

The Times of India- 20- April-2023

# Krishna-Godavari boards face resistance, shackled

## Little Progress In Spite Of 2021 Notification

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**Hyderabad:** The Krishna and Godavari River Management Boards have not been able to resolve any issues between the two Telugu states despite almost two years passing since the Ministry of Jal Shakti issued a gazette notification to take over irrigation projects on the rivers.

Lacking teeth, the Boards have neither taken over the projects nor made much progress, except for adhoc water allocations.

This has primarily been because the Boards have faced stiff resistance from both the states and have been bogged down by allegations of being partisan.

The Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) had written a letter to Ministry of Jal Shakti complaining that the both the state governments were not releasing their share of funds to it from the consolidated funds of India. GRMB officials even asked that the Board be wound

NOTIFICATION MERELY ON PAPER		ONGOING WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centre issues gazette notification in July, 2021</li> <li>Notification meant to take over irrigation projects and power houses on Krishna &amp; Godavari</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notification was supposed to come into effect from Oct 15, 2021</li> <li>Not implemented due to various issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For all ongoing, unapproved works governments have to obtain approvals from Centre and agencies</li> <li>Must submit detailed project reports within 6 months or else they will cease to operate</li> </ul>



und up as it did not have funds to even pay salaries of the employees. The GRMB asked the Centre to release ₹8.5 crore as a grant or loan to pay salaries and allowances. It said it would return the amount once AP and Telangana release the amount.

Telangana irrigation officials said they did not accept the budgetary estimations of GRMB in earlier meetings as there was only one common project for the two Telugu states, i.e. Peddavagu. They said GRMB did not require ₹16 crore for the financial year 2023-24. In spite of its opposition, Telangana released ₹5.3 crore to the GRMB, a senior irrigation official said.

Both the governments also refused to deposit ₹200 crore each towards seed money with the Centre for the functioning of Boards. Sources said a similar situation is being seen in the case of Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) also. "There are only two common projects on Krishna-Srisaillam and Nagarjuna Sagar. We cannot hand over the projects unless rule curves are finalised. This we informed the Board also," Sridhar Deshpande, officer on special duty (OSD), CMO said.

The Telangana government has been complaining to the KRMB over allocation of 50:50 water in Krishna,

stopping Rayalaseema lift irrigation project by AP government, it has accused AP of diversion of water and approval of detailed project report of Palamuru-Ranga Reddy lift irrigation project. AP, for its part, has asked KRMB to act against Telangana on Palamuru project, for using more water for hydel power generation.

Interestingly, Union minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in November 2021 informed Rajya Sabha that the Centre was yet to enforce the gazette notification on Krishna and Godavari river projects both in Telangana and AP due to non-cooperation from the states.

The Indian Express- 20- April-2023

**YAMUNA SAND MINING CASE**

# Constructions across river will impact flow, National Mission for Clean Ganga tells NGT

**EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

CONSTRUCTIONS ACROSS a river channel for mining and "interrupting river flow" will impact quantity and quality of flow at various times, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has said in a submission to National Green Tribunal (NGT) on matter of temporary bridges built over Yamuna in Haryana for sand mining.

On March 17, *The Indian Express* visited two villages in Sonipat and found a temporary bridge built across the Yamuna with pipelines passing underneath for flow of water.

The NMCG said that the impacted length of the river leads to

*The Indian Express report dated March 20*

"discontinuities," which may result in a decline in "biodiversity, fisheries, groundwater levels, soil fertility, and waste assimilation capacity of rivers. The NMCG also noted that no approval had been taken from it before making such

arrangements to cross the river.

The NGT has been considering a case regarding construction of a temporary bridge across the Yamuna at Sonipat, Haryana, to facilitate sand mining.

An NMCG official visited the

area along with a representative of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board on March 22 and found that the arrangement for crossing the river was removed.

Since no permission was obtained by project proponent or by the government of Haryana to set up structures or pipelines, provisions of the 2016 order have been violated, NMCG has said. The NMCG has recommended that activities that may impact flow of the river should be regulated.

Delhi Water Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj had also alleged last month that bridges across the river, along with "illegal sand mining" are obstructing the river's flow and resulting in a dry river downstream at Wazirabad in Delhi, and water shortages.



Telangana Today- 20- April-2023

# Palamuru DPR triggers fresh row

**Centre refuses to even examine report submitted by State**

ANIL KUMAR  
HYDERABAD

The Centre's outright refusal to even examine the Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted by Telangana on the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS) has once again brought to the fore the discriminatory approach of the BJP-led government, and at the same time, is likely to hit the State's mega plans to supply drinking water to over 1,000 villages and to irrigate several lakhs of acres.

The Palamuru-Rangareddy project, considered the lifeline of South Telangana, was proposed to provide drinking water to 1,200 drought-prone and fluoride-affected villages in six districts and to irrigate 12.30 lakh acres. However, with the Central Water Commission (CWC), recently returning the project's DPR stating that it could not be taken up for examination until the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT-II) gives its verdict on the issue, has thrown new hurdles before the State's plans.

However, Telangana is not taking it lying down with Special Chief Secretary (Ir-



rigation) Rajat Kumar, who dashed off a letter on Tuesday to the Jal Shakti Ministry questioning the basis on which the DPR was returned, now planning to send a team of senior officials to New Delhi.

According to officials, Rajat Kumar, who urged the Ministry in his letter to direct the CWC to appraise the DPR without any further delay and pointed out that the matter was not sub-judice as perceived by the CWC, had also pointed out that unnecessary problems were being created for the implementation of the project. The team of senior officials, it is learned, will be

meeting the Jal Shakti Ministry Secretary and appraise higher officials about the ground reality apart from highlighting the discrimination in project appraisal to the secretary so that the double standards being adopted by the CWC could be exposed.

As per the terms of reference, the Tribunal could not allocate water afresh between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Moreover, reallocation of 45 TMC water to Palamuru-Rangareddy by the State government was acceptable and it was in practice in AP and Karnataka. In fact, Karnataka too reallocated water from other

projects to the Upper Bhadra project and the Centre had given approvals for Upper Bhadra and even conferred national project status on it, officials pointed out.

This is not the first time that the Centre was creating hurdles in the construction of irrigation projects in Telangana. In the recent past too, Rajat Kumar had pointed out inordinate delays by the Centre in granting clearance to various proposed and ongoing projects citing court cases and other excuses, was resulting in massive cost escalation for the State.

Even Chief Minister had expressed his anguish over the CWC delaying clearances for half-a-dozen irrigation projects in the State though the DPRs were submitted long back. It was only after months of follow-up and communication with various departments that the Centre reluctantly granted permissions for some of the projects announced by the State government. Surprisingly, a few members of the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) too were found to be working against the interests of Telangana.

Business Line- 20- April-2023

# Dip in reservoir level clouds prospects of kharif crop

**CAUTION.** El Nino possibility, lower foodgrain stocks, mixed monsoon outlook raise concerns

**Subramani Ra Mancombu**  
Chennai

A 5 percentage point drop in the storage level at the 146 major reservoirs across the country has raised concerns over kharif crop prospects, and attendant worries over food security and inflation.

This comes amid the possibility of warm water phenomenon El Nino compromising the South-West monsoon this year. Contradictory monsoon forecasts — normal by IMD to deficient by Skymet — and foodgrain stocks dropping to a six-year low as of April 1 offer little comfort. The issue will likely attract the Centre's attention with the country headed for Parliament elections next year. Experts, however, say there should be no cause for concern over food security.

## DEFICIENT RAINFALL

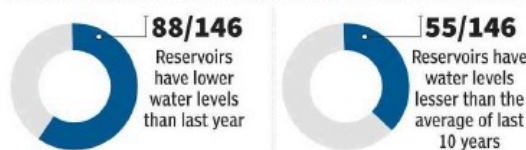
According to the Central Water Commission (CWC), the water storage position as of April 13 was 70.198 billion cubic metres (BCM) against the live storage capacity of 178.185 BCM. This is 95 per

## Falling reservoir level

Live water storage in 146 major reservoirs as of April 13

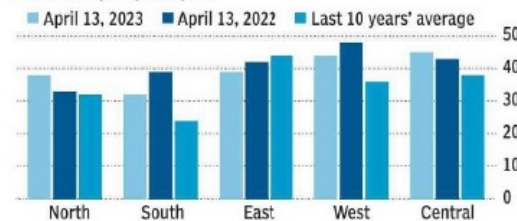
**70.198 BCM \***  
2023

**74.069 BCM**  
2022



## Water levels lower in East, West, South

% of total capacity occupied



Source: Central Water Commission \*BCM- billion cubic metre Compiled by Parvathi Benu

cent of last year's storage of 74.069 BCM at this time

"The storage level is lower in eastern parts, particularly Bihar, that experienced deficient rainfall during the South-West monsoon last year," said S Chandrasekaran, a Delhi-based analyst who tracks agri-

culture across the country.

## EL NINO FORECAST

The storage level raises concern over kharif crop prospects with contradictory monsoon forecasts.

Both IMD and Skymet have said El Nino will likely develop

after July. "We have factored in the possibility of El Nino impacting the monsoon," M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, had said.

## CROPS AT STAKE

The IMD has projected below-normal rainfall in Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and parts of the North-East. This puts at stake crops such as paddy, oilseeds including groundnut and soyabean, and pulses, arhar/tur, in particular.

Data from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) show wheat stocks are currently at a six-year low of 8.35 mt compared with 18.99 mt a year ago. Rice stocks are at a six-year low of 24.86 mt. The FCI stocks of unmilled paddy, at 27.46 mt (18.38 mt of rice), are at a three-year low.

Chandrasekaran said the heat wave in North India could be a proximate cause for the dip in storage levels, but "we need to worry only if the water level falls to zero."

With inputs from Parvathi Benu

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Business Line- 20- April-2023

# Water levels in reservoirs 5% lower than in April 2022

**Parvathi Benu**  
Chennai

As India grapples with the scorching April heat, data from the Central Water Commission on reservoir water levels show that water storage in all the dams in the country cumulatively is bad, compared with 2022.

## DATA FOCUS.

As of April 13, 2023, the live water storage available in India's 146 reservoirs is 70.198 billion cubic metre (BCM). This is 3.871 BCM or 5 per cent lower compared with 2022 levels. However, it is better than the average storage of the last 10 years.

"The live storage available in 146 reservoirs (right now) is 95 per cent of the live storage of the corresponding period last year and 118 per cent of storage of average of last ten years," the bulletin notes.

Around 88 reservoirs have water storage less than 2022 levels and in 55 of them, water levels are lower than the 10-year-average numbers.

### TROUBLE IN EAST

The data from April 13, 2023, shows that the water levels in major reservoirs in the eastern part of India are particularly much lower than the 10-year-average level. This region consists of Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Tripura and Nagaland.

"The total live storage available in these reservoirs (in the eastern region) is 7.746 BCM which is 39 per cent of the total live storage capacity of these reservoirs.

The storage during the corresponding period of last year was 42 per cent

## Large dams have more water



Source: Central Water Commission \*BCM- billion cubic metre

and the average storage of the last ten years during the corresponding period was 44 per cent of the live storage capacity of these reservoirs.

The situation is quite bad in Bihar and West Bengal, where the water stored is 51 per cent 26 per cent respectively lesser than the 10-year-average levels.

This means, according to the CWC's definitions, water levels are deficient in the reservoirs in these States.

The water storage at Chandan Dam, the only major reservoir in Bihar, is 0.02 BCM, which is just 14.7 per cent of the dam's total capacity.

In Odisha too, the water levels are 14 per cent lesser than the average storage levels in the last ten years.

### ON THE CONTRARY

The situation is different in the North, where the reservoirs are cumulatively 38 per cent full, higher than last year's 33 per cent.

It is the same when it comes to the reservoirs in

the Central region. However, in the West and the South, while the water levels are lower than April 2022 levels, they are better than the 10-year average.

### IMPACT OF HEAT

Commenting on the decreasing water levels, S Chandrasekaran, Consultant to government on agriculture and trade said, "Heat is one problem. It lowers water level. Last year, there was deficient rainfall during monsoon. When monsoon was reported normal for the rest of the country, it was deficient for eastern parts."

Things aren't that bad in the big dams in the country too. Indira Sagar Dam, the largest dam in the country has more water now than it did at this time in 2022. While it can hold 9.75 BCM, it is 39 per cent full.

When it comes to Gandhi Sagar, 60 per cent of the total capacity is filled. However, it was 67 per cent full in last April. Both dams are situated in Madhya Pradesh, which falls in the central region.



Rajasthan Patrika- 20- April-2023

# पर्यावरण: जलवायु परिवर्तन का हो रहा गंभीर असर ग्लेशियरों का तेजी से पिघलना भयावह आपदाओं का संकेत

**दु**निया के ग्लेशियर जिस तेजी से पिघल रहे हैं या यों कहें कि वे खत्म हो रहे हैं, वह भयावह आपदाओं का संकेत है। दुनिया के वैज्ञानिकों ने आशंका जतायी है कि जलवायु परिवर्तन की मौजूदा दर यदि इसी प्रकार बरकरार रही, तो इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं कि इस सदी के अंत तक दुनिया के दो तिहाई ग्लेशियरों का अस्तित्व ही समाप्त हो जाएगा। यह आशंका वैज्ञानिकों ने एक अध्ययन के उपरांत व्यक्त की है। उनके अनुसार यह भविष्य के लिए शुभ संकेत नहीं है।

असलियत में हम कहें कुछ भी, लेकिन यह कटु सत्य है कि हम दुनिया के बहुत सारे ग्लेशियरों को खोते चले जा रहे हैं। दुख तो इस बात का है कि इस खतरे के प्रति हम मौन हैं, यह रवैया समझ से परे है। असली खतरा यह है और सबसे बड़ी चिंता की बात यह भी कि यदि दुनिया आने वाले वर्षों में वैश्विक तापमान को 1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस तक रखने में कामयाब भी रहती है, तब भी लगभग आधे से ज्यादा ग्लेशियर गायब हो जाएंगे। अधिकतर छोटे ग्लेशियर तो धीरे-धीरे विलुप्ति की ओर बढ़ ही रहे हैं। जहां तक हिमालयी क्षेत्र का सवाल है, एक अध्ययन के मुताबिक हिमालयी ग्लेशियरों को साल 2000 से 2020 के दौरान तकरीबन 2.7 गीगाटन का नुकसान हुआ है। इस अध्ययन की मानें तो हिमखण्डों को हो रहे नुकसान को 2020 तक काफी कम करके आंका गया। ब्रिटेन और अमरीका की अध्ययन टीम के अनुसार पिछले आकलनों में हिमालयी क्षेत्र में पिघलकर गिर रहे ग्लेशियरों के कुल नुकसान को 6.5 फीसदी कम करके आंका गया था। हिमालयी क्षेत्र में ग्लेशियरों के अध्ययन के बाद खुलासा हुआ है कि यहां विभिन्न इलाकों में अधिकतर ग्लेशियर अलग-अलग दर पर पिघल रहे हैं।

सरकार ने भी माना है कि जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण ग्लेशियर के पिघलने का न सिर्फ हिमालय की नदी प्रणाली के बहाव पर गंभीर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा, बल्कि इसके चलते प्राकृतिक आपदाओं में भी काफी बढ़ोतरी होगी। सरकार ने इसका खुलासा ग्लेशियरों का प्रबंधन देखने वाली संसद की स्थायी समिति को किया है। संसद की इस रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण विभाग ने हिमालय में ग्लेशियरों के लगातार पिघलना, पीछे खिसकना और साल के दौरान ग्लेशियर के क्षेत्र में अनुमानतः कमी की समस्या



ज्ञानेंद्र रावत

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के बारे में बताया गया कि भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण में नौ ग्लेशियरों के द्रव्यमान संतुलन में पाया गया है कि इस हिमालय अंचल में ग्लेशियर विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में अलग-अलग दर से अपने स्थान से खिसक रहे हैं। या यूं कहें कि वे अलग-अलग गति से पिघल रहे हैं। इससे इस अंचल में हिमालयी नदी प्रणाली का प्रवाह न केवल गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित होगा, बल्कि ग्लेशियर झील के फटने की घटनाओं, हिमस्खलन और भूस्खलन जैसी आपदाओं का जन्म भी होगा।

यही एक आशंका नहीं है। हिमालय के कश्मीर और लद्दाख इलाके के ग्लेशियर भी तेजी से पिघल रहे हैं। वहां बर्फ गायब हो रही है। अगर बीते 60 सालों का जायजा लिया जाए, तो कश्मीर इलाके के ही ग्लेशियरों ने 23 फीसदी जगह छोड़ दी है। कई जगह पर बर्फ की परत छोटी और पतली हो गई है। कश्मीर का सबसे बड़ा ग्लेशियर कोल्हाई तेजी से पिघल रहा है। हरमुख की पहाड़ियों में स्थित थाजबास, होकरसर, शीशराम और नेहनार जैसे ग्लेशियर भी लगातार पिघल रहे हैं। ग्लेशियरों के तेजी से पिघलने की रफ्तार को देखते हुए यह आशंका बलवती हो गई है कि इससे बनने वाली झीलें से निचले इलाकों में कभी भी बाढ़ का सामना करना पड़ सकता है। इससे भूस्खलन के खतरों को नकारा नहीं जा सकता। कोल्हाई ग्लेशियर के पिघलने की रफ्तार से इसके अस्तित्व पर संकट तो मंडरा ही रहा है। इससे कश्मीर में सूखा और जल संकट की आहट को भी दरगुजर नहीं किया जा सकता। यह झेलम में पानी का मुख्य स्रोत है। इसके पीछे तापमान में बढ़ोतरी, जंगलों का तेजी से कटान, पहाड़ी जल स्रोतों पर बढ़ते मानवीय दखल, अतिक्रमण, वाहनों की बेतहाशा वृद्धि और कंक्रीट के जंगलों में अंधाधुंध हो रही बढ़ोतरी को कारण माना जाता है। इससे सूखा, बाढ़ की समस्याओं में तो इजाफा होगा ही, पानी के संकट को भी नकारा नहीं जा सकता।