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Polls jam flow of water from K'taka to T'gana

Amid B'luru Water Crisis, Sidda Fears Voter Backlash

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Hyderabad: The vagaries of climate change may not have made it to parties' manifestos in this Lok Sabha election, but drinking water is set to become a prickly political issue just days before people line up to vote in Congress-governed Telangana on May 13.

As water levels dip in reservoirs across the state, the

Telangana officials stressed the need to avoid panic, saying present dam levels are enough to meet drinking water requirements till mid-May

Revanth Reddy-led govt is hoping neighbouring Karnataka, also governed by Congress, comes to its rescue.

If Karnataka releases



WATER WAR: A flock of Greater Flamingos flies over the backwaters of Krishna river near Bagalkot in Karnataka. If Karnataka releases five thousand million cubic feet of water from Narayanpur dam on Krishna river, it would help fend off a water crisis looming over Hyderabad

five thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) of water from Narayanpur dam on the Krishna river, it would help fend off a water crisis looming over Hyderabad. Reddy recently asked officials to approach Karnataka.

But there is a catch. Bengaluru, too, is facing a water crisis. Karnataka may consider releasing water to Telangana only after the second phase of polls there on May 7. "Karnataka declared a crop holiday for Rabi season in the Krishna basin. If it releases water to Telangana now, it may give ammo to opposition parties to accuse the state govt of serving the interests of neighbouring states and ignoring its own

farmers," an official said.

Sources pointed out that Bengaluru depends on Cauvery's waters, not Krishna's, for its drinking water needs. But many in the Siddaramaiah-led dispensation fear sharing even a drop at this point could stir controversy.

Telangana officials stressed the need to avoid panic, though, pointing out present dam levels are enough to meet the drinking water requirements of Hyderabad till mid-May. By then, the LS polls in Karnataka will be over.

Sources said this is not the first time Telangana wants water from Karnataka. In 2017, the erstwhile BRS govt had sought Krishna water from two dams.

Hari Bhoomi- 28 April-2024

केंद्रीय जल आयोग की रिपोर्ट

दक्षिण भारत में जल संकट जलाशयों में बचा 17% पानी

एजेंसी ►► नई दिल्ली

गर्मियां शुरू होने के साथ ही दक्षिण भारत जल संकट का सामना कर रहा है। क्षेत्र में जल भंडारण जलाशयों की क्षमता का केवल 17 प्रतिशत रह गया है।

केंद्रीय जल आयोग (सीडब्ल्यूसी) के एक बुलेटिन से यह जानकारी मिली। दक्षिणी क्षेत्र में आंध्र प्रदेश, तेलंगाना, कर्नाटक, केरल और तमिलनाडु राज्य आते हैं। सीडब्ल्यूसी द्वारा भारत के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के जलाशयों के भंडारण स्तर के संबंध में गुरुवार को जारी बुलेटिन में बताया गया कि दक्षिणी क्षेत्र में आयोग की निगरानी के तहत 42 जलाशय हैं जिनकी



कुल भंडारण क्षमता 53.334 अरब घन मीटर है। इन जलाशयों में मौजूदा कुल भंडारण 8.865 बीसीएम है, जो उनकी कुल क्षमता का केवल 17 प्रतिशत ही है। यह आंकड़ा पिछले साल की समान अवधि के दौरान भंडारण स्तर (29 प्रतिशत) और 10 साल के औसत (23 प्रतिशत) की तुलना में काफी कम है।