China's Escalating Water War

On top of other asymmetric tactics, Brahmaputra mega-project is a new threat India faces

Brahma Chellaney



China's multi-pronged unconventional war against India has ranged from cyberattacks on critical infrastructure and furtive territorial

and furtive territorial encroachments to strategic information warfare and an ongoing village building drive to populate uninhabited but disputed borderlands. Water wars are a key component of such warfare because they allow China to leverage its upstream Tibet-centred power over the most essential natural resource.

China knows its troops cannot fight and win decisively against the battle hardened Indian military on a force-on-force basis, as the Galwan valley clashes underscored. So, to contain India, it has been applying asymmetric warfare techniques to attack India's weak points, in keeping with what Sun Tzu said: 'Allwarfare is based on deception.'

India, instead of looking at China's new face of war in totality and devising a comprehensive and proactive counter-strategy, has brought its security under increasing pressure through a disjointed and fragmented approach. Such is the absence of long-term strategic thinking and planning that, each time China opens a new front or pressure point, India searches for a stopgap or, worse still, seeks to paper over its weak spot.

still, seeks to paper over its weak spot.
China's newly approved Brahmaputra mega-project, which will dwarf its Three Gorges Dam by generating almost three times more electricity, should shake India out of its ad hoc, compartmentalised approach to Chinese aggression. The project is to harness the force of a nearly 3,000 metre drop in the Brahmaputra's height when the river, just before entering India, takes a U-turn around the Himalayas to form the world's longest and steepest canyon. By setting out to dam the Brahmaputra there, China is seeking to effectively weaponise water against India.

Unidentified Chinese upstream activities in the past have triggered flash floods in Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh and, more recently, turned the water in the once-pristine Siang-Brahmaputra's main artery-dirty and grey as it entered India. Indeed, such is China's defiant unilateralism that, to



complete a major dam project, it halted the flow of a Brahmaputra tributary, the Xiabuqu, in 2016 and then started damming another such tributary, the Lhasa River, into a series of artificial lakes.

In 2017, China openly demonstrated its use of water as as a tool of coercive diplomacy when, in breach of two bilateral accords, it punitively cut off the flow of hydrological data to India, an action that undermined downstream flood early warning systems, resulting in preventable deaths in Assam. China reversed the data cutoff only after the 2018 Wuhan summit, which was held following its capture of Doklam behind the cover of the August 2017 disengagement agreement.

About a dozen small or medium sized Chinese dams are already operational on the Brahmaputra's upper reaches. But with its dam building now moving to the river's India-bordering canyon region, China will be able to manipulate transboundary flows and leverage its claim to the adjacent Arunachal.

The serious implications, however, are being obscured by misinformation or ignorance. For example, some in Indian policy and academic circles have conjec-

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tured that the Brahmaputra collects the larger share of its water in India. This water collection is mainly restricted to the four-month monsoon season. Fluvial ecosystems depend on perennial water sources, which, in the Brahmaputra's case, are largely in Tibet.

The Brahmaputra, the world's highest altitude river; gathers extremely rich silt in its almost 2,200km Himalayan run. The silt rich water from Tibet, not monsoon water collection, is central to the river's unique hydrology and

biodiversity support. The canyon megaproject, like the Three Gorges Dam, will trap downstream flow of nutrient-rich silt. It'll also disrupt the Brahmaputra's annual flooding cycle, which helps to re-fertilise farmland naturally by spreading silt, besides opening giant fish nurseries. That, in turn, is likely to cause subsidence and salinity in the Brahmaputra-Ganges-Meghna delta.

Brahmaputra-Ganges-Meghna delta.

In the Mekong Basin, the environmental havoc unleashed by China's upstream giant dams is becoming increasingly apparent. The environmental devastation could be worse in the Brahmaputra basin, especially in densely populated Bangladesh, triggering a greater exodus of refugees to India, which is already home to countless millions of illegally settled Bangladeshis.

The Brahmaputra mega-dam, ominously, will be built in a seismically active area, thus implying a ticking "water bomb" for downstream communities. The dictatorship in Beijing is not deterred even by the fact that the project will desecrate territory that is sacred to Tibetans: the major mountains, cliffs and caves in the canyon region, known locally as Pemako, or the "Hidden Lotus Land", represent the body of their guardian deity, the goddess Dorje Pagmo (Vajravarahi in Sanskrif), and the Brahmaputra represents her spine.

The expanding water war is clearly part of China's integrated, multidimensional strategy against India, which seeks to employ all available means short of open war. Its unconventional war is profoundly impacting every core Indian interest. To deal with this structural challenge, India, in Sun Tzu style, must give China a taste of its own medicine. Two US reports, The Longer Telegram (published by the Atlantic Council) and the state department's The Elements of the China Challenge, underline the imperative to target China's weak spots.

China's weak spots.

India has little choice but to asymmetrically out-compete China's asymmetric war by exploiting its internal vulnerabilities, fissures and fragilities, including in Tibet, the main launchpad for its unconventional warfare, India has the capabilities to outwit and deter China; what it needs is the vision and resolve.

The writer is a geostrategist

98,818 FAMILIES TO BE DISPLACED BY POLAVARAM

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 16

The 98,818 families living in 371 habitations in the East and West Godavari districts will be displaced by the Polavaram project. Problem is also that some of the rehabilitation and resettlement centres being readied for them do not have proper amenities, the AP High Court has been told.

A PIL said some 55 per cent of the total 1,88,012 project-affected people belong to scheduled tribes, 15 per cent scheduled castes, 17.5 per cent backward classes and the rest are from the other categories. While they are forced to abandon their homes and hearths, there is no guarantee yet they will get due entitlements or even part payments. "This is causing them serious agony and trauma."

Nearly 112 habitations would be displaced in the first phase covering a 41.15 meters plus contour while the remaining 259 habitations identified as submerging habitations over a 45.72 plus meters contour would be moved out in a phased manner.

Taking note, the high court principal bench headed by Chief Justice Arup Kumar Goswami has directed the state government not to go ahead with the displacement of these people unless proper amenities as per law were provided at the rehab colonies.

Jal Board to press Punjab and Haryana on supply of water

Officials assured that closure of hydel channel won't cut off water supply

SHIVAM PATEL

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

AFTER HAVING "positive discussions" with the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) on Monday, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) officials will have a joint meeting with Punjab and Haryana government officials this week on water supply to the capital.

The BBMB had planned a closure of the Nangal Hydel Channel from March 25 to April 24 for repair and maintenance, which would have impacted supply of about 232 million gallons per day (MGD) of water that Delhi receives from the Ravi and Beas rivers.

In a meeting on Monday, DJB officials said the BBMB has agreed to continue supplying water into the channel during repair work, with the exception of a few minor disruptions if the need arises.

'The Haryana government is also cooperating with us and has agreed to supply water to Delhi



DJB's water supply capacity is already impacted due to a reduced flow in the Yamuna due to inadequate rain. Archive

as received by them," a DJB official said.

However, in the same time period, the Punjab government had also planned a closure of the channel, also called the Bhakra Main Line (BML), for repairs, including that of a damaged embankment

DJB officials agreed that the work planned by Punjab is cru-

cial, but added that they will request the state to postpone it until the end of summer, when water demand in the capital reduces and there is good flow in the Yamuna river to compensate for losses. The request is being made because DJB officials fear the possibility of repairs extending beyond their planned time frame due to unforeseen circumstances.

which will increase water burden on Delhi.

A blind or complete closure of the channel would roughly cut off 25% of Delhi's potable water source at a time when water demand begins increasing more than the average 1,100 MGD in the city, against which the DJB can only supply around 935 MGD.

The DJB's water supply capacity is already being impacted due to a reduced flow in the Yamuna since earlier this month, caused by inadequate rainfall this year and during September and October 2020, officials said.

Against the normal level of the Yamuna of 674.50 feet near the Wazirabad pond area, officials said the present level is 671.40 feet and the concentration of ammonia is around 3ppm, against a treatable limit of 0.9ppm.

Yamuna water supplied through two canals — the CLC and the DSB — is also less than the normal levels, officials said, which is further increasing the burden on water treatment plants.

Projects worth Rs 1.91 lakh crore in progress under Jal Jeevan Mission: Shekhawat

New Delhi: Work is underway on projects worth Rs 1.91 lakh crore under the flagship Jal Jeevan Mission, which seeks to provide drinking water to every rural household in the country, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat told Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Replying to Monday's discussion on the working of the Jal Shakti Ministry — where Congress leader Digvijaya Singh had slammed the government for not utilising the allocated funds for different projects — Shekhawat said the Centre was in touch with states for effective implementation of projects and lashed out at the opposition party for "smiling at the plight of people" facing an acute water crisis during its regime.

Attacking opposition members for questioning the programme's intent, Shekhawat pointed out that more than 3.77 crore households were provided tap water connections under the mission.

Dirty waters

Contamination of Lukha river system has damaged aquatic life and resulted in loss of livelihoods; write Aparajita Mukherjee & Debapriya Mukherjee

eghalaya has a generous water supply with a number of perennial rivers, lakes and waterfalls that beautify the landscape. This state is also rich in minerals particularly limestone, coal, shale and laterite. Also, Narpuh reserve forest, deep inside the Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya, is among the few good forest patches which are under the intense pressures of growth, non-sustainable development and mindless extraction of natural resources like coal and limestone. The environmental problems associated with mining, urbanization, industrial ization, road construction and other developmental activities have been significant because of the fragile ecosystem and richness of biological and cul-

tural diversity.
The Meghalaya coalfield has a long history of disorga-nized "rat-hole" mining. The current modus operandi of surface mining in the area generates huge quantities of mine spoil or overburden (consolidated and unconsolidated materials overlying the coal seam) in the form of gravels, rocks, sand and soil, that are dumped over a large area adiacent to the mine pits without any consideration of environmental issues. The absence of post-mining treatment and management of mined areas are making the environment more vulnerable to degradation and leading to large

land use changes. Furthermore, the thousands of rat-hole pits, aban-doned after coal extraction, fill with water during rainstorms. This water percolates into the groundwater or flows into the rivers causing severe contamination of groundwater and river water respectively. The rainwater percolates through spoil heaps, leached metals, metalloids, and sulphate to receiving streams much like other mining regions. Also, the



The blue colour of Lukha river and large-scale death of fishes remains a mystery to be solved

soil eroded in this area ultimately finds its way to the rivers. The rivers flowing through the mining belt are now severely contaminated with complex, ill-defined mixtures of contaminants due to mining activities. The precipitated iron and the blue colour at the confluence of the Lukha river are evidence of AMD discharge and dust from the mining areas and cement industries.

In addition to coal mining, limestone mining in Megha-laya has remarkably increased from 2006 in order to meet the requirements of cement manufacturing units. Meghalaya possesses 9 per cent of the total limestone resources of the state, distributed mainly along the southern border. Limestone is the second most important mineral extracted in the state after coal. Preliminary observations reveal that lime stone mining has degraded the ecosystem of the area through deforestation, removal of top fertile soil, disturbances in the surrounding ecosystem near the mining sites as well as contamination of the water in the nearby area. The total loss of forest in the area due to mining activities was found to be around 1,260 ha between 2005 to 2011, with maximum expansion during 2005-2009 and within 5 km radius. Loss

of forest cover due to urbanization and mining activities further increases soil erosion Appearance of blue colour along with fish mortality (all fish, irrespective of their size and species) in Lukha is an example of the adverse effects of mining activities on aquatic ecosystems. Annual occur-rence of this episode may cause mortality of all fishes including vulnerable, endangered and critical species. Ecosystem function and evolutionary processes become imbalanced with loss of many invertebrates. The aquatic systems in this hilly area are highly sensitive to loss of flora and fauna

In spite of several studies into this phenomenon, none have put sincere efforts to explore the actual cause of fish mortality. After the blue colour of the river and the fish mortalities were brought to the attention of regulatory authorities, there were speculations that it was due to the presence of copper sulphate, deposition of dust originating from cement industries, and the presence of aluminum, but a clear understanding of the source and mechanism of contamination remained elusive. Many villagers do not believe that coal mining is responsible for the blue colour and fish mortalities because coal mining has occurred since colonial times. According to them, the expansion of the cement factories that have been operating since 2007 has caused the problem and therefore closure of these industries will solve them. This perception is highly controversial. Many local communities and non-governmental organizations are raising their concerns about this environmental impact. the fact puzzled researchers as to what makes the water pollution so poisonous to fish. Researchers have focused on the presence of acid, sulphate and metals in the water, but they are still unable to understand the mechanism that causes the blue colour and fish mortalities.

The possible reason is that the earlier monitoring programmes were not properly designed. Critical analysis of these data clearly revealed that there may be certain flaws and inconsistencies in the selection of variables, environment components (water and sediment), analytical accuracy, and reassessment of the appropriateness and effectiveness of the existing monitoring programmes with reference to defined objectives and interpretation of data based on our literature survey.

Later on, considering the

combined effect of pyrite oxidation on the Lunar river upstream and then mixing of slightly alkaline water, originating from a limestone quarry at the Lunar downstream, a monitoring programme was framed based on thorough literature survey. The study revealed that the combined effect of AMD and limestone discharge caused slow precipitation of white particles on the bottom with an increase of pH during low-flow conditions. Further mixing of this water at the confluence with the Lukha river increased the pH and caused coagulation of aluminosilicate particles (with some calcium and sulphate) as a thin layer of white precipi-tate on the river bed for 5-6 km downstream. These larger aluminosilicate particles scat-ter light in the blue spectrum. The cause of fish mortality is related to the accumulation of white particles enriched with Aluminum on fish gills as inferred from the physical appearance of fishs. The blue colour disappears slowly with the onset of rainfall and increasing discharge flushes

out the white particles. Further confirmation of this study is an emergent need so that prudent water quality management practices may be framed to improve economic, environmental and social conditions. This river pollution not only threatens the water use but also the supply of fish, an important source of nutrients to the villagers. The peo-ple in this area are also facing severe difficulties to sustain their livelihood due to the ban imposed by the National Green Tribunal on coal min-ing practices. Priority remediation must be based on water chemistry data, metal loads, and the areas of greatest risk to the public. The availability of lime water from the tributary could be engineered to neu-tralize acid water and prevent fish kills.

Views expressed are personal

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'Work worth Rs 1.91 lakh cr underway in projects under Jal Jeevan Mission'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Work is underway in projects worth Rs 1.91 lakh crore under the flagship 'Jal Jeevan Mission', which seeks to provide drinking water to every rural household in the country, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat told Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Replying to Monday's discussion on the working of the Jal Shakti Ministry, Shekhawat said the Centre was in touch with the states for effective implementation of the projects, and lashed out at the Congress for "smiling at the plight of people" facing acute water crisis during its regime.

Terming the scenario challenging, Shekhawat said a slew of steps were initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he understood the plight, pain and sufferings of the people.

"Water crisis can have a negative impact on the GDP by six per cent," the Jal Shakti minister said, and added that India's water requirement would double by 2030 and grow four times by 2050.

He said a Jal Shakti ministry campaign would be launched on March 22 in 700 districts, and added, "The prime minister has fixed 2024 as the target for water to every home."

Attacking opposition members for raising questions over the intent of the government, Shekhawat pointed out that more than 3.77 crore households were provided tap water connections under the mission. "Modi hai to mumkin hai (Modi can make it possible)," he added.

'Jal Jeevan Mission', a Rs 3.6-lakh crore flagship programme of the Narendra Modi government, aims to provide tap water connections to all rural households by 2024.

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh had on Monday slammed the government for not utilising the allocated funds for various projects and programmes in the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Ggm all set to revive over 60 defunct water bodies

The areas include Kasan, Bilaspur, Tajnagar, Bhondsi, Dharampur, Budhera & Wazirpur

PIYUSH OHRIE

GURUGRAM: The Gurugram district administration has set an ambitious target of reviving over 60 defunct water bodies this year. Of these 60 water bodies, 25 are in the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) while rest comes under Panchayati lands and other public lands.

Some areas where water bodies will be revived this year are in Kasan, Bilaspur, Tajnagar, Bhondsi, Dharampur, Budhera and Wazirpur. There are nearly 320 water bodies which can be revived in Gurugram.

The urgency of revival of water bodies comes at a time when it has been officially acknowledged by the State government that ground water reserves are depleting rapidly. So far, three water bodies have been restored, which include Khaintawas, Harchandpur and Nawada.

Depletion of ground water reserves has resulted in the district being placed in a dark zone by the Central Government since 2016. With the situation only expected to get worse every year with Gurugram witnessing unplanned urban expansion, the district administration plans to implement several mea-



sures to improve the situation of groundwater reserves. Restoration of water bodies and ponds forms a major part of this plan. With concretisation of Badshahpur drain further expected to reduce groundwater reserves, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) sought an explanation from Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) regarding its plan to replenish groundwater. In its reply, the GMDA answered that it would create eight ponds across 950 acres. In addition, four natural creeks would also be revived to replenish groundwater reserves.

One major reason for falling groundwater reserves has also been attributed to extinct water bodies in and around Gurugram. Assurances have also been given to act against illegal borewells in the city that continue to extract large amounts of ground water.

Quenching India's thirst for water

EESHAN CHATURVEDI, ARMIN ROSENCRANZ AND KRISHNA PRIYA

ndia has about 18 per cent of the world's population, but has only 4 per cent of the world's fresh water. As metros such as Chennai and Bangalore run amok to account for the last drop ofwater, one needs to reflect upon the governance policy within the water domain to see what could quench this thirst.

It is well documented that in the domestic water sector, the loss of water from leakages in mains, communication and service pipes and valves is 30 to 40 per cent of the total distribution system. This means that the country loses almost 1/3rd of its total available water. By contrast, Singapore, Denmark and Netherlands lose less than 10 per cent of their fresh water. Over the past decade, a lot of effort has been put into revamping the distribution infrastructure to reduce leakages from old piping. This effort, while laudable, only addresses one piece of India's water puzzle.

The irrigation sector consumes roughly 80 per cent of the total fresh water, followed by domestic use 6 per cent, industries 5 per cent, and power development 3 per cent. Approximately 60 per cent of the Indian pop-



ulation works in the agricultural/farming industry. They contribute about 18 per cent to India's GDP while enabling the consumption of 80 per cent of India's water.

The water consumption pattern

in India poses a significant challenge to improving water use efficiency and implementing water conservation measures. A majority of government policies centred around conservation and efficient use of water focus on domestic human consumption, as opposed to consumption by the agriculture and irrigation sector.

In principle, there is nothing wrong with one sector consuming 4/5th of the country's water supply – as long as the sector is properly governed, accounted and paid for. This is not the case in India. The country needs to rethink its water strategy: Irrigation now leaves scant fresh water for humanitarian and industrial purposes.

The water ministry comes out with guidelines from time to time, but any suggestions regarding the irrigation sector seem not to be considered seriously. Among other reasons, water management is the primary responsibility of individual states under India's constitution. We must start looking at water as a common resource and realign our policy decisions in a proportionate and equitable manner.

In fact, the domestic water demand is on the rise and major cities in India are scrambling to satisfy this demand. No water use management policy will be successful without a parallel change in agricultural policies. To achieve lasting impact on groundwater conservation, India must shift from cultivating water-intensive crops such as paddy to less water intensive crops. Robust water

audit mechanisms that examine the use of water by individual farmers for the irrigation sector and a revamping of the existing subsidy regime are critical to solving the water crisis in India. State governments must consider subsidizing water to individual small-holding farmers to ensure that small and marginal farmer incomes are not adversely impacted.

Deploying agri-tech solutions such as precision farming and SRI-system of rice intensification; addressing infrastructure issues with respect to embankments and canals; creating awareness at the grassroots level and formulating policies and legislations to bolster efficient and equitable water use in the irrigation sector is an absolute need of the hour.

The government must look into conservation measures in the largest of water intensive sectors and must do so with extreme urgency. It is in the interest of all stakeholders to understand and commit to efficient water use in today's world. Efforts to mitigate water wastage and loss must not be limited to one consumer sector but must be spread across irrigation, industrial, power and domestic sectors proportionately.

The writers are, respectively, an environmental and energy lawyer and Assistant Dean at Jindal School for Environment and Sustainability (JSES); the founding dean of JSES and a lawyer based in Hyderabad.

'Funds to Bengal, Raj, Ch'garh & Punjab for water projects remain unspent'

NEW DELHI, 16 MARCH

Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat today rejected the charge of non-utilisation of allocated funds by his Ministry and said it were states like West Bengal, Rajasthan, Punjab and Chhatisgarh which left substantial Central funds for water projects unspent.

Replying to a debate on the working of his Ministry in the Rajya Sabha, Shekhawat said states like Bihar, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh had made impressive progress in giving water connections to people at their homes.

In Telangana, there was not a single home where a woman had to go out and fetch water, he said. Compared to average 20 per cent progress in some states on some projects, the progress in West Bengal was just three per cent.

The Modi government had provided water connections in 3.85 crore homes compared to 3.23 crore connections given by the UPA governments, the minister said. Water had been provided even in Ladakh.

Arrangements were being made to test water quality also.

नल से जल योजना के तहत रोज लग रहे हैं डेढ लाख कनेक्शन

जागरण खूरो, नई दिल्ली: ग्रामीण जल जीवन मिशन के तहत रोजाना डेढ़ लाख घरों में पानी के कनेक्शन लगाए जा रहे हैं। आगामी वित्त वर्ष 2021-22 के दौरान देशभर में तीन करोड़ से अधिक पेयजल के कनेक्शन दे दिए जाएंगे। लोकसभा में मंगलवार को मंत्रालय के कामकाज पर हुई चर्चा का जवाब देते हुए केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत ने कहा कि आधुनिक प्रौद्योगिकी के सहारे लोगों के घरों में शुद्ध व पर्याप्त पेयजल की आपुर्ति की जाएगी।

चर्चा की शुरुआत करते हुए कांग्रेस नेता दिग्विजय सिंह ने मंत्रालय के कामकाज पर नाराजगी जताते हुए कई तरह के आरोप लगाए। उसके जवाब में शेखावत ने ने कहा कि जिस पेयजल और सड़क के मुद्दे पर दिग्विजय सिंह ने मुख्यमंत्री रहते चुनाव लड़ा था, वहां उन्हें मुंह की खानी पड़ी और 10 साल के वनवास पर जाना पडा। मंत्री ने बताया कि वर्ष 2019 में 15 अगस्त को जिस जल जीवन मिशन की घोषणा की गई थी, उसके मुताबिक वर्ष 2024 तक देश के सभी घरों को पेयजल का कनेक्शन मिल जाएगा। रोजाना एक लाख कनेक्शन लगाए गए। मात्र 15 महीने के भीतर 3.85 करोड़ घरों को पानी के कनेक्शन से जोड़ दिया गया है।

जल की बर्बादी यों भी

पानी बचाने को लंकर बड़ी-बड़ी कॉन्फ्रेंस होती हैं। एक ग्लोबल कॉन्फ्रेंस में मुझे आमंत्रित किया गया। सबने पानी को लेकर थिसिस पढ़ीं। कॉन्फ्रेंस खत्म हुई तो सबका पानी की जो बोतले दी गई थी पीने को उसमें से दो-चार घूट पीकर अधिकांश ने पानी छोड़ दिया। ऐसा अक्सर देखा है।

पानी की सुनो पुकार मत बहाओ इसे बेकार

MAN MAN DE PO

हमारे पुरखों की किस्मत में बहती नदियों के शीतल जल थे हमारे बुजुर्गों ने कुएं का मीठा पानी पिया हमारी किस्मत में तो शिर्फ बोतल का पानी है हमारी आने वाली पीढ़ी को क्या कैपसूल में पानी खरीदना होगा?

आबिद सरती

नी की एक खूंद हर सेकंड नल से टपकती है तो एक महीने में एक हजार लीटर पानी गटर में बह जाता है। मैंने बचपन में अपनी मां को पानी की किल्ला से जुड़ाते देखा था। एक-एक बाल्टी पानी के लिए झगड़े होते देखे। टपकती बूंदों की आवाज मेरे दिल-ओ-दिमाग से बद्धिरत नहीं होती थी। मैंने इन्हें बहने से रोकने की जुगाड़ लगाई। एक प्लम्बर को साथ लेकर में निकल पड़ात था लोगों के घरों के टपकते नलों को दुरुस्त करने।

इस मुहिम की शुरुआत अपने एक दोस्त के घर के टपकते नल को देखकर की थी। जिसका कहना था कि बूंद ही तो टपक रही है कौन-सी गंगा बह रही है। हर एक की मानसिकता यही है। इसी मानसिकता को हमें बदलना है। डेढ़ दशक से जारी इन प्रयासों का नतीजा फीडबैंक से पता चल जाता है। कुछ दिन पहले एक लड़की का मैसेज आया। लिखा था- अगर हमने आपकी बात दस साल पहले मान ली होती तो हमारे गांव की हालत यह नहीं होती। लोगों को इस बात का अहसास हो जाना खहुत बड़ी बात है कि उन्हें पानी के लिए कुछ कनना चाहिए। पहले साल में **1,666** घरों का विजिट

किया आबिद ने

414 टपकते नलों को ठीक किया

4.14 मिलियन लीटर <u>पानी ब</u>चाया

इफ आई कैन, यू कैन

अगर में सप्ताह में दो घंटे जल बचाने के लिए दे सकता हूं तो आप भी कर सकते हैं। एक बार किसी ने मुझ से कहा कि आपका नाम है। आप एक ही समय में सी प्लम्बर लीजिए और सभी बिल्डिंगों के नल ठीक कर दीजिए। इससे बहुत सारा काम एक साथ कर सकेंगे। मैंने उनसे कहा- बात तो ठीक हैं मगर फिर मैं लोगों से यह नहीं कह पाऊंगा कि इफ आई कैन यू कैन। अन्नी का घरेल उपाय

पानी को लेकर जागरुकता हमारे संस्कार में हुआ करती थी। हमारे घर जब कोई मेहमान आता था तो हमारी अम्मी एक ट्रे में खाली गिलास लेकर आती थी। लोगों को गिलास थमा कर फिर उनसे पृछकर जग से उसमें उतना ही पानी उंडेलती थीं जितना उन्हें चाहिए होता था। यह पानी बचाओ का घरेलू उपाय है। ऐसे कई उपाय थे। ये संस्कार की ही बातें थीं जो अब खत्म हो रही हैं। हर तरकीब आजनाई ताकि लोग समझ जीए

मैंने पेगंबर मोहम्मद साहब का एक कोट निकाला जिसमें उन्होंने कहा है सुप्त नहर के किनारे बैठकर वुजू बना रहे हैं तो भी पानी बर्बाद न करें। मैंने इसके पोस्टर बनाए व मस्जिवों में वहां लगा दिए जहां लोग वुजू करते हैं। एक महीने बाद मौलवी ने बताया कि घहले मस्जिद की पानी की टकी लगभग 80 फीसदी खाली हो जाती थी अब 80 फीसदी पानी बन रहा है। फिर मैंने गणेशाजी का खूबसूरत पोस्टर बनाया। वे कह रहे हैं-अरे भक्तों जरा सोचों कल अगर पानी नहीं रहा तो मेरा विसर्जन कहां करोंगे। मेरे घर आकर पुलिसद्वाले तक इस पोस्टर को ले गए थाने में लगाने के लिए। यह प्रयास कामयाब रहा। अब जीसस, महावीर, गुरुनानक पर भी पोस्टर बनाऊंग़ा,

गंगीरता से समझें समस्या को

आप इसे नहीं जान सकते हैं, या इसे अभी तक महस्प्स नहीं, कर सकते हैं, लेकिन हमारे समाज और अर्थव्यवस्था का हर पहलू इस बिगड़ती स्थिति से प्रभावित है। वास्तव में, नेशनला इंस्टीट्यूशन फॉर ट्रांसफॉर्मिंग इंडिया (NITI Aayog) ने इसे। भारत के इतिहास में 'सबसे खराब जाल संकट' के रूप में। वर्णित किया। 2018 कम्पोजिट वाटर मैंनेजमेंट इंडिक्स (सीडब्ल्यूएमआई) ने उल्लेख किया कि आर्थिक जीडीपी का 6% 2050 तक कम हो जाएगा, जबकि पानी की मांग 2030 तक उपलब्ध आपूर्ति से अधिक हो जाएगी। गेह की खेती और वावल की खेती में पानी की कमी का सामना करने के लिए खांडा आपूर्ति भी खतरे में हैं।

घर-घर तक कैसे पहुंचे पानी का संदेश

22 नार्च

विश्व जल

दिवस

पा नी बचाने की सोच को विकसित करने के लिए जागरुकता फैलाने की जरूरत है। मैंने यह करने के लिए अपने दिनवर्या से वो घंटे निकालं। हालांकि अब इस काम को करने में मंरा जीवन निकल रहा है। घर-घर तक संदेश पहुंचाना मकसद हैं। मैंने चाहा कि हर घर के बुजुर्गों को बाहर निकालं। वे घर में बैठे-बैठे नकारात्मकता का भी शिकार हो जाते हैं। उन्हें समझाया कि दो घंटे देकर आप मी च्हा काम कर सकते हैं। उनका कहना था कि बड़ी मुश्किल से रिटायरमेंट मिला है अब आराम करने वो। मेरा मानना है कि वे घर में पौधा लगाकर उनकी सेवा कर सकते हैं। साथ हो जिस तरह अपनी घनसंपति के संदर्भ में अगली पीढ़ी को वे समझाते हैं वेसे हो पानी जैसी अनमोल घरोहर का महत्त्व समझाना उनका कर्तव्य हैं।

देश के मविष्य को कियाँ शामिल इस मुहिन में

बचाने के तरीके क्या-क्या हो सकते हैं? पृथ्वी पर पीने योग्य पानी बचाने की मुहिम में अनेक लोग लगे हुए हैं। आप पानी बचाने के लिए क्या कर रहे हैं। अपने छोटे-बड़े प्रयासों को हमारे साथ साझा करें। हमें मेल करें अपनी तस्वीर के साथ- parivar.patrika@gmail.com

Rajasthan Patrika 17-March-2021

पानी के बिलों के पेटे 1000 करोड़ बकाया

पांच वर्षों से वाटर एक्ट कागजों में 'दफन', कैसे हो बकाया वसली

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क patrika.com

जयपुर. जलदाय विभाग की और से 2016 में तैयार वाटर एक्ट का मसौदा अभी भी फाइलों में दफन हैं। प्रदेश में इलेक्ट्रिसिटी एक्ट की तरह वाटर एक्ट भी लागू हो तो विभाग के सालाना करोड़ों रुपए डूबत खाते में जाने से बच सकते हैं। वाटर एक्ट लागू होने पर इंजीनियरों को वस्ती के लिए ज्यादा अधिकार मिलते हैं। इससे राजस्व की बढ़ोत्तरी होगी।

इंजिनियरों को मिलती पुलिस मदद: जानकारों के अनुसार वाटर एक्ट का मसौदा तैयार है। इसमें बकाया बिल की वसूली पर जाने वाले फील्ड अफसरों को पुलिस इमदाद मिलने का प्रावधान है। एक्ट में बिजली चोरी थानों की तरह वाटर एक्ट में भी कई प्रावधान किए गए हैं।

प्रदेश में करोड़ों रुपए बकाया

प्रदेश में जयपुर सहित सभी जिलों में पानी के बिलों के बकाया के रूप में एक हजार करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा है। सरकार के प्रभावशाली मंत्रियों के जिलों में बकाया बिलों की राशि सर्वाधिक हैं। इंजीनियर भी विवाद से बचने के लिए वसुली को लेकर ज्यादा सक्रिय नहीं रहते हैं।

अब बच सिर्फ 15 दिन

मौजूवा वित्तीय वर्ष के समाप्त होने में महज 15 दिन से भी कम समय शेष है। अब जलदाय विभाग के इंजीनियर वसूली के लिए फील्ड में हाथ पैर मार रहे हैं। आला अधिकारियों का कहाना है कि एक दो करोड़ रुपए की राशि बकाया बिलों से मिलेगी और फिर डूबत खाते की राशि अगले साल के टारगेट में शिफ्ट हो जाएगी।

वितरण तंत्र के लिए बजट की कमी

जलवाय विभाग पेयजल उपभोक्ताओं को मंहगी वरों पर पानी की व्यवस्था कर सस्ती दर पर उपलब्ध कराता है। इसके बावजूद उपभोक्ताओं की ओर से बिल नहीं चुकाने से विभाग की स्थिति खराब है। विभाग के पास वितरण तंत्र बिछाने के लिए बजट की कमी है। इसका नतीजा यह है कि नए कनेक्शनों के चार्ज कई गुना बढ़ा दिए गए हैं।

देशभर में शुरू होगा जलशक्ति अभियान का दूसरा चरण

🔳 नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

सरकार ने मंगलवार को कहा कि आगामी 22 मार्च से पूरे देश में एक बार फिर जलशक्ति अभियान शुरू किया जा रहा है। यह कार्यक्रम देश के सभी 700 जिलों में चलेगा। जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत ने अपने मंत्रालय के कामकाज पर हुई चर्चा के जवाब में राज्यसभा में यह बात कही।

उन्होंने कहा कि जल शक्ति अभियान के पहले चरण का ऐलान 15 अगस्त 2019 को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने लालकिले के प्राचीर से किया था और 25 दिसम्बर को सुशासन दिवस पर इस योजना की शुरुआत हुई थी।' शेखावत के अनुसार आगामी 22 मार्च से पूरे देश में एक बार फिर से जलशक्ति अभियान शुरू किया जा रहा है जो देश के सभी 700 जिलों में चलेगा।

उन्होंने कहा, '25 दिसम्बर, 2019 को जल शक्ति अभियान का पहला चरण शुरू हुआ। 25 मार्च, 2020 को कोरोना वायरस का संक्रमण फैलने से रोकने के लिए देश में लॉकडाउन लगाया गया। इसके बावजूद हमारी ओर से एक दिन भी बर्बाद नहीं जाने 22 मार्च से देश के सभी जिलों में किया जाएगा शुभारंभ



केंद्रीय मंत्री
 गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत ने
 राज्यसभा में किया ऐलान

दिया गया। हमने वेबिनार के जिरए तैयारी जारी रखी और इसके फलस्वरूप करीब 15 माह में ही तीन करोड़ 85 लाख घरों में हम नल के माध्यम से पानी पहुंचा रहे हैं जबिक पूर्ववर्ती कांग्रेस सरकार के समय यह आंकड़ा तीन करोड़ 23 लाख घरों का था।'

85 हजार गांवों के महिलाओं को राहत: उन्होंने कहा कि अब 85 हजार गांवों में महिलाओं को पानी लेने के लिए घरों से बाहर नहीं जाना पड़ता, यह एक बड़ी उपलब्धि है। शेखावत ने कहा कि अब पीने के पानी की गुणवत्ता की जांच के लिए, इस बारे में जागरूकता फैलाने की खातिर देश के प्रत्येक जिले में, हर ब्लॉक में इसकी गुणवत्ता की जांच के लिए प्रयोगशाला स्थापित करने की योजना बनाई है। उन्होंने कांग्रेस का नाम लिए बिना कहा कि पूर्ववर्ती सरकारों के कार्यकाल में पानी से जुड़े अलग अलग मंत्रालय थे और उनके काम सबको पता हैं। लेकिन मोदी सरकार ने ऐसे सभी मंत्रालयों को मिला कर जल शक्ति मंत्रालय बनाया और जल की चुनौती से निपटने का बीड़ा उठाते हुए जल के आंदोलन को जन जन का आंदोलन बनाने की प्रक्रिया शुरु की।'

उन्होंने कहा, 'पंचायत व्यवस्था के करीब ढाई लाख प्रतिनिधियों को पत्र लिख कर सरकार की ओर से स्थानीय स्तर पर जल ग्राम सभा आयोजित करने और जल को बचाने और उसके संरक्षण पर चर्चा करने का अनुरोध किया गया। दो लाख से अधिक पंचायतों में यह काम हुआ।'शेखावत ने कहा कि इसके बाद जल शक्ति अभियान शुरू हुआ जिसके तहत देश के 256 जिले चिह्नित कर वहां अधिकारियों को भेजा गया। इस कार्य में वनीकरण, परंपरागत जल स्रोतों का पुनरुद्धार, जल संरक्षण, जल संचयन जैसे मृद्दों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया।

गर्मी की दस्तक, 100 रुपये में बेच रहे पांच का पानी

आरओ प्लांट से लेकर उपभोक्ता तक पहुंचने में 20 गुना बढ़ जाते हैं दाम

किशन कमार

नई दिल्ली। राजधानी में गर्मी की दस्तक के साथ ही पानी की मांग भी जोर पकड़ने लगी है। दिन-ब-दिन चढते पारे के साथ आवासीय

कॉलोनियों व कार्यालयों 20 लीटर के कैन से पानी 🗷 🗷 पहंचाने वालों

कों कालाबाजारी भी बढ़ रही है। बढ़ती मांग के साथ आलम यह है कि पांच रुपये की लागत लगा पानी 100 रुपये प्रति कैन से हिसाब से बेचा जा रहा है। इसका जंजाल न केवल दिल्ली के सदर इलाकों में है, बल्कि यह नई दिल्ली के पाँश इलाकों तक फैला

दिल्ली में कई ऐसे आवासीय कॉलोनियां हैं जहां लोग साफ पानी के तौर पर कैन खरीदकर पानी पीते हैं। वहीं, प्रमुख बाजारों से लेकर कार्यालयों में भी जग व 20 की बोतल बंद से पानी की आपूर्ति होती है, लेकिन आरओ प्लांट से पैक होकर उपभोक्ता तक पहुंचने में पानी के दाम 20 गुना तक बढ़ जाते हैं। मसलन, लोगों को मजबूरी में महंगा पानी खरीदकर पीना पड़ता है।



प्रीत विहार में स्कूटर पर पानी की बोतलें लेकर जाता एक व्यक्ति।

एक आरओ प्लांट से पांच हजार लीटर पानी की होती है आपूर्ति

पुरानी दिल्ली स्थित एक आरओ प्लांट के मालिक ने बताया कि आरओ प्लांट से पांच हजार लीटर पानी को शुद्ध कर बेचा जा सकता है। प्लांट से 20 लीटर पानी के कैन की कीमत पांच रुपये पड़ती है। प्लांट से पानी को विक्रेताओं द्वारा खरीदा जाता है जिसे उपभोक्ताओं तक पहुंचाया जाता है। उन्होंने बताया कि पानी की आपूर्ति के दौरान लगने वाले किराये की वजह से इसमें दाम बढ़ते हैं। यही वजह है कि जो लोग दूर-दराज इलाकों में रहते हैं उन्हें पानी महंगा मिलता है।



वर्तमान में जल बोर्ड

दिल्ली में पानी की

आवश्यकता

बाजार और कॉलोनी के हिसाब से तय होते हैं दाम

नई दिल्ली स्थित पानी के एक विक्रेता ने नाम न छापने की शर्त पर बताया कि पानी के दाम इलाके के हिसाब से तय होते हैं। जितना बाजार या रिहायशी कॉलोनी पॉश होगी वहां उतना ही दाम बढ़ जाएगा। विक्रेता ने बताया कि यदि पानी की आपूर्ति दक्षिणी दिल्ली के किसी पाँश इलाके में होनी है तो वहीं पानी का कैन 100 रुपये तक हो जाता है। वहीं, पूर्वी व उत्तर-पूर्वी दिल्ली में पानी का कैन 40 से लेकर 60 रुपये तक में बेचा जाता है।

छात्र आवास वाले इलाकों में महंगा होता है जल

विक्रेता ने बताया कि दिल्ली में विभिन्न राज्यों से आकर छात्र प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं की तैयारी कर रहे हैं। इसमें पर्वी दिल्ली का लक्ष्मी नगर, उत्तरी दिल्ली का मुखर्जी नगर व करोल बाग इलाका प्रमुख है। यहां अधिकतर छात्र पीजी में रहते हैं और खरीदकर साफ पानी पीना पसंद करते हैं। यही वजह है कि यहां के इलाकों में भी पानी का कैन महंगा होता है। यहां पानी 60 रुपये से लेकर 80 रुपये प्रति कैन के हिसाब से बेचा जाता है।

जल शोधन संयंत्रों की क्षमता

हैदरपुर	200 एमजीडी
चंद्रावल	90 एमजीडी
वजीराबाद	120 एमजीडी
नागलोई	40 एमजीडी
ओखला	20 एमजीडी
द्वारका	50 एमजीडी
सोनिया विहार	140 एमजीडी
भागीरथी	100 एमजीडी