

Telangana Today- 10- January-2022

‘Submit DPRs to CWC’

KCR asks officials to get permissions soon

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao on Sunday directed the Irrigation officials to submit the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) pertaining to irrigation projects proposed on Godavari river to the Central Water Commission (CWC) immediately and obtain necessary permissions to take up the works. He asserted that the DPR on Dr BR Ambedkar Pranahitha Project should be submitted to the Commission as well as the Godavari River Management Board on a priority basis, to obtain required permissions at the earliest.

Reviewing the progress of various irrigation projects proposed on Godavari River at Pragathi Bhavan here, the Chief Minister expressed displeasure over lack of response from the Commission and the inordinate delay of more than five months to the DPRs submitted for irrigation projects including Sitarama, Sammakka Sagar, Mukteshwara (Chinna Kaleshwaram) Lift Irrigation Scheme (LIS), Chenaka Korata Barrage, Choutupalli Hanumanth Reddy

**DPR ON
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LIS and Modikunta Vagu projects. He asked the officials to furnish all the additional information sought by the CWC and obtain necessary permissions to expedite the works.

Further, the Irrigation officials were instructed to consult the Central Water Commission and take steps to remove the five projects on Godavari River that are listed in the recent gazette notification.

They were also asked to invite tenders for the irrigation projects' works scheduled to be taken up during this year. The Chief Minister suggested that the officials invite tenders for lift irrigation schemes proposed for construction on the Nagarjuna Sagar Left Bank Canal; balance works of Kaleshwaram LIS in Kamareddy and Yellareddy Assembly constituencies.

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‘Submit DPRs to CWC’

Officials were also told to invite tenders for lift irrigation schemes proposed for balance works on Palamuru-Rangareddy project in Rangareddy and Vikarabad districts; barrage to be proposed as part of Dr BR Ambedkar Pranahitha Project; Chennur LIS and Gattu LIS as well as Kupti project proposed on Kadem river. With completion of these projects, the construction of important irrigation projects proposed by the State government will be completed.

Deccan Chronicle- 10- January-2022

CAUVERY DISPUTE

K'taka Cong begins stir for Mekedatu

Ramanagara: Jan. 9: The Congress in Karnataka on Sunday began its 10-day 'padayatra', demanding implementation of the Mekedatu project across the Cauvery river, despite the government's Covid-19 restrictions.

Led by the Congress' state president D.K. Shivakumar and leader of Opposition in the state assembly Siddaramaiah, the padayatra with the theme 'Namma Neeru Namma Hakku' (our water, our right) began at the Sangama, the confluence of Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers in Kanakapura here, which will be spanning a distance of over 100 km.

With participation from hundreds of workers,

leaders and cultural groups, the principal opposition party in the state is going ahead with the march, as planned, unfazed by the government's warning of action in case of violation of Covid restrictions and rules.

It now remains to be seen what action the government will take, with a large number of people gathering in violation of rules and orders. The Karnataka government has imposed curfew on weekends and restricted public gatherings to fight the third wave of Covid-19, till Jan. 19. It has also imposed night curfew, and has prohibited all rallies, dharnas, protests, among others. ■ P3

Deccan Chronicle- 10- January-2022

Karnataka Cong begins Mekedatu padayatra, despite covid restrictions

TURN FROM P1

The Congress maintained that it will hold the padayatra following Covid rules and guidelines. Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Mr Shivakumar, Mr Siddaramaiah, former chief minister Veerappa Moily, and almost all the senior party leaders and legislators were present at the inaugural of the padayatra, that is likely to cover a distance of about 15 km on the day one.

Some religious leaders and film personalities like actor Duniya Vijay, actor and music director Sadhu Kokila, were among others seen at the inaugural. Projecting it as an apolitical "walk for water," the Congress has invited seers of various mutts, organisations, leaders of various political parties, film personalities, Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce, among others to take part in the march.

Accusing the BJP government of trying to scuttle the padayatra, Mr Siddaramaiah accused the BJP of colluding with Tamil Nadu in delaying the implementation of Mekedatu project. Claiming that the project was initiated by the Congress government led by

him, he alleged that the BJP has betrayed the people of the state by not getting environmental clearance despite being in power for last 2.5 years, and even accused the central government of not giving clearance, as the saffron party wants to expand its base in neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

"This padayatra is for getting water to Bengaluru and surrounding areas by implementing Mekedatu project, there is no stay for the project by courts or tribunals or Cauvery Water Management Authority....Our padayatra will not stop, let how much ever the BJP try to stop it," he added.

Mr Shivakumar, who is also the MLA from Kanakapura, hit out at Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai for "trying to thwart the padayatra" by asking the district administration to issue prohibitory orders. He dared Mr Bommai to arrest them if he could.

"This march is not for the Congress party or for the sake of power, it is for the sake of the people.... Like Congress fought against the British then for India's freedom, today we are fighting against the BJP and the Janata Dal.... SP (Superintendent of Police), Home Minister- you have



KPCC President D K Shivakumar during the inauguration of the 10-day 'padayatra' from Mekedatu to Bengaluru to demand the implementation of Mekedatu project, in Mekedatu, Sunday.

-PTI

issued orders against the law, we will not fear it....we will peacefully march following Covid rules," he added.

The Congress' march from Mekedatu to Bengaluru, covering about 15 of the 224 Assembly constituencies in

the state, is demanding implementation of the Mekedatu project, which is being opposed by neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

Beginning at Sangama the padayatra is scheduled to pass through Kanakapura, Ramanagara and Bidadi,

before culminating at Basavanagudi in Bengaluru on January 19.

Though the padayatra is being projected as apolitical, demanding the implementation of Mekedatu project, it is also seen as Congress' attempt to

mobilise its cadres and consolidate its voter base in the old Mysuru region, which is a Vokkaliga bastion, where JD(S) is its traditional rival and the ruling BJP is attempting to make inroads, ahead of 2023 assembly polls.

Much is at stake for Shivakumar, the man behind this march, as several Congress functionaries believe that it is an attempt by the KPCC chief, ahead of assembly polls, to assert his Chief Ministerial ambitions, for which Siddaramaiah is also a strong contender. The party has seen several incidents of political one-upmanship between the two leaders last year. Shivakumar took a dip in the river and performed pooja at the Sangama ahead of the padayatra's inaugural.

Both ruling BJP and JD(S) have hit out at Congress calling its march as a "political stunt" ahead of assembly election next year, and has questioned its morality, accusing the grand old party of not putting any efforts to take the project forward while in power.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has maintained that his government was committed to implement the project. Karnataka government submitted a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to the Central Water Commission (CWC) in 2019, which was then referred to the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), where it is stuck currently as Tamil Nadu which is the

lower riparian state, has opposed the project tooth and nail.

Karnataka has maintained that the project within its territory will benefit both states as the surplus water stored can be managed between the two during the distress year, and its implementation will in no way affect the interests of Tamil Nadu's farming communities, as there will be no impact on its share of water.

While the neighbouring state is of the view that the project would "impound and divert" the uncontrolled water flow due to Tamil Nadu from Kabini sub-basin, the catchment area below Krishnarajasagara, and also from Simsha, Arkavathy and Suvarnavathi sub-basins besides other small streams.

The Mekedatu multipurpose (drinking and power) project, which involves building a balancing reservoir, near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district of Karnataka. The project once completed is aimed at ensuring drinking water to Bengaluru and neighbouring areas (4.75 TMC) and also can generate 400 MW power, and the estimated cost of the project is ₹9,000 crore.

-PTI

The Indian Express- 10- January-2022

With water march, Congress looks for firm footing in south Karnataka

JOHNSON TA

BENGALURU, JANUARY 9

THE KARNATAKA Congress on Sunday launched a 10-day foot march amid Covid curbs to push for the creation of the Mekedatu reservoir. On the party's mind, however, is more than the project on the Cauvery that is meant to supply drinking water to Bengaluru and its surrounding regions in south Karnataka.

South Karnataka is home to the Vokkaliga — one of the two dominant communities in the state — that makes up 15 per cent of the population. The other major group is the Lingayat community that is mostly concentrated in north Karnataka and makes up 17 per cent of the state's six crore population.

The general pattern that has emerged since the 2004 state elections shows that the Lingayats support the BJP and the Vokkaligas the Janata Dal (Secular). This has resulted in poll stalemates in 2004, 2008 and 2018 — bringing mergers and horse-trading into play to form government.

Political wisdom now suggests that the BJP needs the support of the Vokkaligas to win a clear majority; the JD(S) needs the Lingayats; and the Congress needs at least one of the big communities to support it to build on the existing base among backward classes, Dalits and minorities.

This is one of the primary reasons the Congress has launched the over 100-km protest march in the midst of Covid restrictions — to galvanise support in south



The 10-day foot march to demand the implementation of water reservoir project begins in Mekedatu on Sunday. PTI

EXPLAINED

E JD(S) tries to counter

THE CONGRESS'S Mekedatu march has made the JD(S), which has a considerable base in south Karnataka, sit up and take notice. Last week, the party announced a programme of its own on the water issue. It will collect water from 15 rivers in the state from January 26 and perform a "Ganga Puja". JD(S) counter shows the political importance of the Congress move.

Karnataka, where the BJP was non-existent until recently.

In the 2018 polls, the Congress won 19 of the 61 seats in the southern Mysuru-Karnataka region while the JDS won 29 seats and the BJP got 11 seats.

The Mekedatu march is a brainchild of the state Congress chief D K Shivakumar, himself a

Vokkaliga leader, who is also said to be jockeying for the chief ministerial position. Shivakumar, along with former chief minister Siddaramaiah, will walk across 15 assembly constituencies in south Karnataka beginning Sunday and finish the "walk for water" in Bengaluru city.

On Sunday, Siddaramaiah claimed the project was initiated by his Congress government, and said the ruling BJP has failed to get environmental clearance despite being in power for the last two-and-a-half years.

Shivakumar, who is also MLA from Kanakapura, where the march began, hit out at Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai for trying to "thwart" the padayatra by asking the district administration to issue prohibitory orders.

Defending the move to march amid the third wave, he said: "Superintendent of Police, Home Minister, you have issued orders against the law, we will not fear it... we will march following Covid rules." There was little social distancing to be seen at Sunday's march.

Hindustan- 10- January-2022

आईआईटी और आईआईएम जैसे संस्थानों की ली जाएगी मदद, अर्थ गंगा परियोजना पर अमल के लिए चल रहा काम

‘गंगा’ को लोगों की आजीविका का साधन बनाने में जुटी सरकार

पहल

नई दिल्ली | एजेसी

सरकार गंगा नदी को लोगों की आजीविका का साधन बनाने के लिए भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) व भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान (आईआईएम) जैसे देश के प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों की मदद लेगी। उनके सुझावों पर कार्ययोजना तैयार की जाएगी। इस उद्देश्य के लिए दोनों संस्थानों का एक समूह

(कंसोर्टियम) भी बनाया जाएगा। राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन (एनएमसीजी) के महानिदेशक जी अशोक कुमार ने कहा कि हम नदियों को आर्थिक गतिविधियों से जोड़ने को लेकर ‘अर्थ गंगा’ परियोजना पर अमल करने के लिए काम कर रहे हैं। इसके तहत गंगा नदी को तटवर्ती क्षेत्रों के लोगों की आजीविका से जुड़ी गतिविधियों से जोड़ने का प्रस्ताव किया गया है। उन्होंने बताया कि इस बारे में ह्यअर्थ गंगा परियोजना पर आईआईटी, आईआईएम जैसे देश के

नमामि गंगे की कई परियोजना का काम 15% बचा

नमामि गंगे परियोजना के बारे में एक सवाल के जवाब में एनएमसीजी महानिदेशक ने बताया, इसके तहत कई परियोजनाओं का 10-15 प्रतिशत कार्य शेष है। हमारी प्राथमिकता ऐसी परियोजनाओं को तीन-चार महीने में पूरा करने की है। अलग अलग राज्यों में ऐसे करीब 15 मामले हैं। कई स्थानों पर पुराने जलमल शोधन संयंत्रों (एसटीपी) को दुरुस्त बनाने पर जोर दिया जाएगा। बिहार एवं उत्तर प्रदेश में मंजूर की गई कई परियोजनाओं पर काम शुरू करने पर भी ध्यान दिया जाएगा।

प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों का एक कंसोर्टियम बनाया जाएगा। यह कंसोर्टियम गंगा सहित सहायक नदियों एवं उस पर आधारित

आजीविका से जुड़े पहलुओं पर विचार विमर्श कर एक रिपोर्ट तैयार करेगा। कुमार ने कहा कि इस रिपोर्ट एवं सुझाव के आधार पर एक समग्र

कार्ययोजना तैयार की जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा इस विषय पर जल्द आईआईएम, लखनऊ में एक कार्यशाला का भी आयोजन होगा।

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने दिसंबर 2019 में हुई राष्ट्रीय गंगा परिषद की बैठक में ‘अर्थ गंगा’ का सुझाव दिया था। इसके तहत देश भर में गंगा की सहायक नदियों के पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को सशक्त बनाने के साथ गंगा के किनारे बसे 4500 गांवों की आर्थिक स्थिति को संवारने के लिए कदम उठाने का प्रस्ताव किया गया था।