

Haryana committed to constructing SYL canal, says Governor in Assembly

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The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on Monday said the State government is committed to constructing the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal in order to get the State's share of waters in the Ravi and the Beas rivers.

The Governor was delivering his address on the first day of the budget session of the 14th Haryana Assembly here.

"The State government is committed to constructing the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal in order to get the State's share of waters in Ravi-Beas rivers. Also, the government is committed to the construction of upstream storage dams — Renuka, Kishau and Lakhwar Vyasi on river Yamuna. After investment clearance of Renuka Ji dam by the Union Ministry of Finance, the State government has also deposited ₹63.57 crore as seed money with the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB)," he said.

The SYL canal is a focal point of a water-sharing dispute between Haryana and Punjab.

Terming the State as progressive and resourceful, Mr. Dattatreya said it is



Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal and Speaker Gyanchand Gupta welcome Governor Bandaru Dattatreya before the budget session of the Assembly in Chandigarh on Monday. PTI

poised to play a key role in the national endeavour to make India a five trillion-dollar economy. "The State government has ensured good governance by evolving customised policies for all sectors. It has also ensured the welfare of each 'Haryanvi' and will always be dedicated to enhancing the socio-economic welfare of its people by making the State as a hub for industries, education, sports, health, skill development, and tourism," he said. He added Haryana has the sixth highest Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in the country. "Per

capita tax collection is a true indicator of tax collection efficiency and effort of any State. Haryana, with only about 2% share of the country's total population, contributes approximately 6% to the total GST collections of the country. The per capita GST collection for the State is ₹26,879 per annum, which is the highest among the top collecting States of the country," he said.

Uproar over Minister

The Assembly witnessed an uproar as slogan-shouting Congress members demanded resignation of

Sandeep Singh over a sexual harassment case, but Chief Minister Manohar Lal said the Minister won't be asked to resign.

Mr. Lal said, "*Istifa nahi lenge, nahi lenge, nahi lenge* (Won't seek his resignation)," prompting the Opposition party MLAs to raise "shame, shame" slogans.

The Congress members also staged a brief walk-out over the issue.

Mr. Singh, who currently holds charge of the Printing and Stationery Department, was not present in the House.

(With PTI inputs)

The Times of India- 21- February-2023

LG-led Yamuna panel to revive Najafgarh lake

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: National Green Tribunal has directed that the high-level committee headed by the lieutenant governor should look into the rejuvenation of Najafgarh lake too, since the panel is already dealing with the issue of pollution in drains and water bodies impacting Yamuna. However, the committee said that Haryana part of the lake will be dealt with by the chief secretary of the neighbouring state.

“Since the issue of pollution in drains and water bodies impacting Yamuna is now being looked into by the committee headed by LG and the issue of revival of Najafgarh lake is integral to rejuvenation of Yamuna, the same can also be dealt with by the same panel, as far as Delhi is concerned,” said NGT.

Two pleas were filed in the tribunal involving a common issue of compliance of NGT orders on remedial steps for rejuvenation of Najafgarh lake, a trans-boundary wetland on the border of Delhi and Gurgaon. Discharge of waste and encroachments are causing damage to the lake, the pleas claimed.

On the order of NGT, both Delhi and Haryana governments prepared an environmental management plan, listing

immediate, medium and long-term measures for revival of the lake. An integrated environment management plan for the same was to be prepared. Ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEF&CC) constituted inter-ministerial expert group last year for remedial measures for rejuvenation of Najafgarh drain. The group has members from Central Pollution Control Board and officials from ministry of Jal Shakti, Delhi government and Haryana government for conservation and rejuvenation of the lake.

“Inter-ministerial expert group may continue till remedial measures are completed as directed,” said NGT.

In both the environmental management plans of Delhi and Haryana governments, most of the recommendations for immediate, medium (within two-three years) and long-term (three-five years) are almost same. The common suggestions for immediate plans are notification under wetlands (conservation and management) rules 2017, boundary demarcation using geotagged pillars, commissioning hydrological assessment and commissioning species inventory and developing a comprehensive stakeholder-endorsed wetlands management plan.

The Times of India- 21- February-2023

In world's wettest belt, drinking water tops election wishlist

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Guwahati: Clouds float into their homes like everyday guests and the rain, when it pours, can be unceasing. But voters in arguably the world's wettest belt, Cherrapunji-Mawsynram in poll-bound Meghalaya, are left demanding from their elected representatives the one thing you would expect them to be never short of: drinking water.

In peak monsoon, it can rain more than 1,000mm in a day in Mawsynram and Cherrapunji, as it did on June 17 last year to set a new 24-hour record of 1003.6mm. Ask Larisa Myrthong to explain the conundrum of unrelenting rain

and unreasonable water shortage and she has a response as dry as the water tap she points to. "Water supply lasts only for an hour or so each day. The truth is none of the political parties has yet treated our water woes with the seriousness the issue deserves," she said.

The scientific explanation for the rain-abundant region running short of drinking water is "low recharge of groundwater" because of a growing population and shrinking forest cover. Rainwater harvesting is still in its infancy, forcing residents to pay private players and community organisations to source water from streams managed by the elected traditional local bodies called dorbars.

Business Line- 21- February-2023

Mukund Govind Rajan
Shail Vani

As India sets its sights on becoming a global leader in sustainable development, the Union Budget is a crucial tool to catalyse our green transformation. This complements bold international commitments already made under the Paris Climate Treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and source 50 per cent of India's electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. Coinciding with India's G20 presidency, the identification of green growth as one of the seven core economic priorities showcases India's commitment to a sustainable future.

Employing the largest proportion of the population, agriculture saw clear wins in the Budget's green initiatives. Sustainable and natural farming practices are increasingly gaining traction, and the government's intention to facilitate the transition of one crore farmers to such practices is commendable.

The Agriculture Accelerator Fund announced in the Budget will provide crucial funding for entrepreneurs to drive innovation. The combination of the government's initiatives, such as PM PRANAM, which incentivises States and UTs to promote alternative fertilisers, and the push towards sustainable farming can facilitate the transition away from chemical-intensive farming.

FINANCING GREEN TRANSITION

The previous Budget's announcement of sovereign green bonds marked a significant milestone for India's green finance landscape. The successful issuance of the first tranche of these bonds by the central bank, the RBI, with a modest greenium of six basis points followed by Exim Bank's record-breaking issuance of \$1 billion in sustainability bonds, demonstrates a growing appetite for green financial products.

The recent adoption of a new ESG framework by SBI for raising green debt is another step in the right direction. The public markets regulator, SEBI, also recently released a dos and don'ts framework for green bonds that should provide clarity to green debt issuers.

The Budget also pointed to the potential for the growth of Municipal Bonds or Muni Bonds. These have internationally proven to be a successful tool for cities to raise funds for green infrastructure development. The success of Ghaziabad's recent issuance of a Muni Bond for a waste plant and Indore's Green Bond issuance shows the promise of green financing to build sustainable cities in India through this avenue. Amongst the major challenges presented by climate change induced by global warming will be the ability to manage water security in our water-stressed country; remember,



Budget should energise green growth

HOLISTIC APPROACH. The initiatives on funding, innovation, water security and behavioural change are noteworthy. But these must be executed well

close to half of Indian agriculture is still rain-fed. The increase in funding provided to the Ministry of Jal Shakti by 43 per cent is a positive step in this context.

Likewise, the announcement of the 'Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes', which will facilitate mangrove plantation along the Indian coastline. However, more emphasis on disaster management and risk reduction is required going forward. As the adverse effects of climate change continue to escalate, it is crucial that we increase our adaptation efforts and build climate resilience into all the new infrastructure that is being created.

NEW SERVICE OFFERINGS

Over the last two decades, the IT industry in India led a digital revolution with dramatic gains in the services sector. Sustainability is the new digital and opens up a similar opportunity for India. The Green Credit programme outlined in the Budget to incentivise behavioural change for people, organisations, and local bodies is encouraging.

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Likewise, a 'green' procurement requirement in government purchases could motivate Indian industry to transform its offerings. New job opportunities will parallelly be created in spaces such as consulting, audit and climate technology. This can unlock a new wave of growth.

Multiple large-scale initiatives are being undertaken around the world as humankind transitions to net zero. The US government's Inflation Reduction Act will invest \$369 billion in climate solutions and environmental justice. In response, Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, has introduced a plan to make Europe the home of clean-tech and industrial innovation on the road to net zero. The EU has also deployed the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism to address concerns about carbon leakage in imports from countries with lax emission standards.

Sizeable budgetary allocations are also being made in India towards the green energy transition, including an allocation of ₹19,700 crore to the National Hydrogen Mission to achieve at least 5 million tonnes production capacity by 2030, and incentives for ethanol blending in fuel, and waste to energy build-outs.

Going forward, attention needs to be paid to supporting the needs of small and medium enterprises in leveraging such initiatives, including through funding common shared infrastructure in industrial clusters of the kind that

exist in Surat, Dahej and Paradeep. Meanwhile, the Energy Conservation Bill envisions the creation of a domestic carbon market, and coupled with the anticipated revival of UN-sanctioned international carbon trading, the government can not only stimulate India's emergence as the world's leading supplier of carbon offsets, but also provide overarching guidance to industries for their long-term decarbonisation plans.

EXECUTION IS KEY

Overall, Budget 2023 shows promise in continuing the green focus of previous Budgets. Execution will be key, both in delivering on past commitments and in creating new opportunities for economic growth. The Sustainable Alternative Towards Sustainable Transportation (SATAT) scheme, announced in 2018 to achieve 5,000 compressed biogas plants by 2023, has only met 1 per cent of the target so far. And only around 60 per cent of the 2022 target of 175GW of renewable energy was delivered.

Positive initiatives need to be supported by excellent execution. Meanwhile, greater focus needs to be provided towards building disaster risk resilience, and climate adaptation. From a green lens, there is much to welcome in Budget 2023, but also much more to be done.

The writers are with ECube Investment Advisors, an ESG-focused platform

Deccan Chronicle- 21- February-2023

'Groundwater contaminated with metals'

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, FEB. 20

The groundwater in Chennai has been contaminated with heavy metals like chromium, cadmium, lead and nickel, revealed a study conducted by an NGO.

The Chennai residents are drinking unsafe water, said Prabhakaran, environmental engineer of Poovulagin Nanbargal. The study was conducted at 45 places in 15 zones, mainly industrial areas. It says water in 25 places has been contaminated with heavy metals.

He said the groundwater samples collected at Nagalkeni in Pammal, near Pallavaram, contained nickel 15 times more than the permissible

Heavy metals pose several health issues. Cadmium exposure will reduce bone density and affect the nervous system.

limit and cadmium seven times more than the permissible limit in Ambattur.

He said heavy metals pose several health issues and elaborated that cadmium exposure would reduce bone density, lead would affect the nervous system and nickel causes breathing problems, heart ailment and even cancer.

The water supplied by Chennai Metro Water

through pipes is worse. Jal Jeevan Mission conducted research on quality of water in major cities across the country and drinking water samples were taken from 10 locations in Chennai. The report revealed that people in the city drink poor quality water and that Chennai's drinking water is the worst in quality in India. The situation is worse in north Chennai, where sewage frequently mixes with metro water. Drinking water samples collected from Tondiarpet and Vyasarpadi contained e-coli bacteria and other microorganisms that cause diseases like hepatitis A and B and diarrhea as a result of piped water contaminated by sewage mix. Children in these

areas are frequently ill due to poor quality water.

People spend up to 12 per cent of their income for obtaining drinking water as the water provided by the Chennai metro water or corporation has been contaminated. Pumping water from plants looks good. However, by the time water is supplied to people's homes, it gets contaminated. This happens due to poor infrastructure in the city, causing leakage problems and overlooked drainage systems and corrosion of the decades old pipelines.

He demanded the authorities to provide clean and potable drinking to the residents and replace the old pipe lines which transmit water to people.

Rajasthan Patrika- 21- February-2023

चिबल और पोंडा तालुक के उसगांव ग्रामसभा महदायी नदी बचाने लिए सर्वसम्मति से लिया निर्णय

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

patrika.com

पणजी. गोवा के चिबल और पोंडा तालुक के उसगांव ग्रामसभा में सोमवार को महदायी नदी बचाने की दिशा में सर्वसम्मति से निर्णय लिया गया। इस मौके पर राज्य के जल उपयोग से संबंधित महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे को लेकर राज्य सरकार ने न्यायालय के सामने अभी तक रिपोर्ट क्यों नहीं सौंपी। अडवोकेट जनरल डेविड पांगम इस विषय में मौन क्यों हैं? आदि प्रश्नों पर ग्राम सभाओं में चर्चा की गई। गोवा के चिबल ग्राम सभा में महदायी विचार की चर्चा को लेकर पंचायत अध्यक्ष संदेश शिरोडकर ने जानकारी दी। इस अवसर पर पर्यावरणविद राजेंद्र केर्कर, आरटीआई कार्यकर्ता राजन घाटे आदि उपस्थित थे। बैठक में मांग की गई कि राज्य सरकार को



डीपीआर तैयार कर न्यायाधीकरण को सौंपना चाहिए। अपने हिस्से के जल उपयोग के बारे में रिपोर्ट तैयार नहीं करना राज्य सरकार की प्रमुख विफलता है। यह न्यायालय में प्रमुख विषय हो सकता है। महदायी से संबंधित चर्चा के बाद वन्यजीव तथा वन क्षेत्रों को बाघ संरक्षित क्षेत्र के तौर पर परिवर्तित करने की दिशा में राज्य सरकार को कार्रवाई करनी चाहिए। गोविंद शिरोडकर, समिति के अध्यक्ष तुकाराम कुंकळकर ने महदायी संरक्षण से संबंधित विचार व्यक्त किया।

Dainik Jagran- 21- February-2023

नदी साफ करने के लिए स्रोतों को साफ करना जरूरी : सिसोदिया

जासं, बाहरी दिल्ली : केजरीवाल सरकार ने 2025 तक यमुना की सफाई पूरी करने और सभी अनधिकृत कालोनियों के घरों को सीवर लाइन से जोड़ने को लेकर युद्धस्तर पर काम कर रही है। उपमुख्यमंत्री मनीष सिसोदिया ने जहांगीरपुरी नाले में बह रहे गंदे पानी को रोकने के लिए शाह आलम बांध रोड पर दो बांध (वियर) के निर्माण की परियोजना को मंजूरी दी है। 1.7 करोड़ रुपये की लागत वाली इस परियोजना का कार्य पूरा होने के बाद इलाके की कालोनियों से निकलने वाला सीवरेज नजदीकी एसपीएस के जरिये ट्रीट करने के लिए भेजा जाएगा, जिसके बाद ट्रीटेड पानी यमुना में बहेगा। उपमुख्यमंत्री मनीष सिसोदिया ने जलबोर्ड के अधिकारियों को परियोजना को उम्मीदों के अनुरूप बनाने और समयसीमा के अंदर गुणवत्ता पूर्ण कार्य पूरा करने के निर्देश दिए हैं।

उपमुख्यमंत्री ने बताया कि हम यमुना को स्वच्छ बनाने और बेहतर सीवरेज प्रबंधन की दिशा में लगातार काम कर रहे हैं। इसके तहत शाह

यमुना में गिरेगा ट्रीटेड पानी

नालों के प्रवाह को सुचारु रखने करने के लिए परमानेंट स्ट्रक्चर की जरूरत है। ऐसे में सरकार ने दोनों उप-नालियों पर बांध (वियर) का निर्माण किया करने का निर्णय लिया गया है, ताकि वेस्ट वाटर को एसपीएस जहांगीरपुरी में डायवर्ट किया जा सके। उपमुख्यमंत्री मनीष सिसोदिया ने कहा कि किसी भी बड़ी नदी को साफ करने के लिए उसके स्रोतों को साफ करना जरूरी होता है। इसी तर्ज पर केजरीवाल सरकार ने यमुना में गिरने वाले सभी गंदे नालों की सफाई का बेड़ा उठाया है।

आलम बांध रोड पर जहांगीरपुरी नाले में बह रहे गंदे पानी को रोकने के लिए दो बांध का निर्माण किया जाएगा। साथ ही वेस्ट वाटर को जहांगीरपुरी एसपीएस में डायवर्ट किया जाएगा। एसपीएस के माध्यम से सीवरेज एसटीपी तक पहुंचाया जाएगा। जहांगीरपुरी और भरोला गांव में कई जेजे क्लस्टर हैं।