Telangana Today- 02- November-2021

TS urges KRMB to take over RDS headworks

Board asked to facilitate speedy completion of canal modernisation

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government on Sunday wrote to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) to bring the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) headworks under its jurisdiction and facilitate speedy completion of the RDS canal modernisation works. It has alleged that the Andhra Pradesh government was obstructing Karnataka officials from undertaking the modernisation works under the guise of law and order.

In his letter to the KRMB chairman, Telangana Engineer-in-Chief C Muralidhar stated that Telangana was entitled to receive part of 15.9 TMC water allocated to erstwhile Andhra Pradesh following the canal modernisation works, but currently the State was receiving less than 30 per cent of its rightful share. He stated that the Andhra Pradesh government was diverting surplus water without obtaining required permissions to irrigate lands in its ayacut through the KC Canal. "Andhra Pradesh has been obstructing the modernisation works of RDS canal for the past 15 years and thus, denying the rightful share of water to Telangana. Apart from taking over the RDS dam into its purview to complete the ongoing modernisation works at the earliest, he suggested that the issue should be brought to the notice of the Union Jal Shakthi Ministry.

The RDS Head works and appurtenant works are stated as 'Location outside Andhra Pradesh/Telangana' and are not included for jurisdiction by KRMB. The length of the anicut is 819 m and geographically half of anicut is in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh and the remaining half of the anicut is in Raichur District of Karnataka.

This project irrigates 5,879 acres in Karnataka and 87,500 acres in Telangana with an allocation of 17.1 TMC by KWDT-I (Karnataka- 1.2 TMC and 15.9 TMC for erstwhile Andhra Pradesh including Telangana). Due to re-organisation of States in 1956, the anicut and main canal up to 42.60 km (out of 143 km) is under Karnataka and are being maintained by Karnataka.

The full supply discharge of RDS canal at Head is 850 cusecs out of which 770 cusecs is to be available at Karnataka and Telangana. But the actual realisation of discharge is around 400 cusecs. The required discharge is not realised on account of non-maintaining of minimum driving head due to delay in raising the anicut height, uncontrolled flow through construction sluices, ungated vents of river sluices with free flow of water, and lack of sufficient pondage. As a result, this project is realizing hardly 5 TMC instead of 15.9 TMC allocated water for the past 25 years.

Deccan Chronicle- 02- November-2021

TS COMPLAINS TO KRMB AGAINST AP BLOCKING RDS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

The Telangana state government complained to the Krishna River Mana-gement Board (KRMB) against the Andhra Pradesh government, accusing it of obstructing the Karnataka government from undertaking modernisation works of Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS).

The Telangana government requested the KRBM to take the portion of RDS anicut which is falling in the territory of Andhra Pradesh under its control as per schedule-2 of Centre's gazette notification and complete modernisation of anicut at the earliest.

AP obstructs RDS: TS to KRMB

Take portion of RDS anicut which falls in AP territory, state urges Board

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

The Telangana state government complained to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) against the Andhra Pradesh government, accusing it of obstructing the Karnataka government from undertaking modernisation works of Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS).

The Telangana government requested the KRBM to take the portion of RDS anicut which is falling in the territory of Andhra Pradesh under its control as per schedule-2 of Centre's gazette notification and complete modernisation of anicut at the earliest.

In a letter addressed to the KRMB chairman on Monday, Telangana irrigation engineer-in-chief C. Muralidhar said, "RDS project was taken up by erstwhile Hyderabad state in terms of June 1944 agreement between Hyderabad and Madras to use Tungabhadra waters on par with KC Canal. The length of the anicut is 819 metres and geographically half of the anicut is in AP (in Kurnool district) and the other half (left side) in Raichur district (Karnataka). This project irrigates 5,879 acres in Karnataka and 87,500 acres in Telangana with an allocation of 17.10 tmc ft by KWDT-1 (Karnataka 1.20 tmc ft and 15.90 tmc ft of erstwhile AP). Due to reorganisation of states in 1956, the anicut and main canal up to 42.60 km out of 143 km is under Karnataka and is being maintained by the Karnataka government." He stated that the full supply discharge of the RDS canal at the head was 850 cusecs out of which 770 cusecs were to be available for Karnataka and Telangana. But the actual realisation of discharge is much less and is around 400 cusecs only.

Due to ill-maintenance of the project by Karnataka, it is realising hardly 5 tmc ft instead of 15.90 tmc ft of allocated water for the past 25 years, he added. "Therefore, the erstwhile AP government has proposed to take up modernisation of the anicut and the main canal to utilise the full quantity of 15.90 tmc. The requisite amount was deposited by the erstwhile AP and Telangana state to Karnataka to take up modernisation works. Major portion of canal modernisation is completed but modernisation of the anicut is being obstructed by the AP government citing law and order problem. The attitude of the AP government is only to divert additional waters to KC Canal lying downstream of RDS anicut unauthorised," Muralidhar stated.

The Hindu- 02- November-2021

Finding a way out of India's deepening water stress

In any new National Water Policy, the aim should also be to encourage conserving water resources and efficient usage

THOMAS VARGHESE

The complexity and scale of the water crisis in India calls for a locus specific response, that can galvanise and integrate the ongoing work of different Ministries and Departments through new configurations. Such an integrated approach must necessarily cut across sectoral boundaries and not stop at the merger achieved between the two Ministries of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, which led to the formation of the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2019.

Understanding sources used

Seeing India's looming water crisis through the locus of 'urban' and 'rural' not only allows a better grasp of the causative factors but also enables a stronger grip on the strategies to be deployed to reverse the water crisis. Fundamental to this is a preliminary understanding of the sources from which the country draws water to meet its varying needs. In the rural areas, 80%-90% of the drinking water and 75% of the water used for agriculture is drawn from groundwater sources. In urban areas, 50%-60% of the water supply is drawn from groundwater sources, whereas the remaining is sourced from surface water resources such as rivers, often located afar, in addition to lakes, tanks and reservoirs.

According to the composite water management index released by the think tank NITI Aayog in 2019, 21 major cities (including Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad) were on the brink of exhausting groundwater resources, affecting about 100 million people. The study also points out that by 2030, the demand for water is projected to be twice the available supply.

The Chennai example

A significant, and by no means less worrying, example of the water crisis that unfolded before our eyes was in Chennai in 2019, where life came to a standstill and parts of the city went without piped water for months. Though this may well have been forgotten, Chennai remains a spectacle of the impending tragedies brought about by the city's inability to meet the basic needs of citizens, *vis-à-vis* drinking water, cooking and sanitation.

A closer look at the factors that brought about the water crisis in Chennai is inescapable, should we gain a better grasp of the underlying problems, especially as this was a city which among others like Mumbai had suffered from floods previously. Many have cited the poor rainfall received in Chennai in the previous year as one of the main reasons for the water crisis. Though it is true that rainfall was low, which was 50% less than normal, focusing on this factor alone would absolve responsibility by blaming the vagaries of the rainfall patterns to a fast-changing climate, without understanding the ground-level steps (or missteps) which have been equally responsible factors.

Chief among these is that the city has been built by incrementally encroaching floodplains and paving over lakes and wetlands that would have otherwise helped the process of recharging groundwater. The lack of space for water to percolate underground prevented rainwater from recharging the aquifers.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

This was further exacerbated by the loss of green cover (which would have otherwise helped water retention) to make way for infrastructure projects. Such a situation, on the one hand, leads to flooding during normal rainfall due to stagnation, and on the other hand leads to drought-like conditions due to the prevention of underground water storage. It is only that this situation was more magnified in Chennai, but other cities in India would echo these manifestations in varying degrees owing to a lack of sustainable urban planning.

There is also the example, in Mumbai, in 2019, when 2,141 trees were felled at the Aarey colony, amid massive protests, to make space for a shed for the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited.

Need for synergy

If the Government is serious about addressing the water crisis in urban areas, the Ministry of Water Resources must reconfigure its relationship with other Ministries and Departments (Urban Development, Local Self-Government and Environment). This would be for enhanced integration and coordination through effective land and water zoning regulations that protect urban water bodies, groundwater sources, wetlands and green cover while simultaneously working to enhance waste water recycling and water recharge activities targeting aquifers and wells through rainwater harvesting.

Lessons from rural Punjab

In rural areas, the situation is no different, as the acute water crisis in Punjab shows. The draft report of the Central Ground Water Board concluded that Punjab would be reduced to a desert in 25 years if the extraction of its groundwater resources continues unabated; 82% of Punjab's land area has seen a huge decline in groundwater levels, wherein 109 out of 138 administrative blocks have been placed in the 'over exploited' category. Groundwater extraction which was at 35% in the 1960s and 1970s, rose to 70% post the Green Revolution – a period which saw governments subsidising power for irrigation that left tubewells running for hours.

Concomitantly, cultivation of water intensive crops such as paddy have further aggravated water depletion, even turning water saline. Immediate measures need to be taken to manage and replenish groundwater, especially through participatory groundwater management approaches with its combination of water budgeting, aquifer recharging and community involvement.

Such an approach to water conservation again beckons new configurations between sectors and disciplines. At the sectoral level, the Ministries and Departments of water resources must coordinate efforts with their counterparts in agriculture, the environment and rural development for greater convergence to achieve water and food security. At the disciplinary level, governance and management should increasingly interact and draw from the expertise of fields such as hydrology (watershed sustainability), hydrogeology (aquifer mapping and recharge) and agriculture sciences (water-sensitive crop choices and soil health). Again, the importance given to groundwater conservation should not ignore surface water conservation including the many rivers and lakes which are in a critical and dying state due to encroachment, pollution, over-abstraction and obstruction of water flow by dams.

Protecting resources

The Ministry of Jal Shakti, last year, had announced an ambitious plan to provide water connections to every household in India by 2024. In view of the ongoing erosion of water resources and an ever-increasing demand for water, the thrust should not be on promising water supply. Instead the aim should be towards protecting and conserving water resources on the one hand and minimising and enhancing efficiency of water usage on the other. As the expert committee constituted under the Union Water Resources Ministry drafts a new National Water Policy, one hopes it would be rooted in locus specific realities and allows greater flexibility for integrating the insights and work of multiple departments and disciplines making way for new configurations to sustainably manage the country's water resources.

Thomas Varghese is a researcher and consultant working on sustainable development in Kochi, Kerala

The Hindu- 02- November-2021

Ganga Mission in Guinness records

NEW DELHI

The National Mission for Clean Ganga set a Guinness World Record on the first day of the Ganga Utsav for the highest number of photos of handwritten notes uploaded on Facebook in an hour. Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat posted his message on Facebook, after which the activity was opened for the public at large. An official said the event was held to raise awareness on Ganga rejuvenation and to expand the reach of the festival. People posted poems or articles on 'Maa Ganga' on the Namami Gange Facebook page. PTI

The Hindu- 02- November-2021

Mullaperiyar water level comes down

Level at Idukki reservoir steady

A CORRESPONDENT
IDUKKI

The water level at the Mullaperiyar dam came down on Monday, while it was steady at the Idukki dam.

The water level in the Mullaperiyar dam fell to 138.3 ft with Tamil Nadu drawing water at 2,330 cusecs. The average discharge of water to the Periyar was at 2,345 cusecs on Monday. The six spillway shutters remained open and the new rule curve for the dam came into effect on Monday. The upper rule curve level of the Mullaperiyar dam till November 10 is 139.5 ft.

Power generation

With increased power generation, the water level in the Idukki reservoir, downstream of the Mullaperiyar dam, remained stagnant at 2,398.3 ft on Monday.

As per the new rule curve for the Idukki dam, the red alert level is 2,398.79 ft. An official of the Dam Monitoring and Research Station said the current storage in the dam was 94.43%.

The rainfall in the catchment area of the reservoir was poor for the past three days.

The five-member subcommittee under the Mullaperiyar supervisory committee will visit the Mullaperiyar dam on Tuesday.

The visit is to report on the dam's situation to the supervisory committee. A report will be given to the apex court before it considers the case on November 11.

The Hindu- 02- November-2021

Rescue guide launched for Ganges river dolphin

The mammals often get stranded in irrigation canals

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

The Jal Shakti Ministry on Monday released a guide for the safe rescue and release of stranded Ganges river dolphins. The document has been prepared by the Turtle Survival Alliance and the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department (EFCCD) of the Uttar Pradesh Government. The guide has been drawn from years of experience of rescuing 25 Ganges river dolphins stranded in irrigation canals.

The Ganges river dolphin is the national aquatic animal of India and is listed as 'endangered' under the IUCN Red List Assessments, Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972), Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Ganges river dolphins are listed as 'endangered' on the IUCN Red list.

The species, whose global population is estimated at 4,000, is mostly found in the Indian subcontinent. The dolphins often accidentally enter canals in northern India and are unable to swim up against the gradient. They are also vulnerable to harm by people.

The manual is endorsed by the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group.

Best practices on crowd control, dolphin capture from canals and handling, transfer, transport and release are part of the guide.

"Found throughout the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India and Bangladesh, the Ganges river dolphin [*Platanista gangetica gangetica*] is a global priority and is also an indicator of healthy aquatic systems," said Shailendra Singh, director of Turtle Survival Alliance, India.

The guide was also simultaneously released via local fishermen at the Ghaghra river, a prime habitat where most of the rescued dolphins were released in the past few years.

Amar Ujala- 02- November-2021

उत्तराखंड में 2023 तक हर घर को मिलेगा पानी

देहरादून। उत्तराखंड में 2023 तक हर घर को पीने का पानी मिलेगा। जल जीवन मिशन के तहत इस पर तेजी से काम हो रहा है। पेयजल मंत्री बिशन सिंह चुफाल ने निर्देश दिए हैं कि जिन जिलों का अभी तक पांच करोड़ से ऊपर की विस्तृत परियोजना (डीपीसी) तैयार नहीं हुई है, वहां 15 दिन के भीतर काम पूरा किया जाए।

जल जीवन मिशन के तहत सरकार को प्रदेश में 14 लाख से अधिक घरों में पेयजल कनेक्शन दिया जाना है। अभी तक करीब साढ़े सात लाख घरों में पानी का कनेक्शन दिया जा चुका है। पेयजल मंत्री बिशन सिंह चुफाल ने बताया कि सरकार ने पांच करोड़ से नीचे तक की परियोजनाओं के लिए जिलाधिकारियों को काम पूरे करने की शक्ति दी है। वह अपने स्तर से टेंडर निकालकर काम करा सकता हैं। पांच करोड़ से ऊपर की परियोजनाओं के लिए राज्य सरकार के स्तर से डीपीसी पास की जाएगी। ब्यूरो

Pioneer- 02- November-2021

गंगा की निर्मलता पर मोदी सरकार ने परिवर्तनकारी कदम उठाए : शेखावत

भाषा। नई दिल्ली

जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र शेखावत ने सोमवार को कहा कि गंगा की निर्मलता को लेकर 1985 से टुकड़ों-टुकड़ों में प्रयास हुए लेकिन गंभीरता की कमी होने के कारण ये सार्थक नहीं रहे। शेखावत ने कहा कि वर्ष 2014 में केंद्र में मोदी सरकार आने के बाद गंगा एवं सहायक नदियों की निर्मलता को लेकर परिवर्तनकारी कदम उठाए गए जिसे दुनिया महसूस कर रही है। जल शक्ति मंत्री शेखावत ने गंगा उत्सव 2021 के उद्घाटन के अवसर पर कहा कि नदियां देश में विभिन्न संस्कृतियों को एक सूत्र में पिरोने का माध्यम हैं और इसमें गंगा नदी सबसे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि दुनिया में पिछले समय में पर्यावरण, जलवायु को लेकर बदलाव

हुए हैं और इसके कारण उत्पन्न चुनौतियों से पूरी दुनिया चिंतित है। शेखावत ने कहा कि मानव सभ्यताओं को नदियों ने जीवन दिया लेकिन आज इस बात पर गंभीरता से विचार करने की जरूरत है कि हमने नदियों को क्या दिया ? गंगा की निर्मलता को लेकर 1985 से लेकर टुकड़ों-टुकड़ों में प्रयास हुए लेकिन गंभीरता की कमी होने के कारण ए परिणामदायक नहीं रहे। शेखावत ने कहा कि वर्ष 2014 में केंद्र में मोदी सरकार आने के बाद गंगा एवं सहायक नदियों की निर्मलता को लेकर परिवर्तनकारी कदम उठाए गए जिसे दुनिया ने प्रयागराज और हरिद्वार कुंभ में महसूस किया है। उन्होंने कहा कि गंगा की सफाई सरकार के लिए काफी अहम है क्योंकि पवित्र नदी भारत की आर्थिक गतिविधियों की आधार रही है। हमने गंगा को आम आदमी से जोड़ने में कामयाबी हासिल की है और इसे एनएमसीजी के तहत जन आंदोलन बनाया है। गंगा की सफाई की प्रक्रिया को अंजाम देने में करोड़ों लोग अपनी जिम्मेदारी निभा रहे हैं।

राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन गिनिज बुक ऑफ वर्ल्ड रिकार्ड्स में किया गया दर्ज

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन (एनएमसीजी) को गंगा उत्सव 2021 के पहले दिन हस्तलिखित नोट की सर्वाधिक संख्या में तस्वीरें एक घंटे में फेसबुक पर अपलोड किए जाने को लेकर गिनिज बुक ऑफ वर्ल्ड रिकार्ड्स ने दर्ज कर लिया गया। जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत ने गंगा पर फेसबुक पर अपना संदेश पोस्ट किया, जिसके बाद गिनिज रिकार्ड के लिए गतिविधियां व्यापक स्तर पर लोगों के लिए शुरू हो गई। एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा, गतिविधि के एक घंटे की अवधि के दौरान लाखों प्रविष्टियां दर्ज की गई। सभी वर्गों के लोगों की भागीदारी विशेष रूप से प्रेरणादाई है। कई लोगों ने कार्यक्रम के फेसबुक पेज पर खुद से तैयार की गई अपनी साहित्यिक रचनाएं पोस्ट की। अधिकारी ने कहा कि कार्यक्रम का आयोजन गंगा पुनर्जीवन पर जागरूकता फैलाने और गंगा उत्सव का दायरा बढ़ाने के लिए किया गया।