Telangana Today- 06- October-2021

Godavari water for Musi

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Musi river that passes through parts of the city will soon have Godavari water flowing through it that would also help in keeping the river clean. The State government is working on a comprehensive plan not only to fill Musi with Godavari water but also beautify it on all fronts, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao said on Tuesday.

Laying out blueprint of the water flow, the Minister said that Godavari water stored in Kondapochamma Sagar will be released into Nizam Sagar from where a lake in Ravalkol village will be filled. Water from this lake can be taken to Osmansagar and Himayatsagar reservoirs from Muthangi junction, the Minister said.

Both Osmansagar and Himayatsagar reservoirs converge at Bapu Ghat. As and when required, the gates of the two reservoirs can be lifted to release Godavari water into Musi from Bapu Ghat. "It's just pressing a button to lift gates to release water into Musi river," he said in the State Legislative Council here.

> Plan afoot for beautification of Musi. We are committed to taking the project forward
>
> — KT RAMA RAO
> MA&UD MINISTER

"Since we regularly hear about linking of rivers, and if we can bring Godavari water to Musi, then it can also be linked with Krishna river," he said, adding: "From west to east for over 55 km, there is a one-and-a-half-metre gradient for almost every km in Musi. As a result, water cannot be stopped in Musi. Taking this into consideration, three or four check dams are being planned on Musi river to store water. We are preparing a comprehensive plan for the beautification of Musi," he said. "We are committed and we will take the beautification project forward," Rama Rao said.

Explaining the development works especially flyovers, roads and nalas taken up in old city in the last seven years, Rama Rao reiterated that the State government was committed to bring Metro Rail to old city.

He said efforts would be made to get world heritage status to the historic Golconda Fort and seven tombs. "If necessary, we will take the assistance of Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy in this regard," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

"For the development of Hyderabad, we are ready to set aside political differences," he said. Referring to the remarks made by Congress MLC T Jeevan Reddy and others about Osmania General Hospital (OGH), he said there was difference of opinion when it came to developing OGH. Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao will find a solution, he added. Rama Rao said the Congress, which was in power for decades, constructed only OGH, Gandhi Hospital and Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences. But the TRS government has already developed TIMS in Gachibowli and planned four multi-super specialty hospitals on four sides of the city, he said. He added more funds would be sanctioned for developing Charminar and other heritage structures in old city to attract tourists.

Telangana Today- 06- October-2021

Don't refer project proposals to AP, Telangana to GRMB

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Telangana has requested the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) to examine irrigation projects proposals at the board level and not to refer them to AP in a routine manner. "This would save us much time in the process of clearances of DPRs," said Dr Rajat Kumar, Special Chief Secretary to Government, in a letter to GRMB Chairman J Chandrashekhar Iyer.

Rajat Kumar said Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao was keen on getting expeditious solutions for the Detail Project Reports (DPRs) already submitted to GRMB. In this context, the Chief Minister had also personally met the Union Minister of Jal Shakthi, who assured that the GRMB will take all necessary steps in this regard.

> I would like to inform you that these projects are envisaged well within the water allocated to TS
>
> — RAJAT KUMAR
> SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY

"Now, I have been informed that the DPRs of projects like Chowtpally Hanumantha Reddy (CHR) Lift Irrigation Scheme and Chanaka-Korata barrage have been referred to AP government for its observations and comments," he said.

"I would like to inform you that these projects are envisaged well within the water allocated to Telangana and no inter-State issues are involved. The CHR lift scheme was commissioned in united AP and has been in operation for the last six years," he explained.

He said the Chanaka-Korata Barrage was an approved project as per GRMB Gazette notification dated July 15, 2021, and was taken up as per agreement between united AP and Maharashtra and subsequently between Telangana and Maharashtra.

Business Standard- 06- October-2021

Focus on water quality & demand management

The third in a series of weekly articles on the new National Water Policy

MIHIR SHAH

The new National Water Policy (NWP) argues that limits are now being reached on possibilities of solving India's water problem from the supply side. The policy proposes a shift in focus towards the long-neglected demand-side management of water. The most important reform needed here is in irrigation, which takes up 80-90 per cent of India's water use. And just three crops — rice, wheat and sugarcane — consume 80 per cent of this water. Without a radical change in this pattern of water demand, basic water needs of millions of people cannot be met. Water-intensive crops are grown even in relatively water-short regions mainly because these are the only crops for which farmers are assured a steady market, thanks to government procurement operations for wheat and rice and purchase of sugarcane by sugar mills. Hence, crop diversification without endangering national food security is the single most important step in resolving India's water crisis.

To enable this, the policy suggests diversifying crop procurement operations to include nutri-cereals, pulses and oilseeds, in line with local agro-ecology. As proposed under the 2018 PM-AASHA (Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan), at least 25 per cent output of these crops could be procured, going up to 40 per cent if they are part of the public distribution system (PDS). This will incentivise farmers to gradually diversify their cropping patterns, resulting in huge saving of water. The largest potential outlets for these procured crops are the Integrated Child Development Services, Midday Meal Scheme and PDS. Creating this link would additionally become a powerful weapon in India's battle against the twinned syndemic of malnutrition and diabetes, given the far superior nutritional profile of these crops compared to rice and wheat.

Highly water-consuming, high-cost and high-risk chemical agriculture has become unviable for many farmers, whose net incomes have started to turn negative due to both diminishing returns and rising input costs. Harmful chemicals from fertilisers and pesticides transported into the body via food and water are having a grave impact on health. Agro-ecological farming, which reduces use of chemical inputs at the right pace, could lead to massive saving in water, since it needs much less irrigation and enables greater retention of soil moisture through improved soil structure. Water use can also be reduced by incentivising the System of Crop Intensification, drip and sprinkler irrigation, and water saving seed varieties based on the local germplasm, of which India has a rich repository. Reserving some land for diverse biomass production systems comprising trees, shrubs, creepers and fibre-producing plants, with multi-year life cycles and multi-tiered root systems and canopies, reduces water use and increases resilience, being less sensitive to variations in rainfall.

Urban areas must also move decisively towards demand management of water. Reduce-Recycle-Reuse should become the core mantra of integrated urban water supply and wastewater management, with treatment of sewage and eco-restoration of urban river stretches as far as possible through decentralised wastewater management. All non-potable use, such as flushing, fire protection, vehicle washing, landscaping, horticulture etc must mandatorily shift to treated wastewater. More efficient water-using appliances and location-specific water-efficient sanitation alternatives need to be adopted. Urban local bodies must explore revenue generation through efficiently treated effluent and waste.

India's industrial sector is also suffering the consequences of not addressing the demand side, given its excessively high water footprint. Over the last decade, industrial shutdowns due to water shortage have become increasingly common. Indian industry is currently excessively dependent on fresh water and tends to dump its untreated waste into rivers and groundwater. Thermal power plants take up the highest proportion of industrial water. Converting them from once-through open-loop to closed-cycle cooling systems using recycled water can save about 65,000 million litres per day of fresh water. The NWP suggests comprehensive water audits, with companies providing details of water footprints in their annual reports, as also steps they are taking to reduce water demand in production processes, lower effluent generation and higher industrial value added per unit of water consumed. All of these technologies and investments have a very short payback period. A growing market for treated wastewater is an additional incentive.

All non-potable use, such as flushing, fire protection, landscaping, horticulture etc must mandatorily shift to treated wastewater

The new NWP considers water quality as the most serious unaddressed issue in India today. It proposes that every water ministry, at the Centre and states, must include a Water Quality Department, run by a team of multi-disciplinary professionals. The policy advocates adoption of state-of-the-art low-cost, low-energy, eco-sensitive technologies for treatment of sewage. No less than 26,000 tonnes of plastic waste is generated every day in India, of which 10,000 tonnes ends up in water. Thus, the policy proposes a national action plan for phase-wise replacement of plastics by green alternatives. Widespread use of Reverse Osmosis (RO) has adverse consequences for water quality and health. A large proportion of input water is wasted and reject water from ROs has a high concentration of contaminants. Hence, the policy suggests that RO units be discouraged if the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) count in water is less than 500 mg/L.

The "polluter pays principle" has at times almost served as a licence to pollute. Thus, the NWP argues that payment for violations must be high enough to have a deterrent effect on polluters as "extended producer responsibility". Licences of polluting units must be temporarily suspended in case of repeated violations, till corrective actions are taken. The policy also suggests that the Government of India form a Task Force on Emerging Water Contaminants. Recent studies indicate uranium and manganese beyond safe limits in groundwater in some areas. Climate change could also produce unexpected, often interlinked, consequences. The release of certain pathogens due to permafrost melting is only one such example. The Task Force needs to anticipate these dangers and prepare mitigation and adaptation plans to keep the country as safe as possible.

The writer is Distinguished Professor, Shiv Nadar University. He chaired the Committee to draft the new National Water Policy set up by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2019

Deccan Chronicle- 06- October-2021

HEAVY RAINS LIKELY IN AP, SAYS IMD

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT 5

Conditions continue to remain favourable for the commencement of withdrawal of the southwest nonsoon from some parts of northwest India during next 24 hours. It will take some more time to withdraw from South India, said an IMD report on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a cyclonic circulation that developed over coastal Tamil Nadu lies over the southwest Bay of Bengal. Thunderstorms and lightning are likely to occur at isolated places over north coastal and south coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam.

Heavy rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places over south coastal AP and Rayalaseema, the report said.

The Times of India- 06- October-2021

Piped supply plugs holes, raises groundwater levels

State Govt's Initiatives Have Improved Groundwater Situation In 35 Districts

Neha.Lalchandani
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Ensuring piped water supply to as many blocks as possible and improvement in irrigation schemes have helped in stabilising groundwater levels in as many as 35 districts of Uttar Pradesh since 2017.

The centrally-funded Atal Bhujal Yojana was initially implemented in water-stressed areas of seven states, including 10 districts of Uttar Pradesh. These included 26 blocks and 550 gram panchayats in Mahoba, Jhansi, Banda, Hamirpur, Chitrakoot, Lalitpur, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Baghpat and Meerut districts.

Satisfied with the impact of the scheme in these districts, the state government decided to extend the scheme to the remaining 65 districts.

From April 1 this year, all 826 blocks in the state are being covered under the scheme for improvement in groundwater levels. The scheme will run till 2026 under which the government will focus on developing a water security plan, followed by work in the 75 over-exploited blocks in the second year, critical blocks in the third and semi-critical blocks in the fourth year.

Principal secretary, Namami Gange, Anurag Srivastava, said, "Improvement in groundwater levels is the result of a multi-focus approach by the government. Due to this, around 82 blocks that were either critical or overexploited have seen an improvement."

"Conservation efforts like afforestation on a large scale, rehabilitation of village ponds through MNREGA and state funds, and construction of check dams have shown a massive improvement. Another major step taken by the government was to ban new borings by industrial units in overexploited areas. As soon as excessive withdrawal of water from the ground stopped, the resources were replenished," he said.

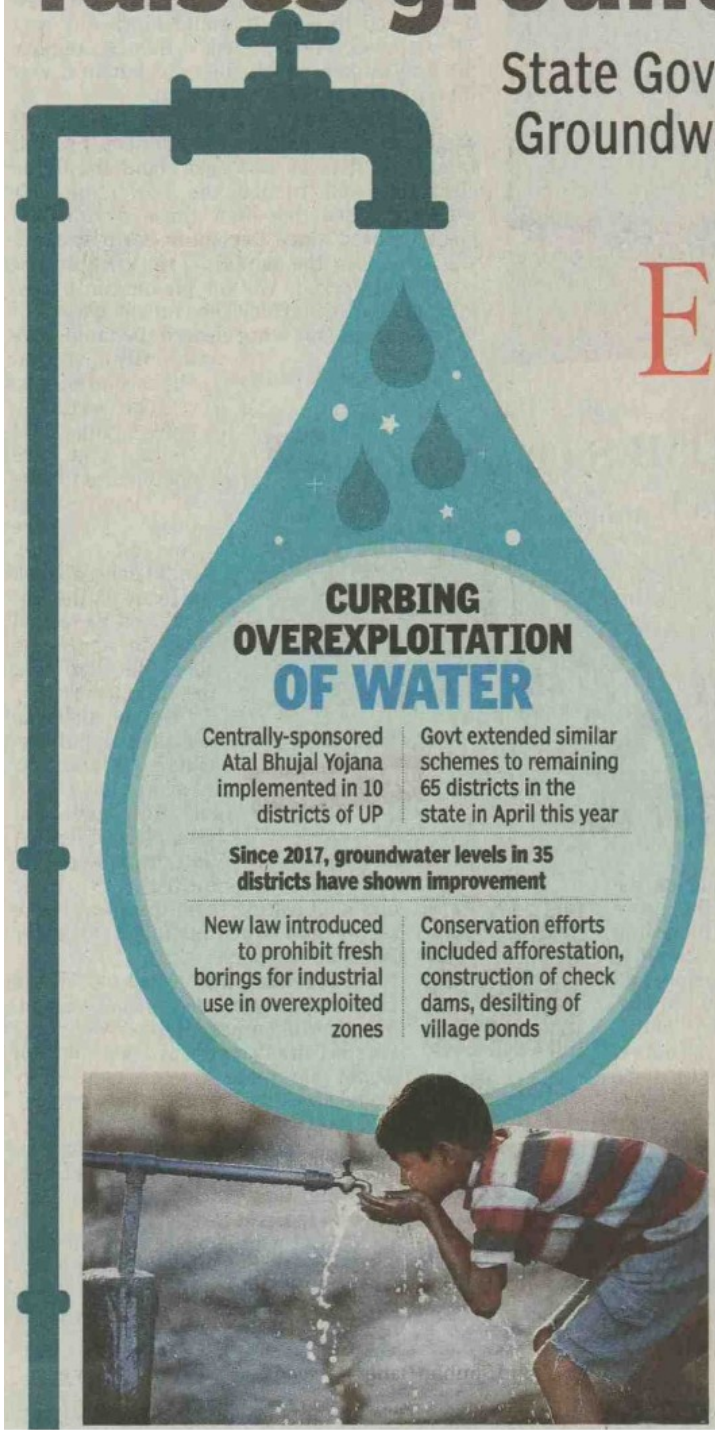
"The new law requires applications to be made on a specified portal and the rejection rate is about 30-35%," Srivastava said, asserting that there was absolute transparency in renewal of licences for industrial extraction of groundwater.

Meanwhile, UP has also secured top position in the implementation of Atal Bhujal Yojana. Under the centrally-sponsored scheme, the government initiated groundwater conservation measures, conducted awareness programmes and made interventions on the demand and supply side. This also included geotagging of ponds and check dams which are maintained by the government.

A government spokesperson said groundwater exploitation had intensified with the spread of hand pumps across the state. "Even now, while piped water is being provided to districts where supply is low, around 27 lakh hand pumps are in operation in UP," he added.

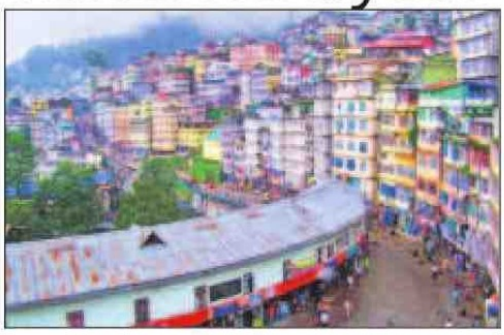
"UP has a large area where groundwater is available in abundance, easily accessible and of good quality. But there are some regions which face issues related to the quality of groundwater, especially the presence of arsenic and fluoride. Bundelkhand and Vindhya regions have hilly terrain where the availability of groundwater is neither good nor perennial. This is the reason why the Har Ghar Nal Scheme started with this region," he said.

MAKE UTTAR PRADESH WATER POSITIVE
A TIMES OF INDIA INITIATIVE



Hindustan Times- 06- October-2021

Sikkim to ban packed mineral water next year



Effective from January 1, 2022, Sikkim will not allow packaged mineral water in its territory. Sikkim Chief Minister, PS Tamang said that after the ban, people in the Himalayan state will replace packaged water bottles with natural resources. Certain parts, such as Lachen in North Sikkim, have already implemented it.

The Hindu- 06- October-2021

'Andhra Pradesh's request to divert river water is untenable'

Telangana urges Tungabhadra Board to take action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Telangana has termed Andhra Pradesh's request to divert an additional 2 tmc ft of water from the Tungabhadra dam to the TBP-Right Bank High Level Canal (HLC) as "untenable and against the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-I award", and that it would be detrimental to the requirements of the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) already getting deficit flows. In a letter addressed to the Secretary of Tungabhadra Board, Engineer-in-Chief (General-Irrigation) of Telangana C. Muralidhar on Tuesday said the utilisation of Krishna water for the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal from the Srisailam reservoir by Andhra Pradesh for the diversion of another 2 tmc ft. water to HLC from Tungabhadra dam, in addition to the 2 tmc ft. water already being diverted, is not agreeable to Telangana till the RDS gets its quota. Against the allocation of 15.9 tmc ft. water to RDS (Telangana), the maximum volume of water reaching the ayacut in Jogulamba-Gadwal district is not going beyond 5-6 tmc ft even in the best case scenario, although Andhra Pradesh has been drawing water indiscriminately from Srisailam without any allocations and approvals.

Restrictions imposed

The ENC pointed out that KWDT-I had imposed restrictions on Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on the utilisation of water in Tungabhadra Sub-Basin and held that the Tungabhadra river shall contribute substantial flows to the main stream of the Krishna river for utilisation of downstream projects. Contrary to the view of KWDT-I, Andhra Pradesh had been using Tungabhadra river flows and regulated releases from Tungabhadra dam to KC Canal.

Andhra Pradesh was also drawing water to the KC canal from three unauthorised sources – from the escape channel at Banakacherla cross regulator, from the Muchumarri lift scheme and from Malyala pumping station, all drawing water from Srisailam – and diverting regulated releases meant for the KC canal to HLC from the Tungabhadra dam. The ENC requested the Board Secretary to complete modernisation works at the earliest so that Telangana is allowed the required flows for utilisation of allocated water for the RDS canal.

Rajasthan Patrika- 06- October-2021

केंद्र सरकार की पहल

हरियाणा के ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में हर घर नल से पहुंचेगा पेयजल

हरियाणा ने जल जीवन मिशन में हासिल की बड़ी सफलता

देश में 25 महीनों में 5 करोड़ ग्रामीण घरों तक पहुंचा नल से जल

पत्रिका ब्यूरो
patrika.com

नई दिल्ली. केंद्रीय जलशक्ति मंत्रालय की जल जीवन मिशन हर घर नल योजना में हरियाणा ने बड़ी सफलता दिखाते हुए समय से पहले ही लक्ष्य को अर्जित किया है। जल जीवन मिशन योजना में गोवा, तेलंगाना और 3 केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों

के बाद हरियाणा तीसरा राज्य है, जहां ग्रामीण इलाके में घरों में नल से पानी पहुंचा है। राज्य के सभी स्कूल, स्वास्थ्य सेंटर में भी टेप वाटर की सुविधा है।

जल जीवन मिशन में मंगलवार तक देश के 8 करोड़ 28 लाख ग्रामीण परिवारों (43.07) को उनके घर में पर्याप्त मात्रा में पीने का शुद्ध जल मिलना शुरू हो गया हैं। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने 15 अगस्त 2019 को जल जीवन मिशन की घोषणा की थी, तब 3 करोड़ 24 लाख परिवारों (17 फीसदी) को ही घर में नल कनेक्शन से पीने का पानी मिल रहा था।

हरियाणा के सीएम खट्टर को बधाई दी

मंत्री शेखावत ने राज्यों के सहयोग से जल जीवन मिशन के तहत वर्ष 2024 तक प्रत्येक ग्रामीण परिवार के घर पीने का शुद्ध पानी पहुंचाने के लक्ष्य को हासिल करने की दिशा में हो रहे कार्यों को लेकर प्रसन्नता जताई है। उन्होंने कहा कि पीएम ने जो लक्ष्य दिया था, उसके लिए जल जीवन मिशन की टीम राज्यों के साथ मिलकर तेजी से काम कर रही है। आज इस बात पर गर्व कर सकते हैं कि करीब 25 महीने में ही जलशक्ति मंत्रालय ने राज्यों के सहयोग से 5 करोड़ नए कनेक्शन देने का आंकड़ा पार कर लिया है। शेखावत ने सीए खट्टर को बधाई दी है। जल जीवन मिशन के तहत मार्च, 2022 तक हर घर नल पहुंचाने का लक्ष्य रखा था, लेकिन इस उपलब्धि को हासिल कर लिया है।