

Telangana Today- 22- February-2024

# Erratic power cuts worry TS farmers

**Outages, which mostly occur in the evening, stretch to 4-5 hours**

S SANDEEP KUMAR

SIDDIPET

Is round-the-clock power supply for farmers slowly becoming a thing of the past in Telangana?

Farmers in different districts across the State are complaining that even during the crucial Yasangi season, erratic power supply is becoming a major concern for them. In many areas, the power supply is disrupted mostly in the evening, with power cuts stretching to four-five hours.

Along with fears of water shortage for irrigation and now power cuts, farmers say they have another major fear that could materialise in the coming days — escalating input costs, which have been aggravated due to pest attacks.

Take the case of farmers in Nagaram, Pothireddypet and the neighbouring villages in Dubbak mandal, Siddipet. They say power cuts ranging from four-five hours in the evening and escalating input costs are threatening to push them



(Above) A parched paddy field in Siddipet. It has been just over a month since paddy transplantation, and with another 60-80 days left for harvest, there are apprehensions over the impact of power cuts.

into a debt trap this year.

"There is no stipulated schedule for the power supply disruption. The power cuts usually begin at 5 pm and can continue till 10 pm or 11 pm. The next day, it could be from 6 pm to mid-

night," says Tirupati Goud, a farmer in Nagaram village.

Interestingly, the power cuts are affecting only the agricultural sector, with no such complaints from the domestic sector. On the other hand, the farmers are

anxious about the yield this Yasangi season. It has been just over a month since paddy transplantation, and with another 60-80 days left for harvest, there are apprehensions over the impact of the erratic cuts. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Erratic power cuts worry TS farmers

Farmers like Tirupati Goud and his brother Krishnaiah Goud have been cultivating paddy in their fields in the village for long. "For the first time, we are worried. There are extensive pest attacks and are forced to spray chemicals multiple times, resulting in increased input costs," says Krishnaiah, showing dry fields with cracked earth in some parts due to improper irrigation.

A Chinna Dubba Reddy, another farmer in the village, says he invested nearly Rs 90,000 in his three-acre-paddy field. "I have to repay loans. If the crop fails, I will have to work as a watchman in Hyderabad to meet both ends meet," he says as he shows the pest-infested transplants.

Another farmer, Srinivas Reddy, says traders in Bhoompally were demanding extra payment for fertilizer and urea. Till a few days ago, they were demanding Rs 265 for a bag of urea and now they were charging Rs 280-300, he says, adding that there was no proper communication from agriculture officers either on the issue.

Considering the current status of the fields, many farmers are losing

hope this season. "Forget about the harvest or any profit. It will be an achievement if we recover the investment," says Vinodha, a farmer.

The situation is similar in neighbouring Pothireddypet village. Unmindful of the scorching heat, Srikanth is tilling a portion of his 12 acres in the village for paddy transplantations for the second time this season. "I have no choice. The pest attack has been severe. It has been over a month and not a single agricultural officer has inspected our fields," he says.

In Suryapet, farmers were forced to stage protests on paddy fields after the paddy crop started withering due to lack of water. The situation there turned worse after the State government declared a crop holiday for the Yasangi season to areas in the ayacut under the left canal of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project, citing a shortage of water in the project.

Farmers, depending on borewells, had taken up cultivation of paddy at Kalmalapally, but with borewells drying up fast, the paddy crop has started to wither.



The Times of India- 22- February-2024

# Durgam Cheruvu represents new Hyderabad: HC

## Panel Report Highlights Lake Pollution

SagarKumar.Mutha  
@timesgroup.com

**Hyderabad:** Telangana high court on Wednesday gave one week to the state, asking to explain the steps taken to preserve the iconic Durgam Cheruvu. The HC, which converted a TOI report into a PIL, had appointed a committee.

Headed by Dr Atul Narayan Vaidya, a water expert currently heading the Nagpur-based National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), the committee also had state irrigation department's principal secretary and HC legal services committee secretary M Shanthi Vardhani as members to find out the root causes for the lake's decay and suggest ways to restore it to its natural status.

Accordingly, the committee visited the lake, its vicinity, studied the issue and furnished its report in a sealed cover to the court and the bench glanced at it on Wednesday.

The bench said that the report highlighted the huge quantum of sewage being released into Durgam Cheruvu as well as another water body downstream, Malkam Cheruvu. Added to this were encroachment of the lake area and construction of huge structures, the bench said citing excerpts from experts' report.

"We will deal with the encroachments soon," the bench observed. According to the report, there are 78 buildings in FTL area of lake and 146 structures in the buffer zone area.

### HMDA washed its hands off

"There has been a huge failure on the part of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) which has washed its hands off by publishing a preliminary notification 10 years ago stating that the lake area was spread over 160.6 acres. The final notification has not yet been given. In the meantime, the

re were encroachments and the civic bodies have been providing all amenities to those areas," the bench said.

The bench reminded everyone that the new Hyderabad was today represented by Durgam Cheruvu and the cable

bridge running across it.

2 STPs not sufficient

Referring to the report, the bench pointed out that the two Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) set up by the water board were not sufficient to deal

## SAVING LAKE NOT OPTIONAL, SAYS HC

Measures for restoration of Durgam Cheruvu suggested by court-appointed committee

### SHORT-TERM

- Check authorised/unauthorised developments around lake
- Prevent pollution, from point and nonpoint sources, from entering
- Regularly monitor quality of STP treated water, & storm water drains
- Desilt regularly

- Organise fishing in proper manner; monitor fishing techniques; impose strict fine for violations
- Install silt traps at all inlets irrespective whether water flows during monsoon or not

- Monitor lake, sediment quality at the end of every monsoon season, take up cleaning (by GHMC)
- Ensure water from Ganesh immersion pond does not enter
- Ensure excess sewage does not enter lake during monsoon
- Install signboards asking people to not dump garbage
- Regular STP maintenance

### LONG-TERM

- **Survey of lake:** Fresh survey by revenue, irrigation, and public works departments. Survey should include details of inlet, their flow, storm water drain, runoff from mountain, boundary of lakes, water filled area, outlet, survey number of villages. A 30-m buffer zone for lake & 15m for drains be demarcated. Map should be made public

### Baseline Monitoring:

- **Diagnostic Study:** Intensive water quality monitoring over the course of a year, to identify specific quality problems
- **Watershed Assessment:** Evaluation of watershed features, such as land uses and soil types, be conducted to identify active or potential sources of pollution

### Waste management:

- Stop solid & semi-solid wastes from external sources. Install well-designed, strategically located waste bins. Regularly collect waste, hold clean-up events involving local bodies & communities



- **Sewage Management:** Take extensive measures to control inflow of untreated sewage. Tertiary treatment of STPs be installed. Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) of treated water from STP ranged from 12.4 to 19.2 mg/l, which is let out into the lake. To maintain BOD below 5 mg/l, a tertiary treatment system along with disinfection in STPs be installed

- **Dredging and desilting:** Depending on feasibility & affordability

- **Silt traps/screens:** To be constructed across existing inlets to stop entry of floating debris and fresh sediments/silt

- **Buffer zones & green belts:** Establish clearly demarcated wbuffer zones for public. Scientifically designed green belts around lakew

with the 30 MLD of sewage, mainly coming from Madhapur area. These two STPs together were able to treat 12 MLD of sewage and the remaining untreated sewage was let out into Durgam Cheruvu via a drain and also into the downstream Malkam Cheruvu. The report also revealed that there was no STP in the downstream of Durgam Cheruvu before Malkam Cheruvu.

### Heavy metal presence

The water showed presence of coliform bacteria and heavy metals such as iron, manganese, nickel and zinc as well as metalloids such as arsenic and boron. The work to lay pipes along the periphery of Durgam Cheruvu to divert sewage water was yet to be completed by the water board, the report said.

The bench appreciated the thorough scientific study done by the committee which also suggested several measures, short term and long term, to restore the lake to its original glory. The bench directed the state counsels to revert to the court by Feb 28 with govt plan for protecting the lake.

Before adjourning the matter for a week, the bench asked the state's advocates not to treat this case as any other litigation. "We are doing it for posterity. Do not defend incompetent officers. Be straight," Justice Alok Aradhe said.

The Times of India- 22- February-2024

## Praise for Nariman, who argued state's case on Cauvery

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** The govt is likely to build a memorial for eminent lawyer and jurist Fali S Nariman, who passed away on Wednesday, in recognition of his service to Karnataka. Nariman had represented the state in almost all cases related to river water disputes in the Supreme Court.

While the legislative assembly paid rich tributes to the jurist, law and parliamentary affairs minister HK Patil, who once handled the water resources portfolio, suggested that an irrigation canal should be named after him. The move is not unprecedented. The left bank canal of Malaprabha is named after GS Balekundri, the late former irrigation secretary, and a Cauvery canal after Sir M Visveswaraya.

"Nariman's service to Karnataka is invaluable," said Patil. "It would be better if we name a canal after him instead of building an edifice or naming a building after him," said Patil.

Senior legislators remembered Nariman for his erudition in jurisprudence, sincerity and simplicity. Former water resources minister MB Patil, now industries minister, remembered how Nariman's effective argument ensured a substantial share of drinking water for Bengaluru city in the Cauvery water dispute.

"Nariman's argument ensured 4.7 tmcft for Bengaluru city in the final judgement of the Cauvery water dispute," said MB Patil. "We had to release 192 tmcft. Because of Nariman's arguments, it was reduced to 177.5 tmcft. While Tamil Nadu argued that two-thirds of Bengaluru is not in the Cauvery basin and hence was ineligible to get water, Nariman brought the Telugu Ganga project to the notice of the bench and the fact that Chennai was getting Krishna water despite not being in the river basin."

Former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, who served as water resources minister, and CM Siddaramaiah's legal advisor AS Ponnanna were among others who condoled Nariman's passing.



The Hindu- 22- February-2024

# City reels under water scarcity

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KOCHI

Kochi city is reeling under drinking water shortage even as the summer climate has set in. The drinking water scarcity is likely to escalate during the next two months when the mercury level goes up, fear those at the Kerala Water Authority (KWA), the State agency which manages the water supply.

## Water consumption

Though there has not been any significant drop in the production of drinking water at present, the consumption of potable water has gone up by around 10% in the city. The water consumption pattern changes during the summer months as people depend more on KWA water due to



**Residents' plight:** A banner depicting drinking water scarcity, at Vennala in the city on Wednesday. THULASI KAKKAT

drying up of wells, according to KWA sources.

The agency produces around 300 Million Litres a Day (MLD) from the Aluva pump house at its overloaded capacity. The water produced from the plant is being distributed to Kochi Corporation, four municipi-

palities and eight panchayats. There is a shortage of around 40 MLD in the supply to the city area, according to KWA officials. Water scarcity has been reported from parts of Edappally, Kaloor, Deshabhimani, K.P. Vallon Road, Vennala, Pachalam, Va-

duthala and Cheranalloor areas and the scarcity is likely to increase during the peak summer months, they said.

## Disruption in supply

The disruption in the supply due to pipe bursts when various government and private departments are allowed to carry out road cutting and trenching works adds to the woes of the agency. The national highway widening project has presented enough trouble to the KWA these months as supply pipelines have been broken in a few places during widening works.

It may take days for the supply to be resumed in some tail-end areas, which would add to the water scarcity in some cases, they said.



The Economic Times- 22- February-2024

# Reimagining industry: The future of EPC, water and automation at ChemTECH

**A**longside the main event, ChemTECH will host knowledge-sharing sessions aimed at actively involving industry stakeholders focusing on EPC, water, industrial automation and pumps, valves and fittings to engage these niche industry communities.

India is currently undergoing a significant energy transition, marked by a pivot towards renewable energy sources and sustainable practices. In response to this shift, EPC companies must adapt by enhancing their capabilities in renewable energy projects, energy efficiency solutions and green technologies. However, the EPC industry is currently grappling with various challenges, including project delays, cost overruns and quality issues. A one-and-a-half-day EPC conference titled "Roadmap to EPC Leadership - A Paradigm Shift" has been meticulously curated, which aims to bring together owners, service providers and project management professionals to deliberate upon key issues hindering the progress of the EPC industry, which in turn impacts industrial development and economic growth. During the conference, experts will engage in knowledge-sharing sessions to exchange views on transformation initiatives aimed at streamlining processes and improving project delivery efficiency. Experts will discuss AI's transformative potential in EPC project management, managing cybersecurity risks, and the need for supportive policies to drive sector growth. By fostering dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders,



(L to R): Jasu Shah, founder chairman, Jasubhai Group and ChemTECH foundation; SS Dhindsa, Union Minister, Chemicals and Fertilizers; Ram Naik, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Mukesh Ambani, chairman, Reliance Group inaugurating ChemTECH World Expo 2003. Inset: Mukesh Ambani presenting the keynote address



(L to R) Dr Raman Ramachandran, CMD, BASF India; Martin Laudenbach, president, Solvay Group Asia; Heinz Haller, executive vice president, Dow Chemical Company and president of Dow Europe, Middle East, Africa and India; Maulik Jasubhai, chairman and chief executive, Jasubhai Group and ChemTECH Foundation; Surjit Chaudhary, secretary, department of C&PC, MoC&F; Vipul Shah, COO, petrochemicals, Reliance Industries Ltd; B Narayan, group president (procurement and projects), Reliance Industries Ltd and AK Purwaha, CMD, Engineers India Ltd inaugurating ChemTECH World Expo 2015

the conference seeks to chart a course towards EPC leadership and drive sustainable growth in the industry.

Industry automation, pumps valves and fittings' conference "Furthering Net Zero" emphasises on the crucial role of digitalisation and automation in advancing progress and efficiency across the industrial landscape. The sessions are meticulously crafted to delve deeply into both end-user and vendor perspectives on topics such as digital and engineering twins, process optimisation, open process automation, innovations, cybersecurity, smart manufacturing and remote monitoring. These

discussions underscore the significance of leveraging digital technologies, embracing innovation, ensuring cybersecurity, and implementing smart manufacturing practices to optimise processes, enhance efficiency, and foster sustainable growth within the industry.

India grapples with water scarcity challenges exacerbated by population growth, urbanisation, and industrial expansion. This surge in urbanisation and industrialisation raises concerns about waste generation and its environmental impact. Fortunately, rapid technological advancements offer



(L to R) AB Pandya, chairman, Central Water Commission; Mahesh Gupta, founder chairman, Kent RO Ltd and Prof. Sanwar Lal Jat, Minister of State for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation inaugurating WaterEX World Expo 2015

promising avenues for enhancing water treatment processes, improving efficiency and lowering costs. Moreover, the emergence of contaminants like pharmaceuticals, pesticides and microplastics presents new hurdles to water quality and public health. Addressing these issues within the Indian context is paramount for bolstering water security, fostering environmental sustainability, and driving socio-economic progress. Industry experts will provide insights and discuss the way forward during the one day conference on "Water: Securing Sustainable Life & Economic Development"

Maulik Jasubhai, chairman and chief executive of Jasubhai Group and ChemTECH Foundation, expresses, "The interconnection of engineering, procurement and construction (EPC), industrial automation and water is essential for fostering sustainable industrial progress and driving the energy transition. Participants will understand the complex relationships among these sectors and gain insights from experts on the global trends and catalysts for positive transformations."

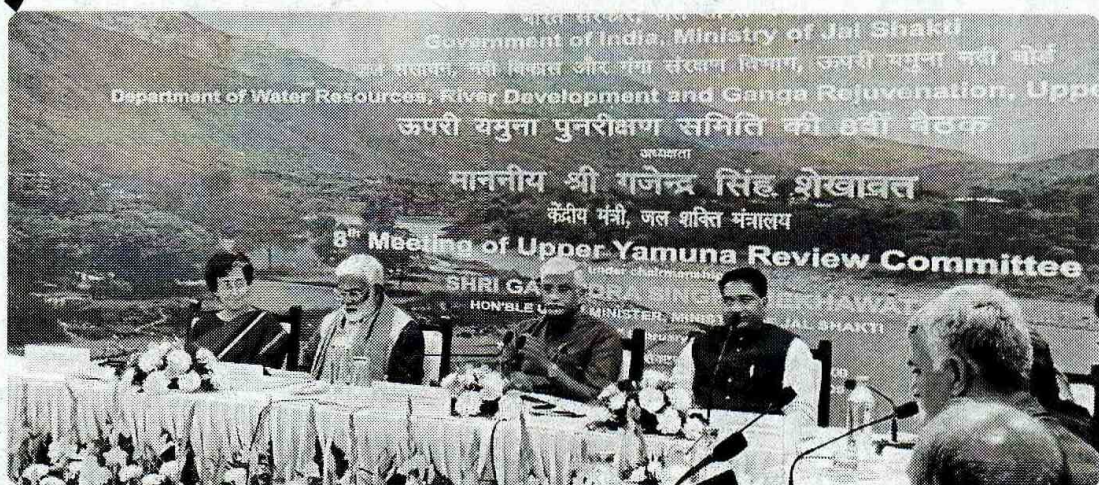


Rajasthan Patrika- 22- February-2024

# नोएडा के यमुना भवन में ऊपरी यमुना समीक्षा समिति की बैठक यमुना के पानी के सदुपयोग के लिए मिलकर करेंगे काम

राजस्थान, यूपी,  
हरियाणा व दिल्ली के  
मंत्रियों और अफसरों ने  
लिया भाग

पत्रिका ब्यूरो  
patrika.com



नई दिल्ली. यमुना नदी के पानी के सदुपयोग और स्वच्छता किए राजस्थान, उत्तर प्रदेश, हरियाणा और दिल्ली की सरकारें मिलकर काम करेंगी। केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत की अध्यक्षता में नोएडा के यमुना भवन में बुधवार को ऊपरी यमुना समीक्षा समिति की बैठक में इस पर सहमति बनी।

इस महत्वपूर्ण बैठक में राजस्थान के जल संसाधन मंत्री सुरेश सिंह रावत और राज्य के मुख्य सचिव सुधांशु पंत में हिस्सा लिया। बैठक के बाद मंत्री सुरेश सिंह रावत

ने बताया कि ऊपरी यमुना समीक्षा समिति की बैठक में राजस्थान, हरियाणा दिल्ली और उत्तर प्रदेश के हिस्से में आने वाले यमुना नदी के पानी से संबंधित विषयों पर विस्तार से चर्चा की गई। इस बैठक में चारों राज्यों के मंत्रियों और अधिकारियों के बीच केंद्रीय मंत्री की अध्यक्षता में सकारात्मक चर्चा हुई। उन्होंने बताया कि चूंकि अब जल्द ही गर्मी

का सीजन आने वाला है इसलिए नदी जल संसाधनों के किफायती उपयोग के लिए चारों राज्यों को तालमेल के साथ काम करना जरूरी है। इसलिए इस समीक्षा बैठक में सभी हिस्सेदारों ने इस पक्ष पर जोर दिया कि यमुना नदी के पानी का उपयोग और उसकी स्वच्छता पर सभी को मिलकर काम करने की आवश्यकता है। रावत ने बताया कि

अभी कुछ दिन पहले ही यमुना नदी के ताजे वाला हैड से राजस्थान को मिलने वाले पानी को लेकर हरियाणा के साथ जो समझौता हुआ है उससे राजस्थान के कई जिलों को जल्द ही पेयजल की समुचित उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित हो सकेगी। इस अवसर पर केंद्रीय मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत ने नोएडा में नव निर्मित यमुना भवन का भी उद्घाटन भी किया।



Rashtriya Sahara- 22- February-2024

# हर घर जल योजना में प. बंगाल व राजस्थान सबसे पीछे

## ■ संजय टुटेजा

नई दिल्ली। एसएनबी

देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में प्रत्येक घर तक नल से जल उपलब्ध कराने के लिये शुरू की गई हर घर जल योजना में पश्चिम बंगाल तथा राजस्थान देश में सबसे पीछे हैं। इस योजना के तहत देश के लगभग 75 प्रतिशत ग्रामीण घरों तक नल से जल पहुंचने लगा है। हर घर जल योजना के तहत 14,360,4162 घरों में पानी कनेक्शन दिया गया है। देश में 10 राज्य ऐसे हो गये हैं जहां शतप्रतिशत घरों में नल से जल पहुंच रहा है।

देश में पेयजल की समस्या से जूझ रहे ग्रामीण परिवारों को उनके घर तक नल से जल पहुंचाने के लिये प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने वर्ष 2019 में दूसरी बार सत्ता में आने के बाद जल जीवन मिशन का एलान

■ 10 राज्यों में शत प्रतिशत घरों में पहुंच रहा है नल से जल

■ देश के 75 प्रतिशत ग्रामीण घरों तक नल से पहुंचा जल



किया था। वर्ष 2019 में देश में मात्र 16.79 प्रतिशत घरों में ही पानी के कनेक्शन थे। उस दौरान देश में ग्रामीण आवासों की संख्या कुल 19,27,58,570 थी जिनमें से मात्र 3,23,62,838 घरों में ही पानी का कनेक्शन था लेकिन पिछले पांच वर्ष से भी कम समय में यह संख्या बढ़कर 14,36,04,162 हो गई है। यह

योजना जब शुरू हुई तो ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में कुल 16,03,95,732 घर ऐसे थे जहां पानी का कनेक्शन नहीं था और इन लोगों को पेयजल के लिये मीलों दूर चलकर जाना पड़ता था। इन परिवारों में से पिछले पांच वर्ष से भी कम समय में 11,21,41,324 घरों में नल से जल पहुंच गया है और प्रतिदिन पानी की आपूर्ति भी हो रही है।

राजस्थान व पश्चिम बंगाल देश में ऐसे दो राज्य हैं जो हर घर जल योजना में देश भर में सबसे पीछे हैं। राजस्थान में मात्र 46.45 प्रतिशत ग्रामीण परिवारों में नल से जल पहुंचा है जबकि पश्चिम बंगाल में मात्र 43.71 प्रतिशत ग्रामीण परिवारों तक नल से जल पहुंचा है।