

I/164499/2024

Deccan Chronicle- 28- February-2024

# Yet another river water sharing dispute erupts

**G. BABU JAYAKUMAR &  
D. SEKAR | DC**  
CHENNAI, FEB. 27

A new river water sharing dispute between Tamil Nadu and a neighbouring state has reared its head now with Andhra Pradesh government making a budgetary allocation for the construction of a check dam across River Palar in the that state's Kuppam Assembly constituency and state water resources minister Duraimurugan pointing out that the dam construction would amount to contempt of court.

Though the controversy erupted a few days after it was reported that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy would be laying the foundation for the check dam and the PMK raising the issue by wondering if Tamil Nadu had given up its rights and farmers in the Palar river basin objecting to the move, the State government's stand was made known on Tuesday through Duraimurugan's

statement.

The minister made it clear that Palar was an inter-state river and an upstream state should not obstruct, divert or store its water without the permission of the downstream state, according to the 1892 agreement between the Madras Presidency and Mysore princely state.

That agreement had been validated by the Supreme Court in its order dated February 16, 2018, on a petition on the Cauvery River water dispute, he said, quoting the verdict: 'The two Agreements of 1892 and 1924 had neither any political arrangement nor touched any facet of sovereignty of India. Per contra, the Agreements cover the areas of larger public interests which do not have any political element and in this backdrop, the agreements are neither inoperative nor completely extinct.'

So, it would be a wrong move on the part of Andhra Pradesh to build the dam in violation of the 1892 agree-

ment, he said. Earlier, in 2006, when a bid was made to construct a check dam at Ganeshapuram in Kuppam constituency during the tenure of Chandrababu Naidu as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, the State government had approached the Supreme Court.

That case, along with another petition objecting to the raising of the heights of 22 other check dams across Palar, were still pending in the Supreme Court and at that time it was not appropriate for the Andhra Pradesh government to build another dam, which would also amount to contempt of court, he said.

If the new check dam was constructed, reportedly at Shantipuram in Kuppam constituency at a cost of Rs 215 crore, it would be the 23rd check dam across River Palar and would turn the area irrigated by the inter-State river in Tamil Nadu into a desert, farmers claim.

Even now, due to the raising of the height of existing

check dams in Andhra Pradesh, water flow into Tamil Nadu happened only when river Palar was in spate during floods, pointed out the farmers, adding that the new dam would only spell disaster for the farmers depending on Palar water for irrigation.

It is said that about 4.5 lakh hectares of agricultural land in the northern districts of Tamil Nadu was dependent on Palar river water, whose flow is even otherwise erratic, and those tracts of land would fully dry up if yet another check dam comes up.

Tamil Nadu has been having running feuds with Karnataka over the sharing of Cauvery water, which has now turned acute with the proposal to build a dam across the river at Mekedatu, and with Kerala over the Mullaiperiyar river water sharing for a long time. Now the Palar had only been added to the list of river water disputes with neighbouring states.

Telangana Today- 28- February-2024

# 'Request Karnataka govt to release water'

STATE BUREAU

Nalgonda

Telangana State Legislative Council chairman Gutha Sukender Reddy on Tuesday advised the State government to request the Congress government in Karnataka to release 15 to 20 tmc of water from the Almatti and Narayanapur dams downstream to save the drying crops in Telangana.

Speaking to the media here, Sukender Reddy said the State government had declared a crop holiday for the ayacut of the left canal

of Nagarjuna Sagar Project (NSP) for the Yasangi crop season due to the drastic dip in water levels in the project. The farmers, who had ensured that the erstwhile Nalgonda district stood top in paddy production in the State for the last two years, were now struggling to save their crops due to a lack of irrigation facilities and a dip in groundwater levels too.

Pointing out that the cultivation area had come down to half of the normal cultivation area in the district, he said farmers were depending on borewells and open wells.



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Times of India- 28- February-2024

# Too Many Cooks: How Multiple Agencies Are Proving To Be A Drain On Resources

**WATERLOGGING WOES:** Lack Of Accountability, Jurisdiction Issues Mar Monsoon Preparedness

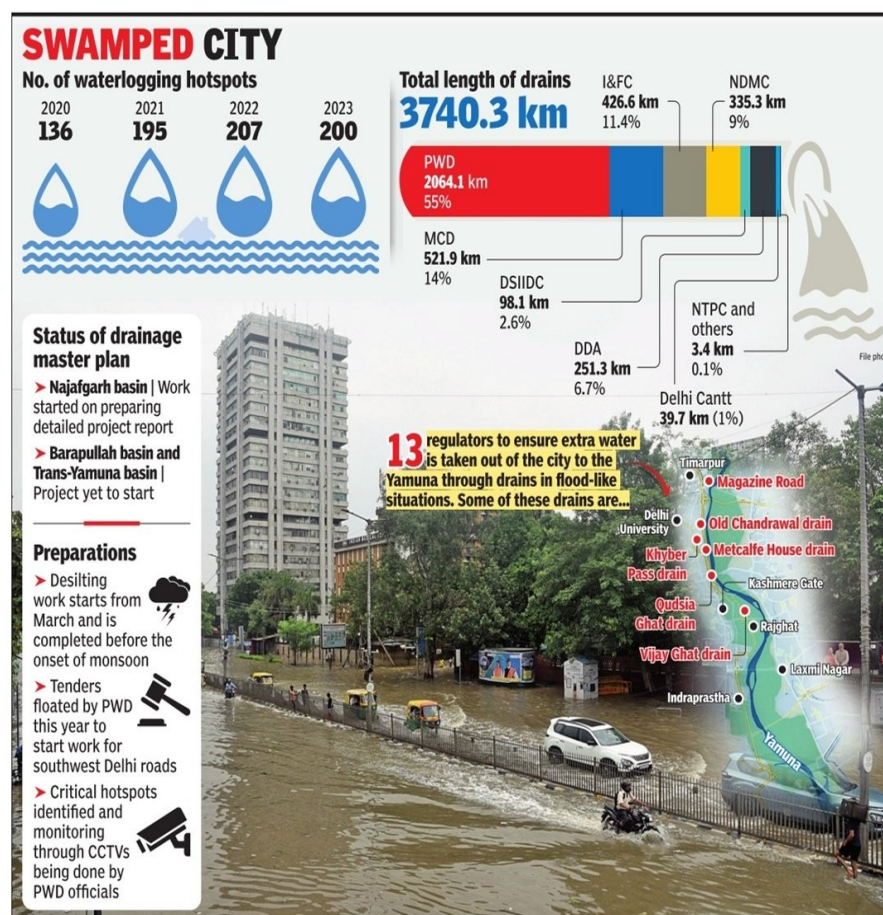
Siddhanta.Mishra  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has suggested that only a single agency manage the city's stormwater drains. The court clearly does not think multiple agencies are an efficient way to handle the issue, they, in fact, creating more problems than they solve.

This is not the first time that multiple agencies have been considered a hindrance to managing floods in Delhi. In 2018, the drainage master plan prepared by IIT Delhi had identified the presence of multiple agencies as a major problem. As a remedial measure, an inter-departmental coordination committee had been formed with the PWD secretary as chairman. This committee was to manage 13 govt departments and agencies involved with the drainage system though some such as DUSIB and NHAI are not directly linked with drain management. PWD has its own flood control room as does the Delhi Disaster Management Authority.

PWD is still to start implementing its drainage master plan. Usually, the approach of the public engineering body is to identify waterlogging hotspots and take preventive steps. However, it doesn't have an overall drainage vision for the city. IIT-D's drainage master plan determined that rapid, unplanned urbanisation, shallow groundwater level and low elevation were major reasons that caused the waterlogging problems of the capital.

The master plan says, "Some of the drains are managed by multiple departments/



sub-divisions within departments. Extra care is required in such cases because if desilting is not carried out in proper coordination (there is gap in schedule of departments/sub-division or one portion is

not desilted), effectiveness of the work carried out reduces significantly."

Delhi govt termed IIT-D's plan as "generic in nature" providing "no clear cut actionable points". It decided

in Nov 2021 to hire experienced consultants for a more comprehensive master plan. But this work hasn't been completed.

The perennially flooded Minto Road underpass is one

example of the bane of oversight by multiple agencies. Here, water from a nearby sewer worsens the accumulation of rainwater. While a sort of solution was found two years ago, and has wor-

ked to an extent, the site still remains closely monitored as a waterlogging hotspot.

While DJB is responsible for sewers, PWD takes care of stormwater drains. The govt's irrigation & flood control department is in charge of the larger drains, such as Najafgarh drain. Stormwater drains are those that require pumps to drain out the rainwater and channel it into the Yamuna. To manage this, PWD and other agencies have set up pumping houses at certain locations. Around five of the pump houses were damaged in central Delhi last year, leading to flood water collecting at ITO and nearby areas.

In a monsoon preparedness review meeting held in June last year, LG VK Saxena emphasised that the aim of the agencies should be to ensure the least, if not zero, inconvenience to the citizens. "All departments and agencies involved should be seen doing so with seamless coordination and cooperation," he urged.

Earlier this year too, a discussion was initiated within PWD to hand over the entire drainage management to the irrigation & flood control department.

After the flooding last monsoon season, PWD has started work early, initiating the first phase of desilting of drains and this will continue till June. That is when the monsoon rains usually start and last till September. The process of float tendering for the work in south Delhi and central Delhi zone and under PWD have begun. Other parts of the city will be covered after this in a phased manner.



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The Tribune- 28- February-2024

# Opposition corners govt over sharing Yamuna water with R'sthan, rising debt

BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 27

The Opposition today cornered the Khattar government over sharing the Yamuna water with Rajasthan and rising debt during the second day of Budget discussion in the Vidhan Sabha.

Raising the issue, Congress MLA Raghubir Singh Kadian said para 136 of the Budget speech mentioned a memorandum of understanding (MoU) being signed between Haryana and Rajasthan for supplying excess water of the Yamuna to Rajasthan. "It is a malpractice. It is cheating with Haryana farmers. They are raising slogans 'Khattar Tere Raaj Mein, Paani Gaya Rajasthan Mein'. Excess water should be supplied to Bhiwani and Nuh but not Rajasthan," he said.

Former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda said, "It is a serious issue. It is shameful. The excess water



Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda speaks during the Vidhan Sabha session in Chandigarh on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## 'FUNDS ALLOCATED BUT NOT SPENT'

“In many cases, the Budget Estimates under various heads are much higher than the demand raised. Some departments have demanded excessive allocation despite zero utilisation under various heads.

Varun Chaudhary, HEAD, STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

should have come from Rajasthan. We are for supplying water to deficit districts such as Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri and Hisar but not Rajasthan.” However, Agriculture Minister JP Dalal tried to explain that the pipeline would benefit

Haryana districts too but in vain. All Congress MLAs registered their protest.

On rising debt, Congress chief whip BB Batra said the state's internal debt was Rs 26,268 crore in 2005-06, which increased to Rs 70,931 crore in 2014-15

(at the end of Hooda regime), recording a growth of 14 per cent per annum. However, during the BJP regime, it jumped from Rs 70,931 crore to Rs 2.86 lakh crore in 2022-23, a growth of 18 per cent per annum, he said.

## GRANTS VS EXPENDITURE

■ ₹5 crore has been earmarked for Haryana Sahitya and Granth Academy in 2024-25, but actual expenditure for the past two years has been nil

■ ₹10 crore has been allocated for the construction of Soochna Bhawan at Panchkula for the past three years, but not a single penny has been utilised so far

■ In stationery and printing, ₹6 crore was allotted for the purchase of machinery and equipment, but the machinery has not been purchased for the past few years

■ There has been zero utilisation under the Shiksha Deep Scheme on LED-based solar lanterns for SC students for the past two years

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Millennium Post- 28- February-2024

## Prez Murmu to give 'Pey Jal Survekshan Awards' to cities, states

**NEW DELHI:** The Union housing and urban affairs ministry on Tuesday announced the first "Pey Jal Survekshan Awards", which will reflect the remarkable accomplishments of cities and states in the water sector, according to a statement.

President Droupadi Murmu will give away the awards on March 5, the ministry said, adding that the stage is set to honour those who have succeeded in ensuring clean and sustainable water resources for their communities.

"The awards extend to commendations for Best Water Body, Sustainability Champion, Reuse Champion, Water Quality, City Saturation and the coveted AMRUT 2.0 Rotating Trophy of the Year," the statement said.

A distinguished array of 130 awards is set to be bestowed, reflecting the remarkable accomplishments of cities and states, it added.

"These accolades span various categories, from the prestigious Pey Jal Gold, Silver and Bronze City awards, where Gold signifies top performers (1st) in their respective population categories (one to 10 lakh, 10 to 40 lakh and more than 40 lakh), Silver denotes the 2nd position and Bronze the 3rd," it said. According to the statement, the "Pey Jal Survekshan" results are expected to drive decision-making for urban local bodies (ULBs), enhance service delivery and foster citizen engagement, instilling a sense of ownership and knowledge dissemination about water conservation and optimal use.

AGENCIES



Dainik Jagran- 28- February-2024

## राष्ट्रपति पांच मार्च को देंगी पहला पेयजल सर्वेक्षण अवार्ड

नई दिल्ली : देश में पहली बार पेयजल सर्वेक्षण अवार्ड दिए जाएंगे। राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मु पांच मार्च को उन राज्यों और शहरों को सम्मानित करेंगी, जिन्होंने पेयजल की आपूर्ति में उल्लेखनीय कार्य किया है। केंद्रीय आवासन एवं शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय ने मंगलवार को यह जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि पेयजल के मामले में अलग-अलग क्षेत्रों में बेहतरीन प्रदर्शन के आधार पर कुल 130 अवार्ड दिए जाएंगे। कई राज्यों और शहरों ने अपने निवासियों को स्वच्छ और पर्यावरण की दृष्टि से अनुकूल जल संसाधन उपलब्ध कराने की दिशा में अहम पहल की है। उनके कार्यों को सम्मानित करना जरूरी है। मंत्रालय के अनुसार, जिन कसौटियों में ये पुरस्कार दिए जाएंगे, उनमें सर्वश्रेष्ठ जलाशय, जल की गुणवत्ता, शहर में अधिकतम कवरेज, पानी का सबसे अच्छा फिर से इस्तेमाल, पर्यावरण हितैषी सर्वश्रेष्ठ पहल और अमृत 2.0 रोटेटिंग ट्राफी शामिल है। (जाब्यू)

Hari Bhoomi- 28- February-2024



## जल जीवन मिशन: 210 स्थानों पर सोलर पैनल

# सौर ऊर्जा से चलेंगे शहर के 550 ट्यूबवेल, बिजली गुल होने पर अब बाधित नहीं होगी पानी की आपूर्ति

एजेंसी ► वाराणसी

शहर के 550 ट्यूबवेल को सौर ऊर्जा से चलाने की तैयारी की जा रही है। इससे बचत के साथ बिजली की निर्भरता कम होगी। इसके लिए सभी जगहों पर सौर ऊर्जा के पैनल लगाए जाएंगे।

जल जीवन मिशन के तहत 210 स्थानों पर सोलर पैनल लगाए गए हैं। इनमें से 151 ट्यूबवेल सौर ऊर्जा से संचालित होने लगे हैं। सौर ऊर्जा से पेयजल व्यवस्था संचालित होने से बिजली गुल होने और लोकल फॉल्ट पर परेशानी नहीं होगी। इससे जलापूर्ति में किसी तरह की बाधा नहीं आएगी।

### खास बातें

- शहर के अन्य ट्यूबवेल पर भी सौर ऊर्जा पैनल लगाए जाने की भी योजना है
- ट्यूबवेल पर पंप की क्षमता के अनुसार सोलर पैनल की क्षमता 13 किलोवाट से लेकर 45 किलोवाट तक



### बरसात के दिनों के लिए बैकअप में जनरेटर की भी व्यवस्था

ट्यूबवेल पर सोलर पैनल के अलावा बरसात आदि दिनों के लिए बैकअप में जनरेटर की भी व्यवस्था की गई है। अलग-अलग ट्यूबवेल पर पंप की क्षमता के अनुसार सोलर पैनल की क्षमता लगभग 13 किलोवाट से लेकर 45 किलोवाट तक होगी। जलकल परिसर में सोलर पैनल लगाया गया है। इससे कई मशीनें चलाई जा रही हैं। इसी प्रकार शहर के अन्य ट्यूबवेल पर भी सौर ऊर्जा पैनल लगाए जाएंगे।