

Times of India- 20- August-2021

First Ammonia Removal Plant Will Provide Clean Water To 7k Families

NEAR VIKAS MARG: It Will Have Capacity To Treat 1 Million Gallons Per Day

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New Delhi: Delhi Jal Board's first ammonia removal plant with a capacity to treat 1 million gallons water per day has been made operational in a ranney well near Vikas Marg.

Several areas in Delhi have high groundwater levels, but ammonia contamination makes it difficult to use this resource for domestic supply. Such decentralised ammonia treatment plants are expected to help DJB ramp up its raw water supply. DJB chairman Satyendar Jain visited the V-11 ranney well on Vikas Marg on Thursday to examine the plant.

Jain said the plant would be sufficient for providing water to 7,000 families as it would add clean water directly to the underground reservoir. "More such plants are being installed across the capital for augmenting water availability," he added.

DJB had carried out a pilot project in the Shakarpur ranney well in December 2018 where a smaller version of the same technology was used in a 10KLD ammonia removal plant. The project showed encouraging results by reducing ammonia levels from 6ppm to treatable limits of 0.4ppm. The cost of purification was estimated to be Rs

RAMPING UP SUPPLY

Decentralised ammonia removal plant starts operations

SITE | V-11 Ranney well, Vikas Marg

CAPACITY | 1 million gallons per day

- > It can supply water to 7,000 families
- > 10 more sites being developed

Benefits

Many Delhi areas, especially along the Yamuna, are deprived of water despite very high groundwater levels because sub-surface water is contaminated with ammonia

Solution

- > These plants use good nitrifying bacteria to improve water quality instead of using chemicals
- > They can be used to bring back to life 100 borewell sites

and 7 Ranney well sites that are defunct

- > Pilot project: was carried out in Shakarpur in December 2018 where ammonia levels came down from 6ppm to 0.4ppm

How it works

- > Nitrifying bacteria grown on crystal quartz medium
- > Oxidation brings nitrite and nitrates within safe limits
- > Water can then be passed through normal chlorine water treatment plan



DJB chairman Satyendar Jain examines the plant

3-4 for 1,000 litres of water.

The raw water coming from Haryana has ammonia levels of 0.5-0.7ppm due to industrial pollutants being dumped in the Yamuna, but anthropogenic causes like untreated sewer discharge have contaminated groundwater to over 10 times (7-11 ppm).

More than 100 borewells and seven ranney wells are non-functional in Delhi. With this technology, all these closed water extraction points would be made functional.

A senior official working on the project said the Vikas Marg plant was the fully operational model of the pilot pro-

ject and the same underlying technology using nitrifying bacteria had been used. "We had issued tenders for ammonia removal plants of 5MGD capacity. The project will be replicated at 10 more sites. Delhi does not have large dyeing and fertiliser industries, so most probably the reason behind

such high levels of ammonia in groundwater are anthropogenic," added the official.

In 2018, after inspecting the pilot project, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had stated that the project had the capacity to generate 63 million litres of potable water every day. DJB water treatment plants have the capacity to treat water with up to 0.9ppm of ammonia by neutralising the compound with chlorine gas. However, experts say using chemical methods for levels beyond that leads to creation of toxic chlorine-based byproducts called chloramines that render the water unfit for human consumption. This is where the bacteria comes into play.

Nitrifying bacteria consume ammonia and produce nitrites, which are then turned into nitrates within safe limits. In the pilot project, DJB used a ceramic-quartz medium to grow the bacteria. Water left for 10-20 minutes in the crystal-quartz medium lowered the ammonia content and oxidation was carried out by the bacteria.



Hindustan Times 20- August-2021

Bihar reels under floods



People travel on a boat to higher grounds as the Ganga river continued to flow above the danger level in view of heavy rains in Bihar's Digha Ghat. At least 16 people have died and 3.4 million affected by the deluge in 34 districts. Chief minister Nitish Kumar has conducted an aerial survey of flood-hit and inspected the facilities for those evacuated.

SANTOSH KUMAR/HT PHOTO

Telangana Today- 20- August-2021

Sufficient water for Singur ayacut

40,000 acres will get ample supply during Vaanakalam, says Andole MLA

STATE BUREAU
Sangareddy

With the Singur Multipurpose Irrigation project constructed across river Manjeera at Singur village in Pulkal mandal is brimming with water, the 40,000 acres under the ayacut of the project will get sufficient irrigation water for Vaanakalam season.

Andole MLA Chanti Kranthi Kiran instructed the irrigation authorities to release water to the last acre under ayacut. The MLA told Telangana Today that they will release water to Yasangi too even if they get four to five tmcfts of inflows during the remaining period of the monsoon.

The project, having 29.91 tmcft storage capacity, now has 20.885 tmcft water. The water body, which usually gets major inflows in August and September every year,



Of the 20.885 tmcft available in the project, over 16 tmcft will be used for Mission Bhagiratha and the remaining water will be released for the irrigation needs of Sangareddy district.

has so far received inflows of 7.61 tmcft this monsoon. The project had over 19 tmcft of water from last year before the monsoon commenced this year.

Since irrigation authorities already released water

needed for lands under the ayacut of Ghanpur project, located downstream in Medak district, and Nizam Sagar, located downstream in Kamareddy district, there was sufficient water to meet Vanakalam irrigation needs.

The irrigation authorities have already released water from Singur canals to meet the irrigation needs.

Out of the 20,885 tmcft water available now in the project, over 16 tmcft will be used for Mission Bhagiratha

requirements for the entire year and the remaining water will be released for the irrigation needs of Sangareddy district. The project's ayacut comprises 40,000 acres in Andole, Pulkal and Choutakur mandals of Andole constituency. Project engineer Mazar Mohammad said they will provide irrigation water to 40,000 acres ayacut under both the right and left canals. While the left canal covers 35,000 acres under its ayacut, the right canal covers 5,000 acres, Mazhar Mohammad said, adding that they will fill 170 minor irrigation tanks in Pulkal and Choutakur Mandals through canals.

The farmers in this mandal are raising paddy nurseries and transplantation has also commenced in some places which will continue for the next one month.

Millennium Post- 20- August-2021

DJB making efforts for 24/7 water supply in city by next summer: Jain



OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Delhi Jal Board's Chairman Satyendar Jain visited the V-11 Ranney Well in Vikas Marg area of East Delhi to examine a 1 MGD ammonia removal plant. The Minister said that the State government is dedicated in ensuring 24/7 water supply by the next summer season.

Jain along with senior Officials of the DJB visited ammonia removal plant to take stock of the matter and address any issues if present.

The Chairman, after examining the well, said that it was sufficient enough for 7,000 families as it adds clean water directly to the underground reservoir. The DJB will add more ammonia removal plants to augment water availability, he said.

"DJB is making rigorous efforts to ensure that we have

the complete infrastructure for providing 24/7 water supply by the next summer season," he said. The Minister has been having constant discussions and meetings with the Delhi Jal Board and other concerned departments. "Unique Water extractions and Ranney Wells are being made around Delhi to ensure a 24/7 water supply. If required, In Situ RO systems will be installed along with Tubewells to ensure best quality water for people," he said.

"Visited the V-11 Ranney Well in East Delhi and inspected a 1 MGD decentralized ammonia removal plant which is sufficient for 7,000 families as clean water is directly added to the Underground reservoir. More such plants are being added around Delhi to augment water availability," the Minister wrote on Twitter.

The Mint- 20- August-2021

India's looming water crisis and urgent measures to address it

Water tables have fallen drastically and we need paradigmatic changes in agricultural practices for resource conservation



SUDIPTO MUNDLE

Is distinguished fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi

A disastrous water crisis has been creeping up on us for years. Water tables have declined precipitously, even by thousands of feet in some parts of Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh. Tanks and wells have gone dry. Some rivers have shrunk while other smaller ones have completely dried up. Water rationing is routine in many urban areas, while in many villages women are trudging longer distances to fetch water.

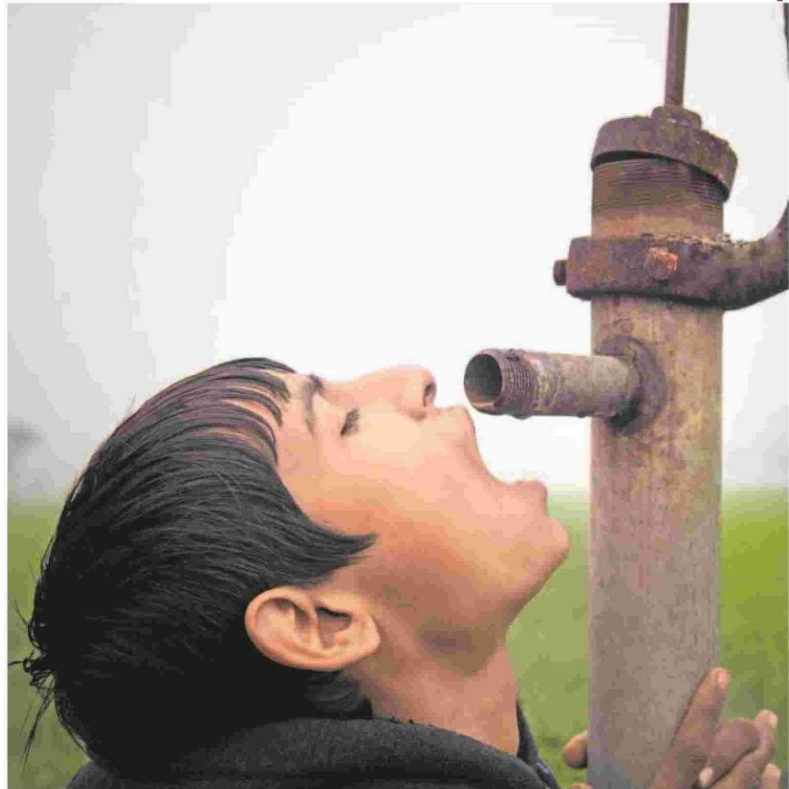
In my March column on the entangled economics and politics of the farmers' agitation (*Mint*, 19 March 2021), I had explained that the Green Revolution, which made India self-sufficient in food, was also the origin of the policy distortions underlying the agitation. I also pointed out the terrible ecological consequences of the same policy distortions, in particular the depletion of groundwater. I had suggested that, among other measures, the government should gradually shift from the near exclusive procurement of wheat and rice (95%) at assured minimum support prices (MSPs) to the procurement of other crops such as jowar, bajra, ragi and other nutri-cereals, and also pulses, oilseeds, etc. The announcement of MSPs for 23 major crops means little without significant quantities of these crops being procured at those prices.

This was suggested to help correct our long prevailing relative price distortions favouring wheat and rice in agricultural markets, and to incentivize a shift in cropping patterns towards nutri-cereals, pulses and oilseeds. Shah M. and P.S. Vijayshankar (S&V) have now explained in a recent paper why such cropping pattern shifts are also essential for addressing the country's water crisis ('Symbiosis of Water and Agricultural Transformation in India', 2020). They point out that agriculture consumes about 90% of India's water supply, and of this, 80% is consumed by just three water-guzzling crops: rice, wheat and sugarcane.

India's gross cropped area has increased by over 120 million hectares since the 1980s, mainly due to an increase in ground water irrigation, especially through tubewells. In the past 40 years, about 84% of the increase in net irrigated area has come from ground water. At 250 billion cubic metres per year, India is the largest consumer of ground water in the world, consuming more than China and the US—the next two largest—combined. It is not surprising that our water tables have fallen so drastically.

But how can we address this looming water crisis? S&V have detailed the many paradigmatic changes required in agricultural practices and in the management of water. Here is a brief summary:

In addition to the cropping pattern shifts mentioned above, S&V propose a shift to water-saving seed varieties even in rice and wheat. They also propose the use of water-saving practices such as rice intensification, conservation, tillage, drip irrigation,



land-levelling and direct seeding of rice. Field trials suggest that these practices can save between 17% (Rajasthan) to 80% (Tamil Nadu) of our blue water compared to conventional practices. In most states, the blue water saved is between 25% and 50%.

Second, groundwater use is completely unregulated, resulting in its catastrophic over-exploitation. The common law of absolute domain prevails, giving landowners the right to extract unlimited amounts of water with their tube-wells, ignoring the externality that the aquifers tapped by them may also be tapped by others' tube-wells. Competitive water extraction becomes a race to the bottom, accelerating the fall in water tables. Hence, legislation to regulate the use of ground water is most urgent. States can adapt the model Groundwater (Sustainable Management) Bill of 2017 to local conditions and pass their own legislation. This can be supported by rationing the availability of power to run pumps and restricting it to just a few hours a day. The alternative of licensing and metering the use of some 45 million wells and tubewells seems impractical at present.

Third, protective irrigation for conserving green water is another key measure, along with the protection and rejuvenation of catchment areas. S&V point out that there has been a decline in the annual run off in many major river basins, not because of any decline in rainfall, but because of encroachment and other activities that have damaged catch-

ment areas. China, Brazil, Mexico and other countries are considering paying local residents to protect catchment areas and keep river basins healthy and green. Similarly, the employment of local residents in India for micro-level watershed management schemes, suitably adapted to local conditions, could protect catchment areas and also generate large-scale employment.

All this points to the key role of farmers as agents of change. Whether it is agricultural practices to

conserve blue water or local watershed management to preserve green water, or local cooperation for sustainable groundwater use, farmers themselves will have to champion these initiatives. Governments have a crucial role in aggregating such local initiatives and scaling them up, but at the local level, participatory management by farmers is essential to ensure positive outcomes.

Top-down administrative arrangements will have to be replaced by participatory, bottom-up systems led by farmer producer organizations (FPOs)

along the lines of the Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union. Women's self-help groups (SHGs), which have gone beyond collective credit to various agricultural activities in several states, are closely-related institutions. Governments need to support the development of these institutions but FPOs and SHGs will have to be the leading agents of change in this new paradigm.

These are the author's personal views.

QUICK READ

Our policies to ensure food sufficiency and assure farmers income have unfortunately also caused crop distortions that have led to excessive drawing of groundwater and its depletion.

Thus, a shift in crop patterns, regulation of groundwater use and steps to conserve water are imperative. Most of all, we need farmer-led efforts instead of a top-down approach.

The Statesman- 20- August-2021

TYAGRAJ SHARMA

The Centre's clarification in Parliament last week on the implementation of the Mekedatu project has come as a setback to Karnataka. Especially as the Union Jal Shakti minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat had iterated that the state needs to get approval from the Cauvery Water Management Authority, in addition to the union ministry of environment, before going ahead with its ambitious plan.

As the project is proposed to be set up along an inter-state river basin, he added, the Interstate River Water Disputes Act "mandates permission from all lower riparian states and stakeholders."

Karnataka has all along been arguing that the proposed Rs 9,000 crore balancing reservoir project, using surplus Cauvery waters, is aimed at meeting the drinking water needs of Bengaluru, and not for irrigation. Accordingly, it does not need Tamil Nadu's permission. To that extent, the Centre's stand has upset Karnataka's plans.

In fact, with a capacity to store 67 tmcft of water, Karnataka aims to use 4.75 tmc ft of water to meet the drinking water needs of the IT capital, besides setting up a 400mw hydel power station. The additional storage, it claims, would come in useful to both the states in times of distress.

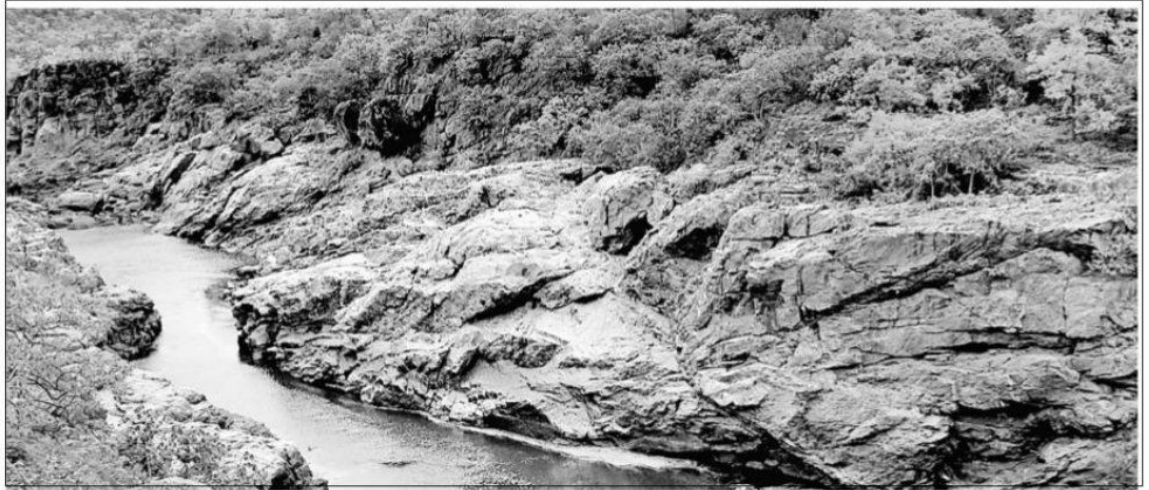
Karnataka has also claimed that it would not be violating the 2018 Supreme Court verdict on the sharing of Cauvery waters with Tamil Nadu; nor, for that matter, did it need to consult its neighbour for implementing the Mekedatu scheme.

Of late, Karnataka has seemed to be in a hurry to execute the project, believing that it would not have any problem in getting the DPR cleared. Witness, for example, what Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai told newsmen last week during his visit to Delhi: "We have also submitted the DPR to the Jal Shakti minister recently. I have confidence that it will be approved by the Union government and the project will be taken up shortly thereafter."

Tamil Nadu, however, is convinced that the storage of 67 tmcft of water in the Mekedatu dam would hinder the free flow of surplus water to it, besides harming its farmers' interests. Not surprisingly, its application questioning the project is pending before the Supreme Court.

This apart, chief minister M K Stalin has also been building pressure on the Union government, going by the recent interaction of his officials and MPs with the Jal Shakti minister.

The many questions about Mekedatu



Incidentally, the Mekedatu project was first mooted by the Congress government under Siddaramiah in 2013 but did not get the required momentum. It was only after former chief minister B S Yeddyurappa wrote to his counterpart, M K Stalin early this year about the project and the consequent objections by the latter that it suddenly hit the headlines again.

Now, the two states are engaged in a bitter war over the project, akin to reigniting the decades-old fight between the two states on sharing of the Cauvery waters, a dispute that the Supreme Court finally settled in 2018. In fact, ever since the project was mooted by Karnataka, politicians and farmers from the neighbouring state have been holding protests against it.

Tamil Nadu has been arguing that the construction of the reservoir "would result in impounding of the flows in the intermediate catchment below the Krishnaraja Sagar and Kabin reservoirs, and Billigundulu in the common border of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu."

Significantly, in its 2018 verdict, the apex court had allocated Karnataka 284 thousand million cubic (tmc) feet of water, with Tamil Nadu getting

404.25, Kerala 30 and Puducherry seven. In other words, the court improved on the share that the Cauvery Water Disputes' Tribunal had allocated earlier to Karnataka by 14.75 tmc ft while reducing that of Tamil Nadu. There was no change in the allocation that was given by the CWDIT to Puducherry and Kerala.

The court had deemed it appropriate to award additional quantities to Karnataka, including 10 tmc (on account of ground water availability in Tamil Nadu) and 4.75 tmc for meeting Bengaluru's drinking water needs. The verdict also led to the Centre setting up the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC), accordingly.

Incidentally, Puducherry too has opposed the Mekedatu project, maintaining that the flow of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu and consequently to Karaikal, an enclave of the union territory, would be hit if the dam is constructed.

Meanwhile, as the two states fight over the need or otherwise of setting up the controversial project, the green brigade in Karnataka fears that the balancing reservoir would have a

serious impact on the environment.

In fact, conservationists find it difficult to understand why Karnataka is seeking to rush through the project without first getting the all-important clearances. This includes the one from the environment ministry, especially as large tracts of forest land would be submerged. Of equal importance is the absence of public consultation by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.

This has puzzled experts who believe that the rush has much to do with political expediency, irrespective of the Mekedatu project's perceived benefits to the two states.

The green brigade is also intrigued as to why important issues like submergence and diversion of forest land and the Environment Impact Assessment study have not been addressed till now. Especially, when it comes to a project as big as the Mekedatu dam, which impacts the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary significantly.

The project, it is feared, would lead to the submergence of 5100 ha of CWS area, including 227 ha of revenue land. Besides, it would impact the Bannerghatta National Park and the Chamrajnagar forest which could

inevitably lead to man-animal conflict.

The submergence of forest land would cut off wildlife and elephant migratory routes. The species that could also be affected include the giant squirrels, honey badgers, Decan Mahseer fish and otters. This apart, the dam would lead to the axing of over 10,000 trees, if not more. Above all, it would displace tribal villages in the area besides affecting major waterfalls like Hoganekal and Gaganachukki-Barachuki.

While the eco activists realise the importance of meeting the drinking water needs of the fast growing IT capital, they feel it would help if Karnataka looks for alternatives instead of seeking to play havoc with the environment.

Irrigation experts, however, feel that instead of political engagement with its neighbour, Karnataka should make a strong case before the apex court and the CWMA, to ensure that the Mekedatu project becomes a reality and the people of Bengaluru get much-needed drinking water.

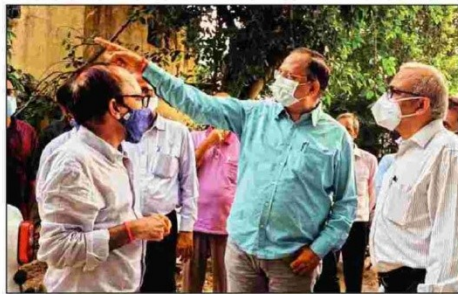
The writer is *The Statesman's* Bengaluru-based Special Representative.

अमोनिया हटाने वाले प्लांट लगाएगी सरकार

मंत्री सत्येंद्र जैन ने विकास मार्ग स्थित वी-11 रेनी वेल का निरीक्षण किया

■ विशेष संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली में 24 घंटे पानी की आपूर्ति को लेकर जल मंत्री सत्येंद्र जैन नियमित रूप से जल बोर्ड के अधिकारियों के साथ समीक्षा बैठक कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने पूर्वी दिल्ली के विकास मार्ग स्थित वी-11 रेनी वेल का निरीक्षण करने के बाद कहा कि केजरीवाल सरकार दिल्ली में अमोनिया हटाने वाले ज्यादा प्लांट लगाएगी। एक एमजीडी के प्लांट से 7 हजार परिवारों को साफ पानी मिलेगा। दिल्ली सरकार की तैयारी है कि लोगों को 24 घंटे साफ पानी मिले और यह सपना जल्द साकार होगा। इस बड़ी योजना के लिए दिल्ली सरकार ने आधुनिक जल निकासी कुओं का निर्माण भी कर



रही है। अमोनिया हटाने वाले प्लांट से भूमिगत जलाशय तक सीधे साफ पानी आता है।

जल मंत्री सत्येंद्र जैन ने बताया कि एक एमजीडी के अमोनिया रिमूवल प्लांट का निरीक्षण किया। यह 7 हजार परिवारों को पानी

उपलब्ध कराने के लिए पर्याप्त है क्योंकि भूमिगत जलाशय को इससे सीधे साफ पानी मिलता है। उन्होंने कहा कि पानी की उपलब्धता बढ़ाने के लिए दिल्ली में और भी ऐसे प्लांट लगाए जायेंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि दिल्ली सरकार 24 घंटे पानी की आपूर्ति के

अपने सपने को साकार करने के लिए कड़ी मेहनत कर रही है। जल बोर्ड जल्द से जल्द बुनियादी ढांचा तैयार करने के लिए कड़ी मेहनत कर रहा है, ताकि अगली गर्मियों तक 24 घंटे सातों दिन जल आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की जा सके। इस हफ्ते की शुरुआत में उन्होंने बताया था कि 24 घंटे पानी की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने के लिए राजधानी क्षेत्र में रेनी कुएं बनाए जा रहे हैं। लोगों को बेहतर गुणवत्ता वाला पानी उपलब्ध करने के लिए ट्यूबवेल के साथ आरओ सिस्टम भी लगाए जायेंगे।

दिल्ली की खबरों के लिए
टेलिग्राम पर फॉलो करें

t.me/nbtdilli

Dainik Jagran- 20- August-2021

स्कूलों में नल से जल पहुंचाने वाला पहला राज्य जम्मू-कश्मीर

राज्य ब्यूरो, श्रीनगर : जम्मू-कश्मीर में अब कोई स्कूल और आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र स्वच्छ पेयजल सुविधा से वंचित नहीं है। प्रत्येक सरकारी स्कूल और आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र में नल से जल की नियमित आपूर्ति हो रही है। यह उपलब्धि प्राप्त करने वाले राज्यों व केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में जम्मू-कश्मीर पहला प्रदेश बताया जा रहा है। केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने भी इस पर प्रसन्नता जताई है। उन्होंने ट्विटर पर लिखा कि पहले की सरकारों ने जम्मू-कश्मीर के लोगों को विकास से वंचित रखते हुए सिर्फ अपने परिवारों की चिंता की। मोदी जी ने यहां विकास के नए युग की शुरुआत की और गरीबों को मुख्यधारा से जोड़ा। इसी का परिणाम है कि आज जम्मू-कश्मीर हर क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ रहा है।

प्रगति पर मिशन

- चार जिलों में नल से जल का 100 फीसद लक्ष्य हासिल हो चुका है।
- आठ जिलों में योजना का 90 फीसद काम हो चुका है।
- प्रदेश के सिर्फ दो जिले ही 80 फीसद से नीचे हैं।
- छह जिलों में जल जीवन मिशन का 80-90 फीसद काम हो गया है।
- 10 लाख घरों में 31 मार्च, 2021 तक नल से जल पहुंचाया जा चुका है।
- मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष में 4.9 लाख घरों में नल से जल को सुनिश्चित बनाया जाएगा।

जम्मू-कश्मीर में 23,926 आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों और ग्रामीण इलाकों

पहले की सरकारों ने दशकों तक जम्मू-कश्मीर को विकास से वंचित रखा, सिर्फ अपने परिवारों की चिंता की। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने यहां विकास के नए युग की शुरुआत कर गरीबों को मुख्यधारा से जोड़ा। उसी का परिणाम है कि आज जम्मू-कश्मीर हर क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ रहा है। मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में जम्मू कश्मीर शांति व समृद्धि का पर्याय बन रहा है। जम्मू-कश्मीर के सभी स्कूलों व आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों में नल से शुद्ध पेयजल की आपूर्ति को समय से पूर्व सुनिश्चित करने के लिए मैं प्रधानमंत्री मोदी जी का अभिनंदन करता हूं।

- अमित शाह, केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री

के सभी 22,422 सरकारी स्कूलों में नल से जल की सुविधा है। प्रधानमंत्री

नरेंद्र मोदी ने 15 अगस्त, 2019 को पूरे देश में हर घर में नल से जल को सुनिश्चित बनाने के लिए जल जीवन मिशन की शुरुआत की थी। इस मिशन को दिसंबर 2024 तक पूरा करना है। जम्मू-कश्मीर सरकार इस मिशन को दिसंबर-2022 तक पूरा करने की दिशा में तेजी से बढ़ रही है। गत जुलाई में ही मुख्य सचिव अरुण कुमार मेहता ने जल जीवन मिशन पर बैठक में अधिकारियों को 30 सितंबर, 2021 तक जल जीवन मिशन के दूसरे व तीसरे चरण को हर हाल में पूरा करने का निर्देश दिया था। उन्होंने यह भी सुनिश्चित करने को कहा था कि 15 अगस्त 2021 तक प्रत्येक स्कूल और आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र में नल से पेयजल आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित होनी चाहिए।

Dainik Bhaskar- 20- August-2021

सहभागी शासन का आदर्श उदाहरण जल जीवन मिशन



बिबेक देबराय

प्रधानमंत्री की आर्थिक
सलाहकार परिषद के अध्यक्ष

आदित्य सिन्हा

अपर निजी सचिव
(अनुसंधान)

जल संभवतः सर्वाधिक अनिवार्य, लेकिन कम करके आंका गया संसाधन है। जलापूर्ति में विसंगति संघर्ष पैदा करने की क्षमता रखती है। पानी की उपलब्धता या कमी को लेकर होने वाली जल-राजनीति अंतरराष्ट्रीय या अंतर्देशीय विवादों में बार-बार उभर रही है। सीरिया में गृह युद्ध और इस्लामिक स्टेट के गठन की सबसे बड़ी वजह सदी के सबसे बुरे अकाल को माना जा रहा है। उधर दुनिया के सबसे अमीर देशों में शामिल सिंगापुर ने जोहोर नदी के पानी का इस्तेमाल करने के लिए मलेशिया के साथ 99 साल की संधि की है। इस द्वीपीय देश के लिए यह पानी बहुत अहम है। इसके बिना सभी उद्योग, व्यापार, वाणिज्य और संस्कृति थम जाएंगे। भारत में भी हमने कृष्णा, कावेरी और गोदावरी नदियों के जल को लेकर कई विवाद देखे हैं। हालांकि, आजादी के बाद लोगों को साफ पानी उपलब्ध कराने के लिए हमने लंबा रास्ता भी तय किया है।

जल प्रबंधन के सारे काम सरकार द्वारा किए जाने से लेकर लोगों की सहभागिता तक का सफर हमने तय किया है। सहभागी शासन में नागरिक सिर्फ वोटर या दर्शक ही नहीं है, शासन प्रक्रिया में भी अहम भूमिका निभा सकते हैं। सहभागी शासन में नागरिक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों में प्रत्यक्ष योगदान देते हैं। जल जीवन मिशन इसका आदर्श उदाहरण है। 15 अगस्त 2019 को घोषित जल जीवन मिशन एक विकेंद्रीकृत योजना है, जो मांग और सामुदायिक-प्रबंधन से चलती है। इसका उद्देश्य 2024 तक ग्रामीण भारत के हर घर को नल से शुद्ध और पर्याप्त पेयजल उपलब्ध कराना है। इस मिशन के कारण

नलों से पानी की उपलब्धता में बड़ा सुधार हुआ है और कुल 24.51 फीसदी ग्रामीण घरों तक नल से पानी पहुंचाया जा चुका है।

गोवा, तेलंगाना, अंडमान निकोबार द्वीप, पुडुचेरी, दादरा और नगर हवेली व दमन एवं दीव वो राज्य व केंद्र शासित प्रदेश हैं, जहां 100 फीसदी घरों में नल का कनेक्शन है। लेकिन आज भी करीब 11 करोड़ घरों में नल का कनेक्शन नहीं है, इनमें से पांच करोड़ घर सिर्फ पश्चिम बंगाल, उत्तर प्रदेश और राजस्थान में हैं। जापानी इंसेफेलाइटिस-एक्वट इंसेफेलाइटिस सिंड्रोम से गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित 61 जिलों के एक करोड़ से अधिक घरों में अब जल जीवन मिशन के कारण नलों के माध्यम से स्वच्छ पेयजल उपलब्ध होने लगा है। इससे यह सुनिश्चित करने में मदद मिलेगी कि बच्चे इंसेफेलाइटिस और अन्य जल जनित बीमारियों से संक्रमित नहीं हों।

जल जीवन मिशन की एक और खूबी इसका मोबाइल सुलभ डैशबोर्ड है। इससे लोगों को सरकार को जवाबदेह बनाने का अधिकार मिलता है। इसमें राज्य, शहर, जिला, गांव व ब्लॉकवार उन घरों की संख्या दर्ज होती है, जहां नल लग गए हैं। पानी उपलब्ध है। डेटा लगातार अपडेट होता है। स्कूलों और आंगनवाड़ियों में लगे नलों का भी ब्योरा इसमें होता है। एक ई गवर्नेंस शिकायत निवारण प्रणाली भी है। यह ब्योरा भी होता है कि पिछले तीन महीनों में कितने सैपलों की जांच हुई और इनमें कितने दूषित मिले। इसमें सेंसर आधारित प्रणाली लगी होती है, जिससे पता चलता है कि किस पानी के टैंक में कितना पानी छोड़ा गया। अब मंत्रालय ग्लूकोमीटर जैसे एक पोर्टेबल उपकरण को विकसित कर रहा है, जिससे गांवों में पानी की गुणवत्ता को जांचा जा सके। इससे कोई भी इन नलों से आने वाले पानी की जांच कर सकेगा। जल जीवन मिशन का उद्देश्य उपभोक्ता को जल उपलब्ध कराना है, लेकिन साथ ही पेयजल की उपलब्धता को सुनिश्चित करना भी उतना ही जरूरी है। राष्ट्रीय जल मिशन के तहत बारिश के पानी को रोको जैसे कार्यक्रम इस दिशा में अहम भूमिका निभाएंगे। (ये लेखकों के अपने विचार हैं।)