

The Times of India- 01- December-2022

BMC plans ₹6cr facelift for 2 Malad lakes, clean-up for 16 others

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Mumbai: The BMC has drawn out a Rs 6 crore plan for rejuvenating two lakes in Malad. The larger plan, however, is to improve the condition of all the 18 lakes that the BMC's P-North ward boasts off, but are little known.

Officials said that to begin with, the civic body plans to first start with improving the condition of two water bodies, namely Shantaram Talao and Posari Talao. The plan will include creating a promenade with grand entrance to the talao, creating a

PROMENADE, SPACE FOR YOGA ALSO ON CARDS

Lakes to be beautified:
Shantaram Talao and
Posari Talao

Approximate
cost

₹6cr

Current issues:
Narrow walkways, inactive fountain, scattered spaces

Actions required:

- Creating a promenade with a grand entrance to the talao
- Need for a secluded space

secluded space that could be used for yoga activities or as

which can be used as a yoga area or picnic spot

- Gazebo to maintain tem-

a picnic spot, green gazebo to help maintain the temper-

perature in some areas

- Potential to incorporate planters on division walls

ature in the space and cantilever decks.



Civic officials said water quality tests will be carried out as well to chalk out a course of action to improve its condition. Besides, a study of the existing green cover around the lakes will also be taken up to under-

momentum to the project, the BMC will first start by cleaning all the 18 lakes under its 'Majhi Mumbai Swachh Mumbai' campaign wherein floating material in the water body would be removed.

A BMC official said, "To begin with the cleaning process of the lakes first, we want to bring in community participation into the project. This will increase awareness about these water bodies which have been neglected over the years."

BJP former corporator from Malad Vinod Mishra said that in October this year, he wrote to the Mumbai sub-

urban guardian minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha requesting him to direct the lakes in Malad, which are currently under the Collector, to be handed over to the BMC for beautification.

"I have been pursuing this matter since 2018. Malad boasts of many lakes, but their condition has deteriorated. So far, only two lakes have been handed over to the BMC — Shantaram Talao and Lotus Lake — and in the same manner the remaining 16 should also be handed over. The BMC can beautify these lakes in a way that it can become a tourist attraction," said Mishra.

**FOR A BETTER
MUMBAI**

The Times of India- 01- December-2022

Bommai meets Union min, discusses water projects

Chief minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday met Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat and discussed critical water resources projects including the upper Krishna project (UKP) III stage, the upper Bhadra project (UBP), Kalasa-Banduri, and Mekedatu balancing reservoir projects. State water resources minister Govind Karjol said Shekawat gave the Karnataka team a patient hearing. "We made a strong case before the Union Jal Shakti minister and tried to convince him of Karnataka's rights in Kalasa-Banduri and Mekedatu projects," said Karjol. He said discussions were held on the UKP project hearing which is scheduled to come up before the Supreme Court on December 6. Bommai is said to have sought speedy clearances for the projects from the ministry and help in securing clearances from the ministry of environment and forests.

HC: Waste plant land near Beas unsuitable

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SHIMLA, NOVEMBER 30

The Himachal Pradesh High Court has restrained the state authorities from constructing a solid waste management plant near the Beas at Bhuntar in Kullu district.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Sabina and Justice Sushil Kukreja passed the order on a petition that stated that of 11 bighas allotted to the Market Committee, Bhuntar, 1.25 bighas were sought for the construction of a solid waste management plant.

It was contended in the petition that the land sought for the plant was adjacent to borewells of the Jal Shakti Vibhag and the Beas. It was requested that land allotment for the plant was liable to be cancelled on these grounds.

It was further brought to the notice of the court that as the proposed site was located near the Beas as well the irrigation and drinking water scheme of the Jal Shakti Vibhag, in case mixed solid waste was handled at the site, there would be chances of con-

WHAT PETITION SAYS

The solid and liquid waste at the site will require to be scientifically managed. There will be chances of a foul smell spreading in the vicinity.

tamination of ground water/existing borewells of the Jal Shakti Vibhag and the Beas. The solid and liquid waste at the site would require to be scientifically managed. There would be chances of a foul smell spreading in the vicinity.

While allowing the petition, the court observed, "Keeping in view the fact that the site proposed for the solid waste management plant is near the drinking water scheme of the Jal Shakti Vibhag as well as drinking water borewells, we are of the considered opinion that it is not suitable. Drinking water will get contaminated, which will lead to health hazards instead of solving any problem."

However, the court clarified that the authorities can locate some other suitable place for the plant considering the needs of the people of the locality.

Mint- 01- December-2022

| OUR VIEW



This global water audit should not gather dust

The WMO has issued a report on water resources that can guide global climate adaptation and nudge countries with glaring crisis hotspots, like India and Pakistan, to take action

In expert estimation as well as the popular imagination, we must brace for a water crisis as the fumes we emit warm up the world. Adapting to climate change, thus, requires us to track global water resources. The release this week of a report on these by the Geneva-based World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the first audit of its kind, tells us how we are placed. Or, rather, how precariously so. The report offers an overview of river-flow volumes, apart from major floods and droughts, and also identifies 'hotspots' of change in freshwater storage, with our cryosphere of snow and ice in the spotlight for its vulnerability to melting in the global heat-trap created by our gas emissions. Since shrunken polar caps and rising sea levels have been familiar tropes, last year's data might seem a bit out of place at first glance. In 2021, large parts of the planet were unusually dry, according to the report. Some of this can be pinned on La Niña, an oddity that pops up every few years to disrupt wind and rain patterns, but is largely an outcome of global warming, whose deprivations of water could get extremely severe as we go along. For countries like India, too little water could turn out to be a bigger worry than too much of it over the next few decades.

Indeed, in terms of the multitudes faced with water scarcity, this can be considered the great big threat. As of now, the WMO says 3.6 billion people have insufficient access to water for at least one month per year, a figure projected to exceed 5 billion by 2050. This means that more than three people would be short of water for every person at risk of floods by that point. Little wonder that CoP-27 held at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, urged governments to place high-priority emphasis on tackling dry-ups as

part of their climate adaptation plans. While the WMO admits possible gaps in its water mapping, given its patchy access to verified hydrological data to validate what it gleaned from remotely sensed and modelled readings, it has enough data-points to present a bleak picture. African rivers saw weaker stream-flow last year, with the Niger, Volta, Nile and Congo all affected, with a similar squeeze seen in parts of Russia, west Siberia and Central Asia, while above-usual discharge was observed in southern Africa's Zambezi and Orange rivers, as also a clutch of American, Chinese and north Indian rivers, with basins of the latter two particularly prone to floods. Meanwhile, rainfall deficiency cast its gloom in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia last year. India did not suffer much dryness, but monsoon coverage going awry could yet prove painful in time to come.

The scarcity dashboard that we must watch closely is that of terrestrial water storage (i.e. on the land's surface and just under it). Last year's data clubs north India and Pakistan among the regions marked as 'below normal' in comparison with their 2002-2020 average, with a vast zone of severe groundwater depletion common to both. The Gangetic and Indus systems also feature on the WMO's 'hotspot' list of rapid deterioration. Both originate in the Himalayas, but differ in their cryospheric outlook: the former system's flow is fed mostly by rain and far less by ice-melt, which spells both less scope for warming-led river spates in the future and a lower likelihood of thinning out. Of course, we have our own water audits, but the WMO has given us a welcome wider view. Its new report should push us to rescue the subcontinent's northern water table, even engage Islamabad in aqua talks to that end.

Twin solutions

Nexus of Good



ANIL SWARUP

A bunch of youth in Sitlakhet mobilised local women by collaborating with authorities to solve the interlinked problems of water scarcity and forest fires

Water scarcity and forest fires are quite common in hilly tracts of the country and, ironically, these two problems are linked but unaddressed. Here follows the story of a group of enlightened youngsters who attempted to address these issues and succeeded.

In the summer of 2003-04, the flow of water in the Kosi River, which is also known as the lifeline of Almora city, had reduced from its normal flow of 1,400 litres per second to 95 litres per second. Due to the decrease in the water level, the water pumps stopped working — disrupting the supply of water from Kosi River to the city. Almora was in turmoil due to non-supply of water for three days. A similar crisis was experienced in the Syahi Devi Sitlakhet reserve forest area, 30 km from the city. Disturbed by this unprecedented water crisis, some youth of the area — Gajendra Pathak, Girish Chandra Sharma, Ganesh Pathak, Harish Bisht, Ramesh Bhandari, Kailash Nath, Late Prakash Pathak, Late Piyush Chand, Lalit Bisht, Puran Singh Negi, Dhiraj Mertolia, Girish Ram, Bhola Ram etc. — tried to find the cause of water crisis by forming Shyahi Devi Vikas Manch, Sitlakhet.

The forum members found that:

- In the absence of any kind of proper alternative, uncontrolled exploitation of broad-leaf trees of silver oak, rhododendron, alnus, myrica etc. was being done for firewood and agricultural use.
- The forest was catching fire every summer, which was a big cause of concern. Due to inaccessible geographical conditions, and limited resources and staff, complete control over forest fire



The successful incorporation of local women towards managing forest fires is a shining example of community-based approach. IMAGE COURTESY: CEEN

was not possible for the forest department.

- As water sources are found only in mixed forests in mountainous areas, due to uncontrolled and unscientific exploitation of these mixed forests, the water level in the water sources was decreasing.

After identifying the cause, the Manch, along with the Forest Department, decided to launch the Save Jungle-Save Water campaign.

The members of the forum, along with the Forest Department employees Roop Singh and Ranjit Singh, came together with women from the villages of Salla Rautela, Naula, Matila, Dhamas, Bhakar, Kharkia, Suri, Gadsari, Padula, Barsila, Sadka, Chhidriya, Harda, Patalia, etc. and organized awareness seminars to save broad-leaf species of trees.

After two-three years of concerted efforts, the women agreed not to exploit broad-leaf trees for firewood, and decided to support the Forest Department in taking care of forest fires by extinguishing and clearing oak leaves from the paths. In 2012, Shri Kuber Chand, a conscientious forest beat officer appointed in the Sitlakhet section, played

an important role in connecting the women of the area to the Save Jungle-Save Water campaign.

Taking the increasing awareness among women into consideration, the forum convened a meeting of all women at the Shyahi Devi temple on the day of Ramnavami in 2005 and unanimously passed the resolution of dedicating the forest of Syahi Devi Sitlakhet to the Goddess Shyahi Devi for the coming five years. The condition of the forests started improving rapidly after this decision. At the same time, the Forest Department started making rain water harvesting structures in this area on the demand raised by the forum.

The forest began to revive through ANR (Assisted Natural Regeneration) — supporting the forest to regenerate by reducing use of broad-leaf species trees for firewood and checking the incidence of forest fires. Continuing the awareness campaign, the forum, in collaboration with the Forest Department, organized awareness seminars every year on the occasion of Ram Navami/World Environment Day. In one such awareness seminar in 2009, the then Divisional Forest Officer SK Banerjee announced

that if the forest of Sitlakhet area did not catch fire next year, then each Gram Sabha would be given a reward of Rs 5,000.

The forum and Mahila Mangal teams took the challenge and kept cleaning the paths continuously throughout the year — with the help from local employees of the Forest Department; if there was any incident of fire, it was controlled within the first half hour itself. There was no major incident of forest fire in the year. Banerjee kept his promise and gave Rs 5,000 as a reward to 10 Gram Sabhas of the area.

Parallelly, there was a constant demand raised by the farmers to find an alternative for the manufacturing of wooden ploughs to save the oak trees as wood from the trees was used for making their ploughs. This forest of Syahi Devi-Sitlakhet area happened to be the main source of wood for the agricultural equipment of the farmers of the nearby villages.

In 2012, Vivekananda Hill Agricultural Research Institute, Almora, introduced the first version of 'VL Syahi plough'. A collaborative project was sanctioned by the Uttarakhand government for the distribution of 500 such ploughs. Lightweight, cheap, durable and stronger than the wooden plough, the VL Syahi plough is being used by more than 90 per cent of the farmers of the villages around this forest. The intervention has been successful in saving hundreds of big oak trees every year.

Meanwhile, during the horrific forest fires of 2012 and 2016, this forest area also suffered damage. Research revealed that the biggest reason for forest fires was the random stubble (locally called *Ona*) burning in March to prepare the farmlands for the upcoming monsoon crop.

While women are usually cautious in burning the stubbles, in many cases, the fire spreads to the nearby farms and the reserved/panchayat/civil forests — resulting in incidents of forest fire.

To create awareness about the forests of Sitlakhet Syahi Devi area, Mahatim Yadav — Divisional Forest Officer in Almora Forest Division — walked from Almora to Sitlakhet in 2020, and also prepared an action plan to develop this area as an eco-tourism centre connecting the local unit of ITBP to protect the forest. The local people have been supporting the Forest Department in the conservation and promotion of forests. For the first time on the initiative of the Divisional Forest Officer, the district administration gave 14 vehicles and Rs 20 lakh to the Forest Department for forest fire management.

Gajendra Pathak, the advisor of the Village Industries Development Institute, Dhaili, Almora, suggested celebrating April 1 every year as *Ona* Day, which was accepted by the women. Also, on April 22, on World Earth Day, an awareness rally was taken out by the Forest Department in Sitlakhet, and a programme was organized in which many organizations, government officials, and villagers participated at large scale.

What has happened in Sitlakhet is a wonderful example of Nexus of Good. A model has been evolved to grapple with a problem that afflicts a number of villages. This model can and is being scaled through public-private partnership. The chief minister of Uttarakhand has recognised these efforts, and has announced the replication of the 'Sitlakhet Model' in other parts of the state under the Save Jungle-Save Water campaign.

Views expressed are personal

After two-three years of concerted efforts, the women agreed not to exploit broad-leaf trees for firewood, and decided to support the Forest Department instead

Amar Ujala- 01- December-2022

जे चंद्रशेखर अय्यर केंद्रीय जल आयोग के अध्यक्ष नियुक्त

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय जल आयोग
(सीडब्ल्यूसी) के नए अध्यक्ष के तौर पर जे
चंद्रशेखर अय्यर को नियुक्त किया गया है।



बृहस्पतिवार को वरिष्ठ
अधिकारी ने यह जानकारी
दी। केंद्रीय जल इंजीनियरिंग
सेवा के 1984 बैच के
अधिकारी अय्यर वर्तमान में
आयोग में डिजाइन एवं
अनुसंधान विभाग के सदस्य
हैं। अधिकारी ने बताया कि

वह 1 दिसंबर से सीडब्ल्यूसी के अध्यक्ष का
पद संभालेंगे और आयोग के प्रमुख के रूप में
भारत सरकार के पदेन सचिव होंगे। एजेंसी

Dainik Bhaskar- 01- December-2022

भास्कर साउंड रिपोर्ट 50 महीने से बांध का काम बंद रहने की वजह से लटका काम अब युद्ध स्तर पर जारी, कंपनी को जारी हो चुके 500 करोड़ रुपये राष्ट्रीय प्रोजेक्ट शाहपुर कंडी बांध का 85% काम पूरा, 8 माह में बंद होगा पाक को जा रहा पानी

शिवायन सिवाती | पठानकोट

पाकिस्तान के साथ सिंधु जल समझौता अमल में लाने के लिए बनाया जा रहा राष्ट्रीय प्रोजेक्ट शाहपुर कंडी बांध अब 1 जुलाई 2023 तक पूरा किया जाना तय किया गया है। पिछले 8 साल से लटके इस प्रोजेक्ट को लेकर वैद व पंजाब सरकार को संघर्षा के चलते अब निर्माण युद्धस्तर पर चल रहा है। दैनिक भास्कर को ओर से जब बांध परियोजना की जर्नी लकीरता जानने की कोशिश की तो परियोजना से जुड़े अधिकारियों ने बताया अगले 8 माह में काम पूरा होने के आसार हैं। फिर पाक की

तरफ क्वथाने वाले तबू का पानी पूरी तरह रुक जाएगा। पहले दूधे बिस्तर से दिसंबर 2022 तक बांध बना लिया जाएगा। अब यह आस तब और मजबूत हुई है जब पंजाब सरकार ने यह दावा किया है वह बांध बना रही सोम वीर्य कंपनी के साथ 100 करोड़ मुआवजा दिए जाने की लेकर ऑक्टोबर में चल रहा फंड विवाद एक माह के भीतर हल कर लेगी। मुख्य सचिव कृष्ण कुमार ने कंपनी के साथ हुई मीटिंग में अगले 20 दिनों मुआवजे की रकम तय करने की बात कही है। बांध बना रही कंपनी का टेकर 688 करोड़ का है व 500 करोड़ कंपनी को जारी भी हो चुके हैं।

2715 करोड़ का प्रोजेक्ट



22 में से 14 गेट तैयार, 8 पर चल रहा है तेजी से काम, 621 करोड़ की लागत वाले पावर प्रोजेक्ट भी बन रहे

1100 मीटर लंबी चैनल भी बनाई जा रही

बांध से कुछ दूरी पर कम्पलेंट में 621 करोड़ से दो पावर हाउस ओम्पलेंट जमीन बन रही है। एक्सपर्ट्स सरीश राज ने बताया बांध के 22 गेटों में से 14 गेट बन गए हैं। 8 पर तेजी से काम चल रहा है। जेटों के की ओर बांध के ऊपर से रोड बन रही है। बांध के रजिस्ट्रार से जम्मा करपा की ओर रावी चैनल का निर्माण भी तेजी से चल रहा है। चैनल को 1100 मीटर लंबा बनाया जाना है, जिससे जेटों के की 1150 क्यूसेक पानी मिलेगा। इससे जेटों के की 20% बिजली का हिस्सा भी मिलेगा। बांध इलाक़ के महाप्रब्लेक संदीप कुमार स्मृत ने बताया वैद और पंजाब सरकार दोनों की कोशिश है रावी नदी के पानी को एक बंद भी चक की तरफ न जाए जिसके लिए बांध के साथ पावर हाउसों का निर्माण भी युद्ध स्तर पर किया जा रहा है।

फायदा 206 मेगावाट बिजली बनेगी

शाहपुरकंडी बांध पहले से बने 600 मेगावाट पावर क्षमता के रणजीत सागर बांध (आरएसडी) की दूसरी इकाई है जिससे 206 मेगावाट बिजली तो बनेगी ही साथ ही आरएसडी को पूरी धमती के साथ चलाया जा सकेगा और आरएसडी से छोड़ा गया पानी पाकिस्तान जाने से पूरी तरह रुक जाएगा।

देरी से 1 हजार करोड़ की बिजली का नुकसान

शाहपुरकंडी बांध बनने में 4 साल की देरी के कारण पंजाब को हर साल एक हजार करोड़ रुपये मूल्य की बिजली का नुकसान हो रहा है। जेटों के विवाद पैदा नहीं करता तो बांध से 2020 में बिजली उत्पादन शुरू हो जाना था। इससे रणजीत सागर बांध से 600 मेगावाट बिजली का उत्पादन होता जबकि अभी 300 से अधिक नहीं हो पाता है और पानी चक की तरफ छोड़ना पड़ता है।

विवादों का इतिहास...

बांध विवादों में तब आ गया, जब निर्माण शुरू होने के कुछ महीनों के भीतर ही 2014 में जम्मू-कश्मीर सरकार ने सिंचाई के पानी में हिस्सेदारी, टैम के डिजाइन और जमीनों के मुआवजे को लेकर आपत्ति की। इसके कारण 50 महीने काम बंद रहा। पोरामओ और केंद्रीय जल आयोग के दखल के बाद जेटों के मान और अक्टूबर 2018 में फिर काम शुरू हुआ और प्रोजेक्ट की कोस्ट 2715 करोड़ रुपये तब की गई।

Pioneer- 01- December-2022

करोड़ों दिए, साफ नहीं हुई यमुना : गडकरी

● भाजपा के स्टार प्रचारकों ने जनसभाओं को किया संबोधित

पायनियर समाचार सेवा। नई दिल्ली

एमसीडी चुनाव के लिए चंद ही दिन शेष रह गए हैं। ऐसे में भाजपा ने अपने चुनाव प्रचार को धार देने के मकसद से बुधवार को स्टार प्रचारकों को मैदान में उतार दिया। पार्टी के वरिष्ठ नेताओं ने दिल्ली भर में विजय संकल्प रोड शो में 100 छोटी-बड़ी जनसभाओं को संबोधित किया और भाजपा के विकास के मुद्दे पर मतदान करने की अपील की।

केंद्रीय मंत्री नितिन गडकरी ने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार द्वारा केजरीवाल सरकार को यमुना को शुद्ध करने के लिए हजारों करोड़ रुपये दिए पर अफसोस यमुना नदी पहले से ज्यादा मैली हो गई है क्योंकि दिल्ली सरकार ने कोई ठोस कदम नहीं उठाए और केंद्र सरकार द्वारा मिले पैसों का क्या



किया, किसी को नहीं पता। गडकरी ने बताया कि दिल्ली की दो समस्या है। पहला ट्रैफिक जाम और दूसरा प्रदूषण। इन दोनों समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए केंद्र सरकार का परिवहन विभाग 60,000 करोड़ रुपये खर्च कर रहा है।

केंद्रीय मंत्री श्री ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया ने आज मंडोली में विजय संकल्प रोड शो के दौरान कहा कि दिल्ली के मुख्यमंत्री अरविंद केजरीवाल दूसरे राज्यों में जाकर कई तरह की बातें करते हैं, लेकिन आज पूरी दिल्ली पूछ रही है कि वे अपने कार्यकाल में किए गए दो काम गिनवा दें। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रचार

आधारित सरकार चलाने वाले केजरीवाल ने दिल्ली को लूटने का काम किया है और निगम को फंड ना देकर आर्थिक रूप से पंगु बनाने की कोशिश की लेकिन बावजूद उसके भाजपा शासित ने दिल्ली नगर निगम में अभूतपूर्व कार्य करके दिखाया है।

इसके अलावा पीयूष गोयल, भूपेन्द्र यादव, डॉ. जितेन्द्र सिंह, मध्यप्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान, उत्तराखंड के मुख्यमंत्री पुष्कर सिंह धामी, हिमाचल प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री जयराम ठाकुर, युवा मोर्चा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष एवं सांसद तेजस्वी सूर्या व दिल्ली के सातों सांसद रोड शो में शामिल हुए।