवाल नहीं उठता। उसका यह भी कहना है कि वर्ष 2016 में पंजाब ने पहले ही एसवाईएल नहर के निर्माण के लिए अधिग्रहित भूमि को डीनोटेफाई कर किसानों को लौटा दिया था।

ऐसे में अब एसवाईएल नहर के निर्माण से कानून-व्यवस्था की समस्या खड़ी हो सकती है। वहीं बैठक में हरियाणा का विचार था कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने एसवाईएल



फाइल फोटो

यह है एसवाईएल विवाद

पंजाब ने हरियाणा से 18 नवंबर 1976 को 1 करोड़ रुपये लिए और 1977 को एसवाईएल के निर्माण को मंजूरी दी। बाद में पंजाब ने एसवाईएल नहर के निर्माण को लेकर आनाकानी करनी शुरू कर दी। 1979 में हरियाणा ने एसवाईएल के निर्माण की मांग को लेकर सुप्रीम कोर्ट का दरवाजा खटखटाया।

- पंजाब ने 11 जुलाई, 1979 को पुनर्गठन एक्ट की धारा 78 को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में चुनौती दे दी। 1981 में प्रधानमंत्री इंदिरा गांधी की मौजूदगी में दोनों राज्यों का समझौता हुआ।
- 1982 में इंदिरा गांधी ने पटियाला के गांव कपूरी में टक लगाकर नहर का निर्माण शुरू करवाया। इसके विरोध में शिरोमणि अकाली दल ने एसवाईएल की खुदाई के विरुद्ध मोर्चा खोल दिया।
- 1990 में 3 जुलाई को एसवाईएल के निर्माण से जुड़े दो इंजीनियरों की भी हत्या कर दी गई। 2015 में हरियाणा ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट से सुनवाई के लिए संविधान पीठ बनाने का अनुरोध किया। 2016 में गठित 5 सदस्यों की संविधान पीठ ने पहली सुनवाई के दौरान सभी पक्षों को बुलाया। 2019 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि दोनों राज्य नहर का निर्माण नहीं करते हैं तो कोर्ट खुद नहर का निर्माण कराएगा। अभी 2022 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने दोनों राज्यों को इस मुद्दे को सुलझाने के लिए नोटिस जारी किया है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देश पर दोनों राज्यों के बीच हुई बैठकों की रिपोर्ट केंद्र 19 जनवरी को दाखिल कर चुका है।

नहर के निर्माण का आदेश पारित कर रखा है, इसलिए पंजाब को उस आदेश का अनुपालन करने की जरूरत है। केंद्र सरकार ने कहा है कि उसके द्वारा भरपूर प्रयास के बावजूद एसवाईएल नहर के निर्माण को लेकर कोई समाधान नहीं निकल सका है। हालांकि दोनों राज्यों ने इस मुद्दे पर समाधान को लेकर भविष्य में होने वाली बैठक में शामिल होने पर सहमति जताई है।