

Deccan Herald- 13- June-2023

CM orders third-party inspection of Jal Jeevan Mission works

Directs probe into water contamination deaths

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Siddaramaiah administration on Monday ordered a third-party inspection of works under the Union government's flagship Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the wake of complaints over quality.

This was decided at a meeting Siddaramaiah chaired to review the drinking water situation and JJM.

It was Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister Priyank Kharge who pitched for a third-party inspection of JJM works, which Siddaramaiah approved.

Priyank said several MLAs have complained about poor quality of pipelines and lack of

sustainable water source for water supply.

Since 2019, Karnataka has provided as many as 69.33 lakh tap water connections against a target of covering 1.01 crore households (68% coverage) at a total cost of Rs 10,380.78 crore.

This year, Rs 25,000 crore has been earmarked for the JJM.

Deficit rainfall

The chief minister held a video conference with officials from eight districts - Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal, Ballari, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi.

"Monsoon started in the state on June 10. From June 1 to 11, the state received less



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than the usual rainfall. There is a shortage of 67%. The Meteorological Department has predicted that rainfall will be normal the coming days. But due to lack of rain in the last few days, the government has taken notice of severe drinking water problem in some districts," the CMO said.

Siddaramaiah was told that 322 villages in 15 districts depend on tankers for water supply, while private borewells are being rented in 148 villages.

The chief minister directed officials to deal with the issue of drinking water carefully.

"Action should be taken to provide water within 24 hours

of the problem," he said.

"It is your responsibility to provide clean drinking water to all people. Grants will be provided if required. Don't shift the responsibility by giving excuses. It will be good if it rains and the drinking water problem is solved. Otherwise, authorities should be alert," he said.

Inquiry ordered

Siddaramaiah said he has ordered an inquiry into the death of two people in Koppal and one in Raichur due to water contamination.

Siddaramaiah said Zilla Panchayat chief executive officers will be suspended if such incidents recur.

Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma was asked to probe cases of water contamination.

"Local investigation is underway. A team from Bengaluru should be sent. Action against the erring officials must be taken based on both reports," the chief minister said.



Water being released from 10 gates of the Srisailem Dam, U. SUBRAMANYAM

Yet another blow to water-starved Rayalaseema in A.P.

Decades of challenges and tensions persist in achieving water security for the Rayalaseema region with delayed projects on the river Krishna and little investment in modernising canal systems. Now, with the Karnataka government's proposed Upper Bhadra project, which aims to draw 29.9 tmcft of Tungabhadra waters despite the Bachawat Tribunal not having made any such water allocation, a legal tussle ensues, finds **Ramesh Susarla**

For decades, the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh comprising undivided Kurnool, Anantapur, Kadapa, and Chittoor has grappled with a water scarcity crisis, in terms of both irrigation and drinking water needs.

Many areas in this region are either in the rain-shadow or rain-deficit geographical blocks. Unfortunately, successive governments have done little to address this issue and ensure a steady water supply for the region's 19 lakh acres of agricultural land. Despite an allocated quota of 132 tmcft from the Krishna Basin (out of the total 511 tmcft allocated by the Bachawat Commission for the State, with 299 tmcft for Telangana), the region has been left parched and in dire need of sustainable irrigation solutions.

What is the reality?

As things stand, only 8 lakh acres are irrigated in Rayalaseema region. From the Inter-State Tungabhadra Dam, which is on Tungabhadra river, a tributary of Krishna, Andhra Pradesh has an assured water allocation of 32 tmcft, but never has the State been able to draw the full quantum because the Tungabhadra's high level main canal (HLMC) that runs over 84.24 km in the Anantapur district has not been modernised. The 48-km-long TB low-level canal (LLC) is supposed to serve an area of 1.5 lakh acres in Kurnool district, but not even half of that is irrigated.

What is the Upper Bhadra project?

The Upper Bhadra Project is a major lift irrigation scheme under implementation in the central region of Karnataka and upstream of the Tungabhadra inter-State dam-cum-reservoir. It envisages lifting of up to 17.40 tmcft of water in the first stage from Tungabhadra river to the existing Bhadra reservoir and later lifting 29.90 tmcft in the second stage from Bhadra reservoir to a tunnel near Ajampura, in Tungabhadra sub-basin of Krishna basin. The project, which got a ₹5,300 crore allocation in the Union Budget as a national project, is planned to irrigate 2,25,585 hectares through micro irrigation in Chikmagalur, Chitradurga, Tumkur, and Davangere districts of Karnataka.

What is the threat to A.P.?

The main objection of the people of Andhra Pradesh to Upper Bhadra is impounding of allocated water by Karnataka before it reaches the Tungab-



The political class from the Rayalaseema region cutting across the party lines has ignored the issue of Upper Bhadra and remained silent. Their silence continues even with regard to pending projects on River Krishna

DASARADHA- KAMU REDDY

hadra Dam, which in turn will delay the release of water from the dam to the HLMC and LLC serving Anantapur, YSR Kadapa, and Kurnool districts. Even in a good year, the release of water into Andhra Pradesh happens in the last couple of weeks in July. When water is lifted from the Tunga river, an unfortunate consequence follows – the filling of the TB Dam is delayed. As a result, release of water from the dam is pushed back, causing a significant delay in the sowing season in these districts.

The Bachawat Tribunal had allocated 811 tmcft dependable water to Andhra Pradesh and it later apportioned it in the 512:299 tmcft ratio between Andhra (including parts of Rayalaseema which comprise the Krishna Basin) and Telangana at the time of State bifurcation in 2014. This was done based on the command area developed or utilisation mechanism established by then.

There is no mention of water sharing in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, since the KWDIT Award, which was still in force, had not made any region-wise allocation. The Ministry of Water Resources in 2005 convened a meeting and the governments of Telangana and A.P. had agreed on water sharing in 34:66 (Telangana:A.P.) ratio as an ad hoc arrangement with the minutes specifying that it has to be reviewed every year.

A.P. opposes Upper Bhadra

The Andhra Pradesh government has taken legal recourse by filing an Original Suit (OS) along with an Interim Application (IA) in the Supreme Court



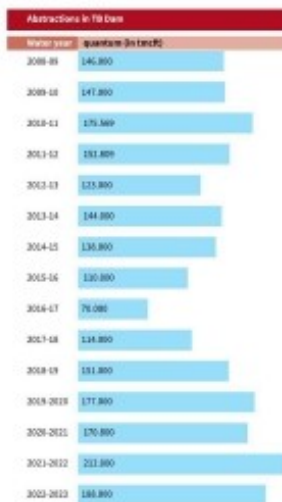
The map showing proposed Siddheswaram Barrage cum Wire-stayed Bridge between Siddheswaram and Malleswaram in Telangana.

Flow control

Annual abstraction at the Tungabhadra Dam at Hospet in Karnataka is expected to be 212 tmcft going by the historical water flow data

But in the past 15 water years, only once – in 2021-22 – 194 quentars (112 tmcft) has been received with no projects like proposed Upper Bhadra Project impounding upstream of TB Dam

Highest priority allocation for TB high-level main canal was 22,500 tmcft in 2011-12 and lowest was 10 TCU tmcft in 2016-17 when abstraction in TB Dam was only 70 tmcft



on February 9, 2023, to seek an injunction against the construction of the Upper Bhadra Project (UBP) and to challenge the validity of the clearances issued by the Central Water Commission.

The OS was officially registered in the Supreme Court on April 5, 2023 (OS: 4/2023), while the IA was registered with the number 4902/2023, according to the Chief Engineer, Inter State & Water Resources. The State government had authorised the Chief Engineer to approach the apex court through a letter dated October 23, 2022.

The A.P. government addressed the government of Karnataka regarding the "illegal construction" of Upper Bhadra Project in letters on July 8, 2017, then on July 17, 2018, and again on March 15, 2019 with a request to restrain the construction of any new projects in Krishna Basin, including the UBP.

The A.P. government also wrote to the Ministry of Jal Shakti, through letters on July 30, 2017; July 28, 2019; July 3, 2021; and December 13, 2021, with a request to advise Karnataka not to go ahead with projects permitted by the Krishna Waters Dispute Tribunal-II and to restrain the construction of any new projects in Krishna Basin, including the UBP, which are not permitted by the KWDIT. A.P. had participated in the 13th meeting of the High-Powered Steering Committee for Implementation of National Projects held on December 6, 2021, and raised objections against the UBP. Responding to the objections

vide CWC letter of January 14, 2022, the Ministry of Jal Shakti said that the UBP was approved as per the provisions of KWDIT. The A.P. government, in turn, wrote to the Ministry and Karnataka on February 9, 2022, requesting them not to go ahead with the UBP without its consent and stated that the hydrological clearance of the UBP may be needed to be re-examined considering the Inter-State issues.

How will Siddheswaram Project help Rayalaseema?

The then Madras Presidency proposed a project to harness Krishna and Penna River waters for irrigating the Rayalaseema, Nellore, and present Tamil Nadu regions. Survey work began in 1947 and plan for a project called Krishna-Pennar Scheme was finalised in 1951. The scheme envisaged the construction of two dams – one on the Krishna at Siddheswaram in Kurnool district, and the other at Someswaram in Nellore district on Penna.

The idea was to irrigate 21.96 lakh acres in the first stage, and 32.94 lakh acres in the second stage. The scheme also provided for feeding of the Mylavaram reservoir with a discharge of 1,800 cusecs through a proposed Krishna-Penna West Canal that would irrigate 1.5 acres in Kadapa district, but the project was later shelved.

Present context of Siddheswaram

For the first time in 2016, the Rayalaseema Saaganeeti Sadhana Samithi led by Raja Dasaratharam Reddy revived the issue of constructing a barrage between Siddheswaram in Andhra Pradesh to Malleswaram in Telangana. The foundation stone was laid symbolically on May 31 that year, to impound 70 tmcft of Krishna flood waters and thus stop situation of the Srisailem Reservoir, which is downstream. The Union government has now proposed a wire-stayed bridge between these two points on the national highway to reduce the distance between Hyderabad and Chennai, but the Rayalaseema people and political activists have been demanding converting this structure into a barrage-cum-bridge project.

The Central Water Resources Department (CWDR) recalled that it had sent a comprehensive report to the State of Andhra Pradesh on January 14, 2022, stating that the Upper Bhadra Project was proposed by the Karnataka government, which is subject to the Bachawat Tribunal allocations. Mr. Reddy said objections raised by A.P. had been cleared at the 14th High Powered Steering Committee meeting held by the CWDR on February 15, 2022.

Mr. Reddy warned that the 20 tmcft water allotted to the Upper Tunga and Upper Bhadra could also pose additional risk to the Siddheswaram project and water allocation of Rayalaseema. "The political class from the Rayalaseema region cutting across the party lines has ignored the issue of Upper Bhadra and remained silent. Their silence continues even with regard to pending projects on River Krishna," he said.

KRMB office at Kurnool?

The Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) should be set up in Kurnool as its on-ground area of operation lies closer to Kurnool, and the Srisailem reservoir is crucial for the management and distribution of Krishna waters lying in the same district. The KRMB needs to finalise the approvals for projects such as Telugu Ganga, Galeru Nagar, Handri Neeva, Veligonda, Muchamari, Garu Raghavendra, and Siddapuram lift scheme. For the State government's part, it needs to expedite the execution so that there is no disparity between the coastal regions and Rayalaseema.

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Karnataka stares at crisis as water level in dams falls drastically

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

WITH the delay in the onset of monsoon and poor pre-monsoon showers, water levels in most of the dams and reservoirs in the state have fallen drastically.

This is likely to impact drinking water supply in urban areas and sowing across the state if the situation continues for the 10 days, according to experts. Experts said the stagnant water in dams and reservoirs could get contaminated. With this being the situation, CM Siddaramaiah conducted a review meeting on Monday. According to sources in the Chief Minister's Office, monsoon entered Karnataka on June 10. As per the rainfall data from June 1 to June 11, there is a deficit of 67%. The government is aware of the drinking water shortage in some districts.

As per Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre (KSNDMC) data, 166 tmcft of water is available in 13 reservoirs as against their gross capacity of 865 tmcft. The situation is grim in the Cauvery basin. In 2022, Krishnaraja Sagar, Harangi, Hemavathi and Kabini dams had 64.51 tmcft of water. As on June 9, these dams had only 33.73 tmcft. The situation in Krishna basin is even worse. The dams in the basin had 170 tmcft of water last year and this year, it has come down to 78 tmcft. Ghataprabha, Tungabhadra, Malaprabha, Almatti, Narayanapura and Bhadra reservoirs are in the Krishna basin. The rivers in most parts of the basin are drying up fast.

The experts said even Malnad and Kodagu regions recorded deficit pre-monsoon rainfall. Sources in the Revenue Department, under which KSNDMC functions, said as on June 9, 2023, 13 major dams had 166 tmcft of water compared to 277 tmcft recorded during the same period last year. This is because during 2021, there was good rainfall till December. This helped in adequate stor-



'Cyclone Biparjoy took rain clouds to Gujarat'

Professor MB Rajegowda, agrometeorologist and former registrar of University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), said cyclone Biparjoy dragged the rain clouds to Gujarat. This has affected Karnataka. The delay in the onset of monsoon and scattered rainfall might cause a drinking water crisis.

age of water in dams and reservoirs of the state. After this, state got 100% excess pre-monsoon showers in 2022. The state recorded a deficit NE rainfall in 2022. In 2023 too, it recorded deficit pre-monsoon rainfall.

This year, Malnad and coastal regions are facing a severe shortage of water because of poor pre-monsoon showers. The west-flowing rivers in these regions are almost dry now. "On Monday, the clouds looked weak. This may not bring good rains across the state. If the situation continues for one week or 10 more days, the state will face a drinking water crisis. It will also affect agriculture," said an official.

Prof MB Rajegowda, agrometeorologist and former registrar of University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), said cyclone Biparjoy dragged the rain clouds to Gujarat. This has affected Karnataka. The delay in the onset of monsoon and scattered rainfall might cause a drinking water crisis.

Dainik Bhaskar- 13- June-2023

40 साल में पहली बार हिमालय के ग्लेशियर ओवरलोड, 15 फीट नई बर्फ, मैदानी इलाकों को भरपूर पानी मिलेगा



दैनिक भास्कर
फोटो स्टोरी

तस्वीर बद्रीनाथ धाम
से दो किमी पहले की।

मनमोहन, देहरादून | हिमालय के ग्लेशियर 40 साल में पहली बार जून में भी ओवरलोड हैं। ग्लेशियरों पर 15 फीट तक नई बर्फ जमा है। उत्तराखंड की शीर्ष चोटियों पर आमतौर पर 30 फीट का पर्माफ्रॉस्ट (स्थायी बर्फ का जमाव) रहता है। लेकिन, इस बार यहां 45 फीट बर्फ जमा है। यहां बर्फ से रिचार्ज ग्लेशियर ओवरलोड होकर नीचे अलकनंदा तक हिम स्वरूप में ही जा रहे हैं।

ऐसा क्यों... ग्लेशियर विज्ञानी डॉ. डीपी डोभाल के अनुसार, इस बार अप्रैल के बाद सबसे ज्यादा पश्चिमी विक्षोभ उत्तराखंड के हिमालयी क्षेत्रों से टकराए। इससे ऊपरी हिमालय में हिमपात से ग्लेशियर रिचार्ज होते चले गए।

4 बड़े फायदे... • मैदानी राज्यों में जल विद्युत का अधिक उत्पादन • सिंचाई नहरों को ज्यादा पानी • वाष्पीकरण के कारण स्थानीय विक्षोभ बनेंगे, इससे ज्यादा बारिश होगी • हिमालय के पर्यावरण पर अनुकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा।