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2nd leg of Yamuna cleaning begins from ITO to Okhla

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NEW DELHI: Cleaning work of the Yamuna entered the second phase on Monday covering the 11km stretch between ITO and Okhla barrage, even as lieutenant governor VK Saxena said that the river ghats and floodplains located within the city limits will be cleared up by June 30.

Several agencies, including the Delhi Jal Board, DDA, PWD, and DUSIB, are involved in the clean-up, which started with an 11km stretch between the Signature Bridge and ITO on February 12.

According to officials, the cleaning operation in the second phase will be different from the first as the current stretch has less municipal solid waste (MSW) as compared to the stretch between Signature Bridge and ITO.

Meanwhile, LG Saxena, who heads a committee formed by the National Green Tribunal tasked to look into Yamuna's pollution, said that the ongoing cleaning operations in the Yamuna have led to improvements in the river across various parameters. "In the second phase of cleaning operation, we will focus on transformation through cleaning of Yamuna banks and desilting of midstream muck. The cleaning of Najafgarh

drain has also yielded desired results as the biological oxygen demand (BOD) level in the drain has shown a consistent decline... Since the BOD levels in the stretch falling in the second phase are already less than the areas covered in the first phase, we'll put more attention on desilting. For this, we'll use a mechanised conveyor system," Saxena said in a statement.

Officials in the LG secretariat said the second stretch has been divided into three parts — ITO to Nizamuddin bridge, Nizamuddin bridge to DND flyway, and DND flyway to Okhla barrage.

An official said that to measure pollution levels, samples collected from the stretch were sent to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, the results of which are awaited. "Like the first phase, all the drains and sub-drains falling into the river will also be trapped. We'll also ensure treatment of 727 million gallons a day — 95% of the sewage generated in Delhi — by June 30," the official said.

Bhim Singh Rawat, a Yamuna activist and a member of South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People, said focus should be to control pollution. "...we need to trap all the drains so that no sewage or industrial waste reaches the Yamuna," he said.

Telangana Today- 02- May-2023

Sitamma Sagar: TS to seek green nod

Submits fresh DPR of the project to Central Water Commission

ANIL KUMAR

HYDERABAD

The State government is taking measures to get Environmental Clearance (EC) and other necessary permissions for the Sitamma Sagar Multi-Purpose Project (SSMPP), which is part of the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project, from the competent authorities soon.

Irrigation officials said a fresh Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the project sent by the State government to the Central Water Commission (CWC) and Union Ministry of Environment & Forest would be accepted in all probability and all the required permissions, including Environmental Clearance, would be granted soon. The State has also sought permission for the Sitamma Sagar barrage and Pump House from the Central Electricity Authority, they said.

According to Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Chief Minister on Irrigation, Sridhar Rao Deshpande, the State already has the EC for the project and the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) granted fresh Terms of Reference (ToR) for it in June 2022. However, since the State government wanted to construct a 320 MW power plant, it re-

Mega plans

Sitamma Sagar Multi-Purpose Project

Construction of barrage and development of hydro-electric project

Objective

To generate **320 MW** of power and supply irrigation water to **2.73 lakh** hectares under Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project



Estimated project cost
₹3,481.9 crore

Land required
3,121.14 acres

Land acquired
2,640.39 acres

Land handed over to Irrigation Dept
2,485.18 acres

Power generation
320 MW
Storage capacity
37 TMC

quested a change in the existing EC and the EAC suggested a detailed assessment of possible environmental and social concerns, following which the State government prepared a fresh DPR and sent it to the CWC and the Environment Ministry, he said.

"The State government has prepared a comprehensive DPR and sent it to the CWC and the Environment Ministry. We are expecting the Centre to grant EC and other permissions soon," he said. The project has all the necessary permissions, in-

cluding Hydro Clearances and only the barrage component needed EC and a few other clearances for which the State government has already taken steps, Deshpande said.

Commenting on the order of the Southern Zone Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), he said the tribunal had not put a stay on the project, but only asked to get EC. "We are working on it. Once we get the EC, we will start the work," he said. The Sitamma Sagar Multi-Purpose Project aims towards the construction of

barrage and development of a hydro-electric project to generate 320 MW (8 Nos. x 40 MW) power and supply irrigation water to the command area of about 2.73 lakh hectares under the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project on need basis. The total cost estimated is Rs 3,481.90 crore. The project requires 3121.14 acres of land in 63 villages in Aswapuram, Cherla and Dummugudem mandals. Around 2,640.39 acres have been acquired so far, of which 2,485.18 acres have been handed over to the Irrigation Department.

Telangana Today- 02- May-2023

Inflows into Musi increases



Musi in full flow at Singaram, in Yadadri-Bhongir district.

STATE BUREAU

Nalgonda

The inflow to the Musi project increased from Monday morning due to heavy rains in the upper areas. The inflow to the project was recorded at 1,860 cusecs. As Musi and its tributary Bikkeru were flowing in full swing, the inflow to the medium irrigation project on Musi at Solipet in-

creased significantly. The water level in the project reached 632.7 feet as against the full reservoir level of 645 feet. The current water storage in the project was 1.7 TMC as against the full storage capacity of 4.46 TMC. In May last year, the water level in the project was 622 feet, which was the dead storage level. No crop damage was reported.

The Indian Express- 02- May-2023

CONSTITUENCY WATCH

Still waiting for Mahadayi waters, farmers' outfit enters poll battle

At Nargund in drought-prone Gadag, Rait Sena says Cong, BJP have only played politics over the Mahadayi project

AKRAM M
NARGUND (GADAG), MAY 1

AT NARGUND, Gadag district, a hero stone stands dedicated to the memory of 24-year-old farmer Sri Eerappa Basappa Kadlikoppa, who died in police firing during an agitation on July 21, 1980.

In the run-up to that fateful day, the farmers of Nargund were locked in a fight with the then Congress government under chief minister R Gundu Rao, over a 'betterment levy' imposed on them, following the completion of Navilu Theertha dam — also known as Malaprabha dam. The farmer's hopes of benefiting from the irrigation project had been dashed soon after its completion, due to a faulty design, and

the levy made it worse, leading to widespread protests.

On July 21, 1980, the farmers were responding to a nationwide bandh call and took out a rally to block the tehsildar's office. When farmers lay down on the road to block his entry, locals say the tehsildar walked over them. When the enraged farmers tried to storm the tehsildar's office, a sub-inspector shot Eerappa as he fired to disperse the crowd. It took till evening that day for the local administration to bring the violent confrontation under control, that left two cops dead and several officials injured, including the tehsildar, and reduced several government offices and vehicles to ashes.

Few metres behind the hero stone stands a new protest site — active since July 16, 2015 — of

the Rait Sena, a farmers' organisation at the forefront of an agitation demanding the implementation of the Kalasa-Banduri project over the Mahadayi river. Convinced that the representatives of national parties have milked the project only for political benefit, the Rait Sena has decided to field Veeresh Sobaradhmath, who heads the Sena, from Nargund constituency.

The Rait Sena has held various demonstrations over the past several years, demanding the implementation of the project. A bandh call in 2017 by the organisation with the help of pro-Kannada organisations, urging the government to complete the Mahadayi project, had evoked a good response in many parts of the state. Rait Sena members had also staged

a protest in front of the state BJP office for several days that year, after the then Opposition leader B S Yediyurappa and Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar had exchanged letters for an 'amicable solution' to implement the project, which made little headway.

The Kalasa-Banduri project, first proposed four decades ago, is expected to benefit four districts — Belagavi, Bagalkot, Gadag and Dharwad — provided Karnataka makes good use of its share of water allocated by the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal. Back in December 2022, months ahead of the Assembly polls, CM Basavaraj Bommai had announced that the project would be implemented at the earliest. In February this year, the Karnataka government announced Rs 1,000 cr for the project. But the decision to implement the project was challenged by the Goa govern-

NARGUND CONSTITUENCY

2018

C C Patil, BJP

Votes: 73,045

Runner-up: **BR Yavagal, Congress**

Votes: 65,066 votes

Margin: 7,979

2013

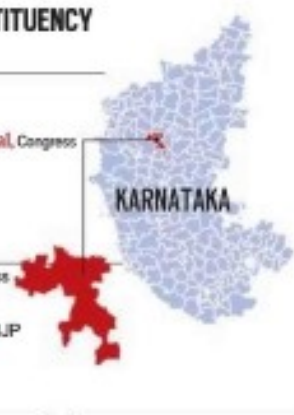
BR YAVAGAL, Congress

Votes: 59,620

Runner-up: **CC Patil, BJP**

Votes: 51,035 votes

Margin: 8,585



ment in the Supreme Court soon afterwards.

Hanumanth Madiwalar, general secretary of the Rait Sena, asks whether the government had any intention at all of implementing the project as tenders for it were floated on the morning of the day when the Model Code of Conduct came into force in the state.

"Though they have floated the tender, there are technical problems. The state government said the Jal Shakti Ministry had given permission, but this is ap-

parently not enough. Clearance from the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests is still pending," he said.

Basavarajappa, a farmer from the town, accuses politicians of using the Mahadayi issue as a platform to launch themselves into politics. "Back in 2003, Basavaraj Bommai, who is now chief minister, had led a 200-km padayatra for the implementation of the project. Sitting MLA from Nargund and PWD minister C C Patil was also part of it. Despite the two at the helm of affairs in the state for a couple of years now, the project is nowhere near complete," he said.

Another farmer, Rudranna, recalled that Bommai had written a letter in blood after he took out a padayatra in 2003 vowing to ensure the project is implemented. "Leaders come and go, but our demands remain unfulfilled," he said.

Since 1983, BR Yavagal, who is the Congress candidate, has

represented the constituency five times — most recently in 2013. Minister C C Patil has been elected thrice. This election too is considered a two-way fight between the two, even though Rait Sena members insist it will be a triangular contest.

In 2018, Patil had defeated Yavagal by a margin of around 11,900 votes. In 2013, Patil lost by around 8,500 votes against Yavagal.

At a recent rally in Nargund, Bommai recalled his contribution towards the Mahadayi project and accused the Congress of stalling it in the past. "The Narendra Modi government has notified the project. DPR is also approved. We have uploaded the tender (for implementing Kalasa-Banduri). It (implementation) is stopped only since Model Code of Conduct is in force. As soon as it is lifted, we will complete the tender process and start work," he added.

The Hindu- 02- May-2023

Krishna water released to meet city's summer needs

Water is likely to reach Uthukkottai in Tiruvallur in 2 days; the 5 reservoirs that supply water to the city now have a combined storage of 7,496 million cubic feet, which is 64% of their total capacity

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Krishna water has been released from Kandaleru Reservoir, Andhra Pradesh, on Monday to cater to the city's summer needs. The water is likely to reach the Tamil Nadu border at Uthukkottai in Tiruvallur in another two days.

The five reservoirs, which are used to meet the city's drinking water needs, now have a combined storage of 7,496 million cubic feet (mcft), which is 64% of their total capacity. The Water Resources Department (WRD) sought the discharge of Krishna water this month to manage the summer needs of the city and boost the lakes' levels.

Officials of the WRD said about 2,000 cusecs (cubic feet per second) was released on Monday.

"We are expecting close to 1,000 cusecs after the water is drawn for drinking and irrigation needs en route for Andhra Pradesh



Summer showers: Areas in and around Chennai received rain on Monday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

areas," said an official. The water would have to travel another 25 km to Poondi Reservoir, where it would be stored and distributed.

The department has sought 2,000 mcft of Krishna water to be released for the city's requirements. If 1,000 cusecs were received daily in the State limit of the Kandaleru-Poondi (KP) Canal, the Poondi reservoir would release 2,000 mcft in nearly one-and-a-half months.

Krishna water is imperative to augment storage as

nearly 700 million litres of water a day is sourced from the lakes, including those in Red Hills and Chembarambakkam, for the city's needs, officials said. Metrowater now supplies about 1,029 mld of drinking water to the city.

Of this, nearly 992 mld of water is provided to residents, including those in additional areas, through pipelines and tankers. Krishna water will help sustain resources in the waterbodies and avert water scarcity this year, officials added.

WRD has also completed 90% of the work to improve portions of the KP Canal to minimise seepage loss.

Widespread rain

Meanwhile, most parts of the State may escape the searing summer heat this week as the Meteorological Department forecasts fairly widespread rain, heavy in some districts, to continue over the State.

A trough/wind discontinuity line, which is the convergence of westerly and easterly winds, would cause intense rain in some districts such as the Nilgiris, Namakkal, Salem and Vellore until Wednesday. On Monday, several places recorded rain of different intensities. Valparai recorded a heavy rainfall of 8 cm until 5.30 p.m. Areas in and around Chennai received rain.

Chennai may have balmy weather with temperatures predicted to remain around 33-34 degrees Celsius and the possibility of light or moderate rain until Wednesday.

Business Line- 02- May-2023

Our rivers have rights

They have a right to life, which needs protection

SK Sarkar
Girija Bharat

Rivers are valuable natural sources for drinking water, provide sediments to floodplains, valley, and contribute to the rich biodiversity. They are contributors of ground water recharge to aquifers and interconnect the ecological and hydrological systems. They include different orders of streams and their catchments.

However, rapid urbanisation and economic development have negatively impacted this natural ecosystem. Dams constructed on rivers often alter their natural flow and disturb the natural sediment distribution patterns.

Rivers should have continuous flow in time and space, enabling them to have self-cleansing powers, and should have ecological flows in all seasons.

In India, most of the rivers are sewage carrying drains. The CPCB report (2022) suggests that out of 1920 river locations monitored during 2019 and 2021, about 43 per cent do not comply with the Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) standard (outdoor bathing).

These are mainly due to the lack of adequate flow in rivers, discharge of untreated urban sewage and industrial effluents, leaching of agrochemicals, encroachments, indiscriminate mining of sand and pebbles from the riverbeds, and pollution from non-point sources.

River basin organisations (RBOs) should be established to take decisions on all aspects of river basin management.

Article 51A (g) of the Constitution of India stipulates that every citizen has a duty "to protect and improve natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures". Thus, it devolves on all stakeholders to ensure that river water is not polluted. The National Water Policy 2012 mentions the need for conservation of rivers, prohibiting encroachments and diversion of rivers. It recognises the environmental needs of the floodplain.

In consonance with this policy, some States like Maharashtra have framed their policies taking into account aspects of river management.

The draft National Framework Bill (May 2016) talks about integrated river basin development and management, and mandates every State government to develop, manage



WATER POLICY. Rejuvenating rivers SANDEEP SAXENA

and regulate basins of rivers through river basin master plan.

This Bill, unfortunately, is yet to become a legislation. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has proposed the Urban River Management Plan and adopted the River City Alliance (2021) selecting a few cities to plan sustainable management of urban rivers, which is laudable.

Unfortunately, the river water framework does not cover all dimensions of river management for restoring and maintaining wholesomeness of rivers and their tributaries. For instance, it is silent on river reservation zone policy to protect natural ecosystem alongside river and its tributaries.

Many countries have taken steps to consider river as a living entity, a measure that has helped in conservation and rejuvenation of rivers. River has been adopted as a legal person in Ecuador (2008), Bolivia (2011), New Zealand (2017), and Bangladesh (2018).

The Punjab and Haryana High Court passed an order in 2020 stating that Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh City is a living entity with rights equivalent to persons. In 2017, the Uttarakhand High Court declared Ganga and Yamuna and their tributaries as legal entities.

RIVER RIGHTS

Across the world there is a concept of minimum rights of a river. The Universal Declaration of River Rights (as developed by Earth Law Centre 2017) are right to flow, performing essential function within its ecosystems, right to be free from pollution, to feed and be fed by sustainable aquifers, rejuvenation and restoration, and rivers to facilitate biodiversity management.

There is a need to re-examine the existing framework for river management in India at the central as well as State levels.

Sarkar is Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); Bharat is the Founder Director of Mu Gamma Consultants, Gurugram

Rajasthan Patrika- 02- May-2023

महानदी जल बंटवारा विवाद : सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जस्टिस समेत 38 सदस्यीय टीम है दौरे पर ट्रिब्यूनल की टीम कोरबा पहुंची, बांगो बांध और दर्री बैराज का जायजा लिया

पत्रिका ब्यूरो @ कोरबा.
छत्तीसगढ़ और ओडिशा के बीच महानदी जल बंटवारे को लेकर चल रहे विवाद को सुलझाने के लिए गठित ट्रिब्यूनल ने सोमवार को हसदेव नदी पर स्थित हसदेव बांगो परियोजना और दर्री बैराज का दौरा किया। बांध और बैराज के जल भराव को देखा। मौके पर उपस्थित प्रदेश सरकार और जिला प्रशासन के अधिकारियों से बातचीत किया। लगभग आधे घंटे तक बांध का निरीक्षण करने के बाद टीम अगले पड़ाव की ओर निकल गई। बांगो प्रवास के दौरान टीम ने जल संसाधन विभाग के अधिकारियों से बातचीत किया। यहां से दर्री बैराज पहुंची। महानदी जल बंटवारे को लेकर गठित ट्रिब्यूनल में 38 सदस्य हैं। उच्चतम न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश एएम खानविलकर ट्रिब्यूनल के अध्यक्ष हैं। इसमें छत्तीसगढ़ और ओडिशा सरकार के प्रतिनिधि भी शामिल हैं। निरीक्षण के दौरान ट्रिब्यूनल के सदस्यों के अलावा कोरबा कलेक्टर सहित जिला प्रशासन के अन्य अधिकारी उपस्थित थे।



महानदी की सहायक नदी है हसदेव

हसदेव महानदी की सहायक नदी है। कोरिया जिले से हसदेव का उ-म होता है, कोरबा जिले से होकर जांजगीर चांपा जिले के बसंतपुर के पास हसदेव महानदी में गिरती है। बांगो परियोजना से कोरबा जिले में स्थित उद्योगों के अलावा सिंचाई के लिए सबसे अधिक जांजगीर चांपा जिला को पानी उपलब्ध होता है।

ओडिशा सरकार की शिकायत : महानदी के जल बंटवारे को लेकर ओडिशा सरकार ने केन्द्र सरकार से शिकायत की है। इसमें महानदी पर बने छह बैराज का जिक्र करते हुए कहा कि इससे

ओडिशा को पानी कम आ रहा है। ओडिशा सरकार ने जल बंटवारे की मांग की है। इस पर केन्द्र सरकार ने एक अधिसूचना जारी कर मार्च, 2018 में एक ट्रिब्यूनल का गठन किया था।

Rashtriya Sahara- 02- May-2023



बिन पानी सब सूख

अनिरुद्ध गौड़

चेरापूँजी से सबक लीजिए

पेयजल की कमी से पर्यटन उद्योग और रोजी-रोटी के साधन गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित हो रहे हैं। हाल में सेंटर फॉर साइंस एंड एनवायरन्मेंट (सीएसई) द्वारा आयोजित 2023-पॉलिसी एंड प्रैक्टिस फोरम में केंद्रीय मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा कि भारत में जल संकट जल संसाधनों की कमी के कारण नहीं, बल्कि उनके कुप्रबंधन के कारण है। जलवायु में बदलाव जल संकट को और बढ़ा रहा है। जल को लेकर सीएसई की महानिदेशक सुनीता नारायण का अध्ययन है कि पानी को लेकर देश में अब अच्छी समझ पैदा हुई है। नये मानक और आदर्श भी विकसित किए गए हैं, लेकिन जो प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं, वे काफी नहीं हैं।

भारत के मेघालय राज्य में स्थित चेरापूँजी विश्व में ऐसी जगह है, जहां दुनिया की सबसे अधिक औसत बारिश होने का रिकॉर्ड है। चेरापूँजी में बरसने के लिए बादलों को कभी भी इंतजार नहीं करना पड़ता। हर समय बादल उमड़े रहते हैं, और जब चाहे जब बरस पड़ते हैं। चेरापूँजी में मार्च-अक्टूबर तक लगभग 8 महीने तक भारी वर्षा होती है। लेकिन विडंबना है कि दुनिया में सबसे अधिक बारिश के बावजूद चेरापूँजी के बाशिंदे पानी की समस्या से जूझते हुए प्यासे रह जाते हैं। इसके पीछे जलवायु परिवर्तन तो है ही, वर्षा के जल का जमीन में संचित नहीं होना भी है। बड़े पैमाने पर जंगलों में अवैध कटान भी इसका एक बड़ा कारण बताया गया है।

विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि पेड़ों की जड़ों में पहुंचने वाला पानी भूजल को बेहतर से रिचार्ज कर देता है। बढ़ती आबादी के सापेक्ष जमीन में वाटर का रिचार्ज रेट बहुत कम है। हाल यह है कि चेरापूँजी के लोगों को पेयजल के लिए कई किलोमीटर दूर पानी लेने जाना पड़ता है। भौगोलिक स्थिति ऐसी है कि भारी बारिश होने के बावजूद पठारी इलाकों से पानी नीचे बह जाता है। वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग करना भी कठिन है जबकि रूफ वाटर कलेक्शन भी कामयाब नहीं है। चेरापूँजी में ग्रेटर सोगरा जलापूर्ति योजना शुरू की गई। आस लगी थी कि झरने के स्रोतों से आने वाले पानी से लोगों की पेयजल की समस्या दूर हो जाएगी लेकिन जल स्रोत सूख जाने से आशाएं धूमिल हो गईं। चेरापूँजी में खेती की जमीन भी नहीं है। युवा पलायन को विवश है। चेरापूँजी का मौसम देखने के लिए पर्यटक पहुंचते तो जरूर हैं, लेकिन पानी की समस्या के कारण वहां होटलों में पर्यटक ठहरते नहीं हैं। पर्यटन व्यवसायियों का दर्द है कि भारी वर्षा के बावजूद



स्वास्थ्य एवं कल्याण के लिए सुरक्षित पानी और स्वच्छता मानव की बुनियादी जरूरत है। विश्व स्तर पर जल को लेकर चिंता में संयुक्त राष्ट्र के टिकाऊ विकास लक्ष्यों की बात करें तो 2030 तक निर्धारित कुल 17 लक्ष्यों में छठा लक्ष्य जल और स्वच्छता है।

भारत में पेयजल की समस्या दूर करने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने 15 अगस्त, 2019 को जल जीवन मिशन (जेजेएम) की शुरुआत की। इसका उद्देश्य 2024 तक हर घर जल आपूर्ति का लक्ष्य है। यह महिलाओं को पानी का

भारी बोझ ढोने के सदियों पुराने कष्ट से मुक्त कराने का ठोस प्रयास है। जल शक्ति मंत्रालय की 2021-22 की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 2019 में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लगभग 15.93 करोड़ परिवारों में से 3.23 करोड़ (17 प्रतिशत) के पास ही नल जल कनेक्शन थे। योजना के मुताबिक, 2024 तक 83 प्रतिशत ग्रामीण परिवारों को नल जल आपूर्ति का लक्ष्य है। जल जीवन मिशन 2024 तक सभी ग्रामीण घरों में नल जल की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित कर 6 साल पहले भारत के एसटीडी-6 लक्ष्य पा ले तो भारत विकासशील देशों के लिए आदर्श बन सकता है।

बारिश के पानी को विभिन्न स्रोतों और तरीकों से सुरक्षित और संकलित करना वर्षा जल संचयन कहलाता है ताकि जरूरत पड़ने पर संचित वर्षा जल का उपयोग किया जा सके। भारत में आधुनिकीकरण के चलते गांव शहर में बदल रहे हैं, जनसंख्या बढ़ रही है। जल संचयन की सदियों पुरानी प्रवृत्तियां गुल हो गई हैं। भारत के प्राचीन जल संचयन पर दृष्टिपात करें तो भारत में करीब 200 साल पहले लाखों तालाब, कुएं, बावड़ियां, झरने, झील, पोखर आदि हुआ करते थे। भारतीय संस्कृति जल संसाधनों को पूजने वाली रही है। जल संचयन के सदियों से चले आ रहे पारंपरिक तरीकों से पेयजल और कृषि कार्यों के लिए पानी का उपयोग किया जाता था। भूजल रिचार्ज हमारे इकोसिस्टम में था जो आज हमारी लापरवाहियों के कारण नदारद हो गया है, जबकि अन्य देश भारत के जल संसाधन सहेजने के पुराने तरीके अपना कर पेयजल की समस्या से निजात पा रहे हैं। सर्वाधिक वर्षा के लिए चेरापूँजी मशहूर है। इसके बावजूद इलाका पानी के लिए तरस रहा है। चेरापूँजी में पानी की दिक्कत को सुलझाने के तरीके समझ में नहीं आ रहे या आ भी रहे हैं, तो सफल नहीं हो रहे। बाकी इलाकों की समस्या सुलझाने की तो बस, कल्पना ही की जा सकती है। कमोबेश पानी की समस्या सभी जगह है। पानी सहेजने और बचाने के तरीकों का पालन नहीं किया जाएगा तो पानी के लिए तरसेंगे नहीं, तिल-तिल मर जाएंगे। पानी को सहेजना प्रत्येक भारतवासी का कर्तव्य है।