The Hindu – 1 May -2024

City's reservoirs have enough storage to avoid shortage in water supply during summer

The current supply of 1,045 million litres a day is expected to be sustained during peak summer. Nearly 1,000 mld is provided to residents, including those living in the added areas of the city

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chennai is all set to avert drinking water shortage this searing summer, as the available water is expected to last till September or early October.

The current daily water supply of 1,045 million litres a day (mld) is expected to be sustained during peak summer also. Of this, nearly 1,003 mld is being provided to residents, including those living in the added areas of the city.

In a bid to minimise loss by evaporation amid relentless heat, water from Poondi reservoir is being transferred to build storage at the waterbody in Red Hills from where Chennai gets a portion of its water supply.

The Water Resources Department has put off its proposal to seek Krishna water till July, as Andhra Pradesh was facing a water crunch. The water level at Kandaleru reservoir in A.P. is critically low, WRD officials here said.

"We plan to seek Krishna water discharge for the next spell after the onset of southwest monsoon. The reservoirs that feed Chennai's drinking water needs suffer an evaporation loss of 20-25% during harsh summer days," a senior WRD official said.

Comfortable position: The city's major reservoirs, including Chembarambakkam, have a combined storage of 6,702 mcft, which is 57% of their capacity. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

The city's five major reservoirs, including Chembarambakkam, have a combined storage of 6,702 million cubic feet (mcft), which is 57% of their capacity as on Tuesday.

Water is being transferred to Red Hills reservoir with a dual purpose – reduce evaporation loss and facilitate execution of long-pending work to replace the shutters of Poondi reservoir and ensure dam safety. The project is likely to be completed by mid-June.

Both Poondi and Chembarambakkam have vast catchment areas, unlike the waterbody in Red Hills. With limited catchment area, Red Hills has received 425 cubic feet per second (cusecs) on Tuesday. The storage at the reservoir stands at nearly 90% of its capacity.

"We are also clearing water hyacinth in Chembarambakkam and Red Hills reservoirs. Waterbodies in delta and Cuddalore districts are being desilted this summer," the official said.

Noting that Chennai was not in a drought situation, officials of Metrowater said desalinated water had offset the dip in Veeranam water supply.

"We will exhaust the water reserve in Chembarambakkam reservoir and then use the water stored in abandoned quarries for city supply. Evaporation loss will be more in Chembarambakkam reservoir than in the quarries," an official said.

While the water agency had lined up buffer sources, including quarries in Sikkarayapuram and Erumaiyur, and 300 agricultural wells in Tiruvallur district, it has reserved them for situations that could arise owing to drop in monsoon rainfall after June.

Metrowater has also engaged 20 additional lorries to meet increasing demand for paid tanker trips, particularly from merged areas. It now operated, nearly 4,064 trips a day, which is 250 trips more than last month.

The Morning Standard - 1 May -2024

TN demand for release of Cauvery water from K'taka reservoirs rejected

JITENDRA CHOUBEY E @ Chennai

The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on Tuesday rejected Tamil Nadu's demand for further release of Cauvery river water from Karnataka's reservoirs as the water scarcity situation became grim.

The committee stated that both states have just enough water in the reservoirs to meet the drinking water demands.

"Water in reservoirs is so low that it is only enough for domestic drinking purposes," Vineet Gupta, Chairman, CWRC, told this newspaper, after the 95th meeting.

"Water in Karnataka's reservoirs is so low that it is difficult to maintain even the natural flow. Barely 150 cusec of water reaches the interstate point Biligundulu each day instead of 1,000 cusec according to Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal," he further said. The committee refused Tamil Nadu's demand to direct the Karnataka government to ensure release of backlog of Cauvery water and maintain environmental flow as per final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) modified by the Supreme Court.

As per CWDT, Karnataka needs to ensure environmental flows at Biligundulu by ensuring release of around 1000 cusecs per day, ie. 2.5 TMC from February to May.

'Meeting requirements'

The CWRC was of view that available storage in designated reservoirs in the Cauvery Basin in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are sufficient enough to meet the requirement towards drinking water & environmental flows for the remaining period of the current water year

The CWRC was of view that available storage in the designated reservoirs in the Cauvery Basin in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are sufficient enough to meet the requirement towards drinking water & environmental flows for the remaining period of the current water year 2023-24 and the initial months of the next water year 2024-25.

This year, Southern India is facing an excruciating hot summer embedded with a serious water crisis. As many as 43 reservoirs level plunges to just 17% capacity. The storage during the corresponding period of last year was 29% and average storage of the last ten years during corresponding period was 23% of live storage capacity of these reservoirs.

Karnataka in its submission to CWRC said the water available in four designated storages are at their lowest, which is just sufficient to meet the critical requirements of water for drinking and industry, and standing crops.

Amar Ujala – 1 May -2024

दूसरा पहलू

केरल 'जल बजट' अपनाने वाला देश का पहला और इकलौता राज्य है, जिसने पानी की बर्बादी रोकने की पहल की है।

जल संकट में प्रभावी जल बजट का प्रयोग

केरल 'जल बजट' अपनाने वाला देश का पहला और इकलौता राज्य है। इसे अपनाकर केरल ने जल की मांग और आपूर्ति सुधारने, भूजल स्तर को बढ़ाने, कृषि उत्पादन की सुनिश्चितता, पर्यावरण व समग्र जल सुरक्षा और पानी की बर्बादी रोकने की दिशा में मिसाल कायम की है। दरअसल दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून से पहली वर्षा केरल के तट पर ही होती है, बावजूद इसके, गर्मी के दिनों में राज्य के कुछ इलाके पानी की कमी का सामना करते हैं। इन्हीं चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए केरल ने जल बजट बनाने का फैसला किया है।

सुधीर कुमार

जल बजट जल संसाधन के प्रबंधन पर केंद्रित एक रणनीति है। यह जल के उपभोग की सीमा निर्धारित करती हैं, जिससे भूजल स्तर पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता हैं।

नीति आयोग के अनुसार, 2030 तक देश की 40 प्रतिशत आबादी के पास पीने के लिए पानी का अभाव रहेगा। ऐसे में जल बजट की महत्ता समझी जा सकती हैं।

जल बजट जल संसाधन की मात्रा तय करने और उनके प्रबंधन पर केंद्रित एक रणनीति है। यह जल की उपलब्धता और उपयोग का सालाना ब्यौरा देती है। जल बजट किसी वर्ष विशेष में प्राप्त पानी को वितरित व प्रबंधित करने का समाधान पेश करती है। यह जल के उपभोग की सीमा निर्धारित करती है, जिससे भूजल स्तर पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता है और इसके भंडारण को स्थायी रूप से सूखने से बचाया जा सकता है। यह भूजल की स्थिति की भी जानकारी देता है। जल बजट के तहत उपलब्ध जल को खर्च करने की योजना बनाई जाती है और उसी के अनुसार उसका कुशल उपयोग किया जाता है। अगर हमें पहले से पता हो कि हमारे पास कितना पानी है और वह कितने दिनों में समाप्त हो जाएगा, तो हम उसका बुद्धिमत्तापूर्ण इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं। इससे आसन्न जल संकट को टाला जा सकता है।

सूखे और मानसून की अनिश्चितता तथा जल बजट जैसी व्यवस्था न होने के कारण ही देश के कई शहर 'डे-जीरो' की स्थिति का सामना कर रहे हैं। बंगलूरू और चेन्नई जैसे शहर अपने निवासियों की प्यास के साथ-साथ अन्य जरूरतों के लिए पानी उपलब्ध कराने में असमर्थता जता चुके हैं। नीति आयोग की रिपोर्ट बताती है कि 2030 तक देश की 40 प्रतिशत आबादी के पास पीने के लिए पानी का अभाव रहेगा। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा भी था कि अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत 'जीवन के अधिकार में प्रदूषण मुक्त पानी और हवा का अधिकार शामिल है।' हालांकि यह तभी संभव है, जब हरेक स्तर पर जल संरक्षण के सार्थक प्रयास हों। जल संकट के व्यापक होने का प्रमुख कारण भूमिगत जल का अंधाधुंध दोहन है। जल बजट एक महत्वपूर्ण साधन है, जिसके सफल क्रियान्वयन से पानी की उपलब्धता बेहतर हो सकती है। जल संरक्षण के विभिन्न तरीकों को धरातल पर उतारने की दरकार है।