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The Hindu - 25- January-2024

Providing clean water to all

In the hilly village of Kyarkuli Bhatta in Uttarakhand, there is no mass migration anymore. The tribal hamlet of Kusumdihi in Jharkhand has seen a reduction in human-animal conflicts. And in Chandpur village in Maharashtra, weddings are being celebrated with pomp and show again. This is because there is tap water in all these regions, provided by the Jal Jeevan Mission. Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019, the Jal Jeevan Mission has already provided tap water to 73% of rural households. This means that more than 14 crore rural households have tap connections compared to only 3.23 crore in August 2019. Through the Mission, guided by the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas', India is rapidly advancing towards the realisation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation for all).

We embarked on this journey with the objective of providing piped water in adequate quantities and of prescribed quality on a regular and long-term basis to every rural household in India. We wanted to ensure that no one had to face water scarcity and its consequences on health, hygiene, and well-being. At the national level, we focused on strengthening infrastructure, which was a big challenge because of the diverse terrains and geographical differences in India. We brought together communities, development partners, and NGOs.

Benefits of the scheme

We realised that there cannot be a one-size-fits-all arrangement. Every region has different needs. But with the core theme of 'no one is left behind,' the Jal Jeevan Mission dealt with different kinds of challenges. Insulated pipes were used in hilly and cold regions. In villages with water quality issues, multi-village schemes through bulk water transfer were planned. Community water purification



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

is Union Minister of Jal Shakti Mission

At the heart of the Jal Jeevan Mission lies a commitment to strengthening the socio-economic fabric of rural communities

plants were provided to meet drinking and cooking water needs for the short term.

The growth story of the Jal Jeevan Mission is not confined to data; changes can be seen on the ground. Its impact has extended beyond the provision of clean water; it encompasses a broader commitment to the safety, health, and environment of rural communities.

Various studies have been conducted on the Jal Jeevan Mission, its implementation, and impact. Nobel Laureate Dr. Michael Kremer's study states that providing safe water can reduce infant deaths by almost 30%, with the potential to prevent 25% of under-five deaths in India (1,36,000 child deaths annually). A study conducted in the financial year 2023-24 by the World Health Organization states that 4 lakh diarrhoeal deaths can be averted if tap water is provided in every household. The Jal Jeevan Mission can lead to economic savings of up to \$101 billion or ₹8.37 lakh crore.

At the heart of the Jal Jeevan Mission lies a commitment to strengthening the socio-economic fabric of rural communities. It recognises the fact that true development is not just about infrastructure; it is about bringing in a sense of community. The active involvement of women in decision-making processes, the empowerment of the youth through skill development, and the creation of local water enterprises are not isolated initiatives but systematic steps strengthening communities. The Nal Jal Mitra initiative, for instance, is a specialised programme which equips villagers with a comprehensive set of skills so that they are able to carry out minor repairs and maintenance of the piped water supply scheme in their village. Over 5.29 lakh village water and sanitation committees/ Pani Samitis have been constituted under the Jal Jeevan Mission and 5.17 lakh village action plans have been developed. About 22.98 lakh women have been trained for

testing water samples using field testing kits.

A recent study, 'Assessment of Employment Potential of Jal Jeevan Mission', states that the Mission's employment generation potential during the construction phase is on average 59.93 lakh person-years of direct employment and 2.22 crore person-years of indirect employment and 11.18 lakh person-years of additional direct employment annually during the operation and maintenance stage.

Transparency and efficiency

The Jal Jeevan Mission has a dashboard that gives real-time updates, progress reports, and so on, ensuring transparency and efficiency in water resource management. It also ensures continuous monitoring and surveillance of water quality parameters through advanced technologies. The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation maintains a proactive Water Quality Management Information System. This helps detect contamination or deterioration in water quality, thereby enabling prompt corrective action and grievance redress.

As of now, there are 2,113 labs in India. Water quality testing labs of States/Union Territories are now open to the public for testing water samples at nominal rates. In 2023-24, more than 46.62 lakh water samples have been tested in laboratories which are digitised in the Water Quality Management Information System.

With the Jal Jeevan Mission, we have crossed new milestones and delivered water to millions across India. Our road map for the future is to create a situation where water scarcity is a thing of the past and no rural household suffers the lack of this elixir of life. We are also engaging our people to take care of the water assets that have been created. We are on the right track to achieve our drinking water targets. Resources are in place to implement our objectives. The outlook for the year is positive.

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Karnataka govt. will complete Mekedatu project: Deputy CM

Revenue officials will hand over land to those affected by the proposed reservoir, says Shivakumar and hits out at BJP MPs from State for failing to get permission for the project from the Centre

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Wednesday that the Mekedatu project would materialise during the present term of the Congress.

The balancing reservoir project on the Cauvery, mooted to meet the drinking water requirements of Bengaluru – besides impounding water to meet Tamil Nadu's requirements – has been opposed by the lower riparian State.

Mr. Shivakumar was speaking after inaugurating a project at Mutthinamulasoge to replenish 150



Divided States: The Cauvery flowing through Mekedatu in Ramanagara district of Karnataka. K. MURALI KUMAR

lakes of 79 villages in Periyapatna taluk.

Mr. Shivakumar said that revenue officials of Mandya, Chamarajanagar, Mysuru, and Bengaluru Rural districts had been in-

structed to hand over land to those who would lose their land to Mekedatu project. Forest Department officials would start a tree census, and revenue land would be transferred

to the department in lieu of submergence of forests, he added.

Mr. Shivakumar had taken out a padayatra a few years ago to drum up support for the project.

He drew flak from JD(U) leader and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, who referred to the padayatra and wondered what happened to it. In response, Mr. Shivakumar asked whether Mr. Gowda who "is close to the Prime Minister" would get the Centre's approval for it.

He also hit out at the BJP MPs of the State for their failure to secure permission for the project from the Centre.

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Millennium Post - 25- January-2024

'SEVERE COLD DAYS TO PREVAIL'

IMD predicts dense fog in north India, snowfall in western Himalayan region

NEW DELHI: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a winter weather advisory for North India, predicting chilly days, dense fog, and light snowfall over the coming days.

IMD announced that due to the influence of two weak western disturbances, there is a likelihood of light isolated rainfall/snowfall in the Western Himalayan region from Thursday (January 25) to January 30.

The IMD added that dense to very dense fog conditions are expected to persist over North India for the next five days. Meanwhile, cold day to severe cold day conditions will prevail over North India for the next two days and then gradually decrease in intensity.

In its daily bulletin, the



weather forecast agency reported that minimum temperatures range from 3-6 degrees Celsius in most parts of Punjab, isolated pockets of north Haryana, and northwest Uttar Pradesh. In addition, temperatures range from 7-10 degrees Celsius over many areas of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh,

Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, and Bihar.

"These temperatures are below normal by 2-4 degrees Celsius in many parts of Punjab, north Haryana, some parts of Madhya Pradesh, East Uttar Pradesh, and isolated pockets of Rajasthan and Bihar. Today, the lowest minimum temperature of 3.4

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degrees Celsius was reported at Ambala (Haryana)," stated the IMD.

The IMD forecasted that dense to very dense fog conditions are highly likely to persist for a few hours in the night/morning over some/much parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, and Uttar Pradesh from Wednesday

night to Sunday morning.

"Dense to very dense fog conditions are also expected to persist for a few hours in the night/morning in some parts of Bihar until Sunday," added the IMD.

"Cold wave to severe cold wave conditions are very likely in isolated pockets of Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh on Wednesday and cold wave conditions in isolated pockets for the subsequent two days," reported the IMD. The IMD also noted that cold wave to severe cold wave conditions are very likely in isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday.

"Ground frost conditions are very likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on Wednesday and Thursday," concluded the IMD.

AGENCIES

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Telangana Today - 25- January-2024

Water from Ranganayaka Sagar released for Yasangi

STATE BUREAU

Siddipet

Forests and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha released water from both left and right canals of Ranganayaka Sagar to meet the irrigation needs of Yasangi in Siddipet district.

Irrigation officials will impound 246 tanks under both the canals. Against the total targeted ayacut of 1.10 lakh acres under both canals, water will reach 42,000 acres. The progress of the distributor canals under both canals is under progress now.

As the farmers had demanded the release of water from the reservoir, former Minister T Harish Rao had requested Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy to release water. The Irriga-



Endowments Minister Konda Surekha releasing water from Ranganayaka Sagar in Siddipet district on Wednesday.

tion officials pumped in 1 TMCft of water from Anantha Sagar reservoir by alternating operating the pumps for three consecutive days before releasing the water for irrigation purposes from Ranganayaka Sagar.

The reservoir had 2.4 TMCft against its full capacity of 3 TMCft. Collector Prasanth Jeevan Patil, Commissioner of Police Dr B Anuradha, Engineer-in-Chief Hariram, and others were present.

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Deccan Chronicle - 25- January-2024

Release water from Mettur dam soon: Farmers

G. SRINIVASAN I DC

THANJAVUR, JAN. 24

Water should be released immediately from Mettur dam to save the standing Thaladi crop in Thanjavur district and to ensure drinking water during summer, said farmers of the district here on Wednesday while participating in the monthly farmers grievances day meeting at the collectorate. The farmers said the standing crop needed wetting twice.

They said that though Samba harvest has started, adequate direct purchase centres have not yet been opened. Required number of DPCs should be opened and paddy purchased without any malpractice, they said. They wanted relief to be paid to farmers in Budalur area irrigated by Uyyakondan extension and Kattalai Kalvai canals as they could not take up cultivation this year due to paucity of water. Deepak Jacob, Thanjavur collector, presided over the meeting.