Central Water Commission
Water Systems Engineering Directorate
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2nd Floor (S), Sewa Bhawan
R K Puram, New Delhi-66

Dated 24.06.2019

Subject: ***Submission of News Clippings***

The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings will also be uploaded on the CWC website.

Encl: As stated above.

Senior Artist
(WSE, Dte.,)
24/6/2019

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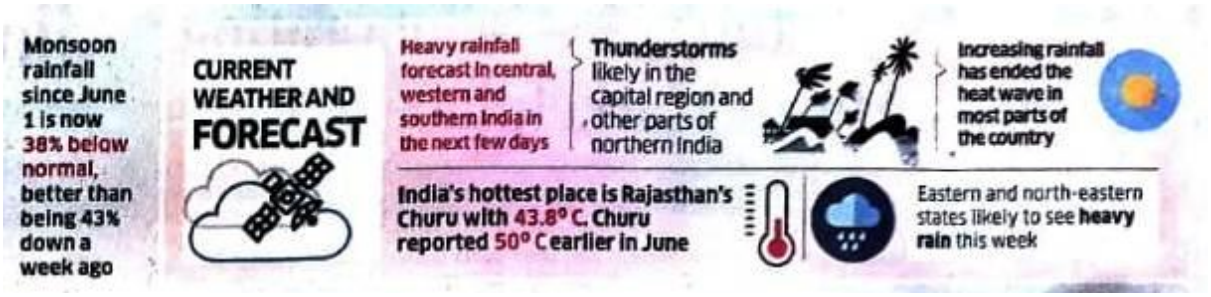

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84% of IMD's subdivisions record deficient rainfall

80% reservoirs have below normal storage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 23 June

With the progress of monsoon still remaining sluggish, 84 per cent of the meteorological subdivisions have recorded deficient rainfall, MeT department data shows.

According to the Central Water Commission data, of the 91 major reservoirs in the country, 80 per cent have storage below normal. Of these, 11 have zero per cent storage, making the water crisis acute.

The official rainfall season starts from June 1 to September 30, but the overall monsoon deficiency until June 22 still remains around 39 per cent. Of the 36 meteorological subdivisions, 25 per cent have recorded "deficient" rainfall, while six subdivisions recorded precipitation classified under the "large deficient" category.

Odisha and Lakhadweep subdivisions have recorded "normal" rainfall. While Jammu Kashmir and East Rajasthan recorded "excess" rainfall, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands registered rainfall under the "large excess" category.

The India Meteorological Department has four divisions – east and the north east, south

peninsula, central India and northwest India.

The east and northeast India division comprise northeastern states and eastern states of Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal and all have registered deficient rainfall.

Of the 10 subdivisions of central India, Odisha is the only one to receive normal rainfall. Four subdivisions, including three from the Maharashtra — Vidarbha, Marathwada and central Maharashtra — have recorded rainfall in the category of "large deficient". The east Madhya Pradesh subdivision has also recorded rainfall in the same category.

Vidarbha, Marathwada and central Maharashtra subdivisions have been facing a drought-like situation, with water levels in reservoirs reaching extremely low levels.

Although the Gujarat and Saurashtra and the Kutch subdivisions under central India have recorded "deficient" rainfall, Cyclone Vayu helped bring down some of the shortfall.

The deficiency in these two subdivisions was 100 per cent until June 9, but it went down to 50 and 26 per cent respectively. Of 10 divisions in the south peninsula division, eight are deficient. The Andaman and Nicobar Island subdivision recorded "large excess" rainfall, the only one under this category in the country, while Lakshadweep recorded "normal" rainfall.

With Chennai reeling under a severe water crisis, the Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal subdivision has a deficiency of nearly 38 per cent.

The IMD on Sunday said monsoon has further advanced into east Uttar Pradesh, some parts of central Maharashtra, most parts of Marathwada and Vidarbha.

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After slow start, monsoon covers 10 states in 4 days

Enters East UP, 1-2 Days Away From Mumbai

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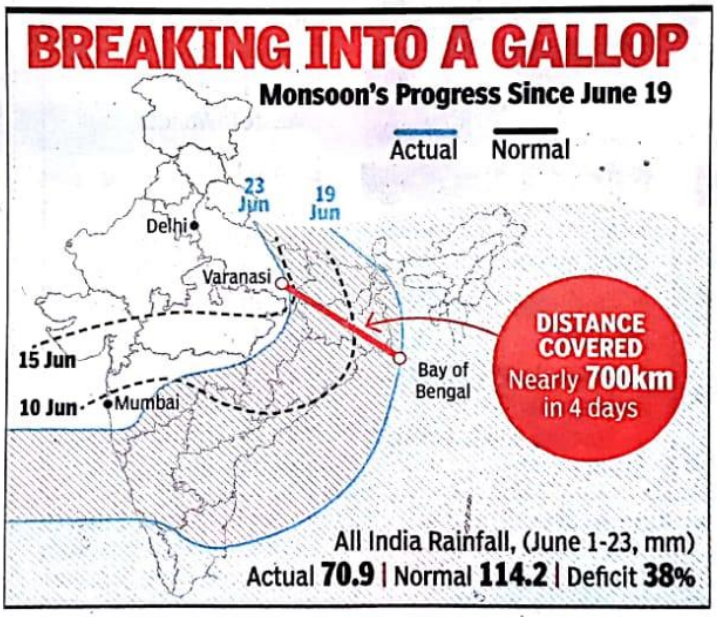
TOI-24

After having made the slowest progress in at least 12 years, the monsoon has broken into a sprint, nearly covering 10 states and entering two more within a span of four days since June 19 while racing into east Uttar Pradesh in the north.

With a low-pressure system giving it wind, the monsoon strode into Varanasi on Sunday, covering nearly 700km in four days from its position over north Bay of Bengal last Wednesday. The push from the Bay of Bengal arm has led to an unusual situation of the monsoon having reached Varanasi while being still to arrive over Mumbai, which it normally hits by June 10.



"Monsoon is likely to reach Mumbai in a day or two and cover most parts of Maharashtra by June 25, after which the system is likely to go into a brief lull again," said D Sivananda Pai, IMD's lead monsoon forecaster. In the north, monsoon may push a little further into UP on Monday before the low pressure system driving it runs out of steam, Pai added.

The rapid strides in the last four days, however, haven't made a significant dent in the overall rain deficit this month. Monsoon rainfall remains 38% lower than normal this month (June 1 to 23). The deficit has reduced from 44% on June 19, but still remains significantly high due to monsoon's late onset and slow initial progress.

▶Continued on P 8

Marathwada, Vidarbha both receive good rains on Sunday

▶ Continued from P 1

TOI-24

Nonetheless, monsoon's speedy progress this week should come as good news for regions battling drought conditions in central India and parts of the south. Rains over Bihar will also moderate temperatures in the state, leading to a likely drop acute encephalitis cases.

Marathwada and Vidarbha, both battling acute water shortages this summer, were among the regions that received good rain on Sunday. Madhya Maharashtra, Rayalaseema, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and east UP were the other sub-divisions were monsoon was active. Karnataka, Telangana, west MP and J&K also received some rain on Sunday.

While monsoon is likely to cover Maharashtra and enter MP and south Gujarat over the next couple of days, its further progress, particularly into most of northwest India, may depend on another low-pressure system coming in from Bay of Bengal. "As of now, there is no sign of a low forming over Bay of Bengal. Many parts of north India may get thundershowers, outside the monsoon system, in the next few days. It's difficult to say at present when monsoon will hit Delhi and neighbouring states," Pai said.

With many regions still awaiting a delayed monsoon, central India continues to run a high rain deficit of 43.5% while east and northeast reels under a deficit of 44% in the June 1-19 period. South too has a high shortfall of nearly 30% while north India, which is the last region to come under monsoon system, has a relatively lower deficit of 20%. It is likely that June will end up with a large rain deficit, said IMD officials. "The presence of a weak El Nino seems to have affected monsoon, delaying its onset over the Indian mainland and its slow progress thereafter," an official said.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 24.06.2019 in **The Economic Times, New Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

Address The Looming Water Emergency

Chennai is facing one of its most severe water crises in decades, even as 900 tankers make over 9,000 trips daily to cope with rising shortages. Elsewhere, in Ranchi, fights and stabbings have been reported over water. There's a serious water crisis nationally. It calls for focused policy action to sustainably boost water resources and treat, reuse and recycle waste water.

While over 90% of the urban population has had access to 'basic water' since 2000, barely one-third of India's waste water is treated before discharge. The smelly truth is that urban stretches of most rivers and lakes are overburdened by industrial waste and untreated sewage. Hence the pressing need to set up modern treatment plants for urban waste water, so as to boost recycling and reuse, and to address downstream contamination. In tandem, what's required are proactive regulatory norms and mechanisms to recharge and restore urban aquifers in the backdrop of rapid growth. There is rising water stress across states, and a bi-annual water report tabled in Parliament, on the lines of the Economic Survey and mid-year review, would focus policy attention.

What's needed is holistic policy that involves both demand and supply side measures, together with improved rural drinking water, reliable urban water supply and proper sanitation. Irrigation projects and watershed development need credible supply side management, such as de-silting and lining of canals. And on the demand side, we clearly require sustainable on-farm practices as agriculture accounts for 80% of all water usage. The subsidies that incentivise cultivation of crops unsuited to local agro-climatic conditions must go, and a part subsumed in income support to the farmer. Water must be priced to reflect its scarcity.

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'Politics of water' in TN

DMK not to allow AIADMK govt's plan to transport water to Chennai by train

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 23 JUNE 24.ST

The 'politics of water' in a water crisis-ridden Tamil Nadu took an unexpected turn on Saturday with the Opposition DMK declaring it would not allow the AIADMK government's plan to transport water from Jolarpettai in Vellore district to water-starved Chennai by train.

Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami had announced on Friday that a 50-wagon train would be pressed into service to transport 10 million litres water per day from Jolarpettai to Chennai. The government has set apart Rs 65 crore to meet transporting cost and other expenses.

But DMK treasurer Durai Murugan declared that his party would oppose the state government's move to transport water from Jolarpettai to Chennai citing reason that Vellore itself is most-water starved district due to two consecutive drought seasons. "We are against diverting water supplied through the Cauvery combined drinking water project. This water supply is limited to one or two days per week because of prevailing scarcity. If it is taken to Chennai, we will suffer," said Murugan, party head of Vellore.

However, sources close to Murugan say the leader is worried about the poll prospect of his son Kathir

Anand, the DMK candidate from Vellore Lok Sabha constutiency for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, which was cancelled after large-scale seizure of unaccounted money from the residence and business premise of the latter. The Election Commission of India is expected to announce the new polling date in Vellore soon.

Meanwhile, the AIADMK is planning to launch a counter agitation blaming the DMK for its efforts to derail the water train project.

Tempers in Chennai and elsewhere in the state are running high due to severe water shortage and instances of two murders and attacks were reported from various parts of the state over the past week following disputes over water sharing.

Meanwhile, Nanditha Krishna, director, CPR Environmental Centre, said this was the worst water crisis to hit Chennai in the past three decades. "Groundwater has depleted and there is no possibility of finding any new water bodies in the metropolis or in the surrounding areas," said Krishna.

This week will see Tamil Nadu government launching the works of the third desalination plant in a Chennai suburb which has the capacity to supply 150 million litres of water per day which is expected to be operational in three years. The AIADMK government is going ahead with plans to set up a fourth desalination plant for the metropolis, which was delayed by CRZ Act issues.

"This is too late and too little. The government should have launched the works of three or four desalination plants at least in 2012. Under the present conditions, the only option available before Tamil Nadu is desalination plants," said A Y Dangore, former head of the Desalination Plant Division of Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam.

Dangore is the chief architect of a series of desalination plants meeting the water requirements of Kalpakkam Township, the Madras Atomic Power Station and the IGCAR facility. He said the government should take serious note of the functioning of desalination plants in West Asian countries. "They are working without any hitch for decades. Agreed that they are costly but there is no other option for rain-starved Tamil Nadu," said Dangore.

TURNING POINT

- CM Edappadi K Palaniswami said a 50-wagon train would transport 10 mn litres of water per day from Jolarpettai to Chennai.
- DMK will oppose government's move citing reason that Vellore is most water-starved district
- AIADMK plans a counter agitation blaming DMK for its efforts to derail water train project
- CPR Environmental Centre says this was the worst water crisis to hit Chennai

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 24.06.2019 in **The Indian Express, New Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

IE-24

RUNNING DRY

Chennai's water crisis bares the challenge for new Jal Shakti ministry — to ensure water security in growing towns and cities

AFTER A DRY spell of almost 200 days, Chennai received monsoon showers last week. But this has not mitigated the water crisis in Tamil Nadu's capital. Clashes over water have been reported from different parts of the city and firms in Chennai's Information Technology Park have asked employees to either work from home or bring their own water. The state government and the city's municipality have blamed the crisis on the deficient Northeast Monsoon in October-November last year. They are not completely wrong. However, the fact also is that in the past five years, Chennai's water supply has consistently fallen short of the city's requirement. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board has been able to supply only 830 million litres a day (mld) as against the demand of about 1,200 mld. This year, the agency's water supply dipped to 550 mld.

Chennai is a rain-shadow city. It gets more than 80 per cent of its water from the Northeast Monsoon. In the past, this water was stored in ponds, canals and lakes which would minimise the run-off — that a coastal city is susceptible to — and recharge groundwater. Besides, according to a study by researchers at the geology department of Chennai's Anna University, the city had more than 60 large water bodies at the turn of the 20th century. Three major waterways — the Buckingham canal and the rivers, Adyar and Cooum — crisscrossed Chennai. But Tamil Nadu's capital today has only 28 water bodies, large or small, notes the Anna University study. The Pallikaranai marshland which used to sprawl over more than 6,000 hectares has shrunk to about 650 hectares. A growing body of literature has shown that urban planners gave short shrift to the imperatives of Chennai's hydrology to meet the city's infrastructural demands. A parliamentary panel that enquired into the causes of the Chennai floods in 2015, for example, reported that that real estate business had "usurped" the city's water bodies. Today, Chennai gets its water from four reservoirs, which have gone dry after the retreating monsoon failed last year. Chennai's desalination plants can barely supply a fifth of the city's water requirements.

Chennai is amongst the 21 Indian cities which the Niti Aayog fears will run out of groundwater by 2020. The city's water crisis bares a critical challenge for the new Jal Shakti ministry. It has to play a leading role in resolving the tension in India's current urban planning paradigm between the developmental needs of people and water security imperatives. The new ministry should start by coordinating with local authorities in Chennai to rejuvenate the city's aquifers.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 24.06.2019 in **the Rajasthan Patrika, New Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

बढ़ती प्यास घटता पानी : अमरीका के पूर्वी तट पर समुद्र की तलहटी के नीचे वैज्ञानिकों ने खोजा विशाल भंडार

तेल की तरह अब समुद्र के नीचे से पेयजल का भी उत्खनन

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

न्यूयार्क. वह दिन दूर नहीं जब समुद्र से तेल की तरह इंसानी इस्तेमाल के लायक पानी का भी खनन किया जाएगा। वैंज्ञानिकों ने पूर्वी अमरीका के तट के पास समुद्री तल के नीचे मीठे पानी का विशाल भंडार खोज निकालाा हैं। यह इतना बड़ा है कि इसका इस्तेमाल किया जाए तो उत्तरी अमरीका सहित कई देशों में पानी की कमी पूरी हो जाएगी। जर्नल साइंटिफिक रिपोर्ट में छपे इस शोध में वैंज्ञानिकों का कहना है कि दुनिया के अन्य हिस्सों में भी समुद्र के नीचे भी इस्तेमाल लायक पानी के भंडार हो सकते हैं। इससे दुनिया में पानी की जरूरत पूरी की जा सकती है।

15000
वर्ग मील है जलभंडार का क्षेत्रफल, समुद्र की तलहटी 600 फुट नीचे

तेल कंपनियों ने दिए थे शुरुआती संकेत

अमरीका के कोलंबिया विश्वविद्यालय के शोधकर्ताओं ने अध्ययन में बताया कि न्यू जर्सी से मैसाचुसेट्स के बीच भूमिगत पीने के साफ पानी का पता चला है। 1970 के दशक में कुछ तेल कंपनियों इस संबंध में संकेत दिये थे। इसके आधार पर 2015 में के शोधकर्ताओं की एक टीम ने इसका पता लगाना शुरू किया। भूगर्भ विभाग से जुड़े वरिष्ठ लेखक क्लो गुस्ताफसन बताते हैं, 'हमें पानी की मौजूदगी का अंदाज तो था, लेकिन यह नहीं पता था कि वह कितनी गहराई में है।

समुद्र के नीचे कैसे लगा भंडारण का पता

शोधकर्ताओं ने समुद्र तल के नीचे मीठे पानी का पता लगाने के लिए यंत्रों को भेजकर विद्युत चुम्बकीय तरंगें फैलाना शुरू किया। चूंकि खारा पानी चुम्बकीय ऊर्जा का एक बेहतर सुचालक होता है। जहां पर चुम्बकीय उर्जा के संचालन में रोध उत्पन्न हुआ उसी आधार पर शोधकर्ताओं को समुद्र के भीतर इस्तेमाल लायक पाने की मौजूदगी का पता चला। पानी का यह भंडार समुद्र की तलहटी से करीब 600 फुट की गहराई से शुरू होकर 1,200 फुट नीचे तक फैला हुआ है।

20 हजार सालों से मौजूद है ऐसा पानी

वैज्ञानिकों का मानना है कि समुद्र तल के नीचे मीठे पानी की मौजूदगी करीब 15 से 20 हजार साल पहले की है। एक समय में बारिश के पानी, नदियों और बर्फ के पिघलने और समुद के स्तर के कम होने की स्थिति में पानी इकट्ठा होने लगा। समुद्र के साथ साथ तलछट की मात्रा भी बढ़ती गई, जिसके चलते समुद्र के नीचे ही मीठा पानी सुरक्षित रह गया। वैज्ञानिक इस पानी के इस्तेमाल के लिए तेल की तरह पानी को बाहर लाने की योजना पर काम कर रहे हैं।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 23.06.2019 in **The Tribune, Gurugram** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

Groundwater depleting fast, farmers want canal revived

UBDC capacity down to half as land of minors encroached upon

CHARANJIT SINGH TEJA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

T-23

AMRITSAR, JUNE 22

Upper Bari Doab Canal (UBDC), one of the oldest canals of the state, which feeds all four districts of Majha is unable to carry water to its full capacity, as it requires major restoration. The UBDC has the capacity of 9,000 cusecs, but due to its deterioration, the authorities are not releasing more than 4,000 cusecs these days. This is hampering irrigation operations during the ongoing the kharif season.

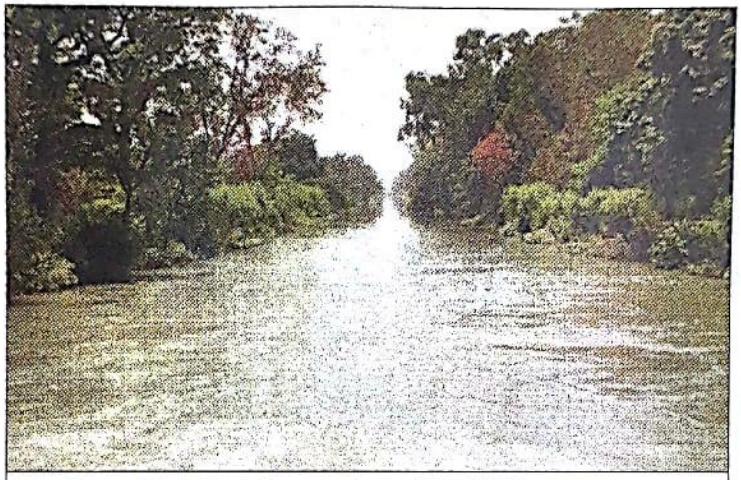
"The canal branches and distributaries are not strong enough to carry 9,000 cusecs, which is why less water is being released as per its current capacity," said Chief Engineer-cum-Director, Irrigation and Power Research Institute, Jasbir Singh Sandhu.

Irrigation officials claim that 4,000 cusecs is sufficient since farmers have shifted to groundwater over the years. The UBDC system was remodelled during 2001-05, which reportedly shrank the canal. After the completion of Ranjit Sagar Dam in 2000, the Ravi has enough water for canal irrigation in Majha, but a majority of the farmers do not depend on it due to irregular supply. Earlier there were seven main branches and 247 distributaries and minors of the canal. Now the farmers have occupied several minors and brought the land under cultivation.

With groundwater depleting at a fast pace in the region, farmer unions have started demanding restoration of the UBDC.

Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria, Minister for Water Resources, Mines and Geology, said "The state government in collaboration with an Israeli company has submitted a project of Rs 1,100 crore to the Centre for rejuvenation of the UBDC. We are waiting for approval and funds from Union government."

The UBDC was first built by Emperor Shah Jehan in 1693 for carrying water from the Ravi from Madhopur to Lahore. Improvements in the canals were made by Maharaja Ranjit Singh. A weir type headworks with a properly designed distributaries system was constructed by the Britishers in 1879. At the time of Partition, full supply discharge of the UBDC during kharif season was 6,900 cusess. The canal system collapsed in the 1990s and despite efforts, the government failed to revive it till the date.



The Upper Bari Doab Canal was built in 1693. TRIBUNE PHOTO

AAP for session on water crisis

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday demanded a two-day special session of the Vidhan Sabha to discuss the problem of fast depleting groundwater, drying up of rivers and other water channels.The party also announced launching a "bijli andolan" from Monday

'Meetings won't help'

"Many meetings have taken place earlier, but there is no result. Our leaders will attend the meeting, but the govt needs a concrete plan to save Punjab from becoming a desert.

Bhagwant Mann,
AAP STATE CHIEF

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STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

H-23

Odisha has come out with a unique flood hazard atlas on the basis of historic flood inundation captured through satellite imagery from 2001 to 2018, which is expected to help the State manage floods more efficiently.

The National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Hyderabad, conducted the study on flood hazard zonation for Odisha. The atlas was released by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the State-level Natural Calamity Meeting here on Saturday.

Vast areas of the State are inundated every year due to the flooding of major rivers – Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitarani, Subarnarekha and Rushikulya. Other rivers, like the Vamsadhara and the Budhabalanga, also cause flash floods due to instant run-off from their hilly catchments.

Common delta

According to Bishnupada Sethi, managing director, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), damages due to floods are caused mainly by the Mahanadi, the Brahmani and the Baitarani, which have a common delta where floodwaters intermingle, and, when in spate simultaneously, wreak considerable havoc.

The entire coastal belt is prone to storm surges, which is usually accompanied by heavy rainfall, thus making the estuary region vulnerable to both storm surges and river flooding. A few districts in the western and southern parts of Odisha are prone to flash floods, he pointed out.

The NRSC analysis says about 8.96% (13.96 lakh hectares) of land in Odisha was affected by floods during 2001-2018. Out of total flood-affected area (13.96 lakh hectares), about 2.81 lakh hectares of land falls under high (inundated seven-nine times) to very high (inundated 10-14 times) flood hazard categories.

Eight out of 30 districts – Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghapur, Balasore, Puri, Jajpur, Khordha and Cuttack – are more flood-affected than others. As high as 77% of Bhadrak and 70% of Kendrapara have been categorised as flood hazard.

According to P. G. Diwakar, director of Earth Observation, Application and Disaster Management Support Programme Office of ISRO, "A large number of satellite images acquired over 18 years (2001-2018) were used. All satellite data sets were analysed and flood layers were extracted. All the flood layers corresponding to a year are combined as one inundation layer, so that this layer represents the maximum flooded area in one year."

'Useful resource'

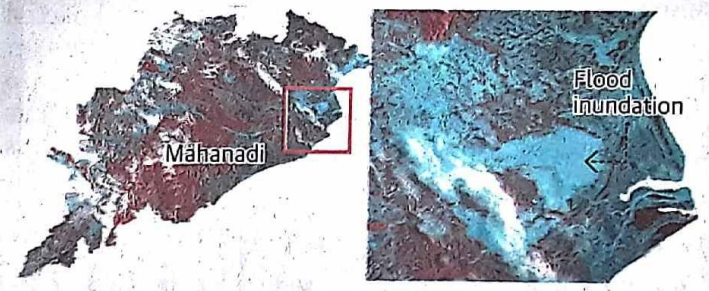
"All such combined flood layers were integrated into flood hazard layer representing the observed flood-inundated areas with different frequencies. This layer was integrated with the digital database layers of Odisha," said Dr. Diwakar.

The atlas would serve as a useful resource of information for policy makers, planners and civil society groups, said Chief Secretary A. P. Padhi.

Clear picture

The atlas will help the authorities in several ways

- To systematically plan flood control measures
- To control developmental activities on floodplains
- To carry out relief and rescue operations
- To plan relief shelters and health centres



A satellite image of the flooding in Odisha ▪ ISRO

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 23.06.2019 in **Hindustan, Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.

जल संरक्षण के लिए विधेयक लाने की तैयारी

पटना | हिन्दुस्तान ब्यूरो

बिहार में जल संरक्षण को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए राज्य सरकार विधेयक लाएगी। इस विधेयक के माध्यम से एक तरफ लोगों को पानी का महत्व बताया जाएगा तो दूसरी ओर भू-जल स्तर की बर्बादी को रोकने के लिए कदम उठाए जाएंगे। वहीं, पानी के सदुपयोग के लिए लोगों को जागरूक किया जाएगा।

मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार के समक्ष शनिवार को द बिहार ग्राउंड वाटर कंजर्वेशन बिल (विधेयक)-2019 के संबंध में प्रस्तुतीकरण दी गई। इस दौरान मुख्यमंत्री ने कई निर्देश दिए। उन्होंने कहा कि सभी सरकारी भवनों, उच्च स्थलों, स्कूलों, सार्वजनिक संस्थानों की छतों पर वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग की व्यवस्था शुरू करें। तालाबों के जीर्णोद्धार के लिए काम करें।

नीतीश ने ये निर्देश भी दिए

- छोटी-छोटी नदियों के प्रवाह को सुनिश्चित करें
- राज्य में तालाबों के जीर्णोद्धार के लिए काम करें
- तालाबों के ऊपर सौर प्लेट लगाने को प्रेरित करें
- ग्राउंड वाटर रिचार्ज के लिए काम करें

विधेयक का प्रारूप

- भू-जल स्तर की क्षति को रोकना
- ट्यूब वेल के समीत जल संरक्षण सुनिश्चित करना
- बड़े ट्यूबवेल के नफा-नुकसान को देखना
- पानी की उपयोगिता पर निर्देशित करना
- घरों में जल संरक्षण के लिए लोगों को जागरूक करना

'दस विभाग भविष्य की योजना तैयार करें'

मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि दस विभाग मिलकर आपस में बैठकर भविष्य की योजना तैयार करें, ताकि जो भी नियम बनाये जा रहे हैं, उनका बेहतर ढंग से क्रियान्वयन किया जा सके। भू-जल स्तर के रिचार्ज के लिए काम करें, ताकि यह मेंटन रहे। रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग के लिए भी काम करें।

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Telangana CM dedicates mega lift irrigation project to people

Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan, CMs of Maharashtra and A.P. witness event

B. CHANDRASHEKHAR
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Friday dedicated the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) to the people with the inauguration of the barrage, in the presence of Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana E.S.L. Narasimhan and Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh Devendra Fadnavis and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, respectively.

Later, he switched on a motor of the pump house at Kannepally to lift water from the Medigadda barrage and take it upwards to the Annaram barrage.

The scene of water gushing out of two pressure mains (pipes) at the delivery cistern near the pump house marked the head works of the project becoming functional.

A large number of officials, bankers of the consortium that part-funded the project through a special purpose vehicle, executives of the work agencies and equipment suppliers, including Megha Engineering, L&T, BHEL and others, besides several Cabinet colleagues of Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao witnessed the events.

Further upstream of Godavari, the Annaram barrage was inaugurated by Agriculture Minister S. Niranjan Reddy and its pump house by Home Minister Md. Mahamood Ali.

Similarly, the Sundilla barrage and pump house were inaugurated by SC Development Minister K. Eshwar, the pump house at Nandi Medaram by Labour Minister Ch. Malla Reddy and the one at Laxmipur by Education Minister G. Jagadish Reddy.

Engineering feat: A view of the Kannepally pump house, which is part of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

National status, funding for Kaleshwaram project sought

State makes representation to Union Finance Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has requested the Centre to declare the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, which will commence pumping shortly, a national project and fund its entire cost.

The government took up the project, estimated at ₹88,000 crore, as the irrigation sector had been neglected in the combined State. Telangana also needed additional funds to complete the project, it said.

K. Ramakrishna Rao, Principal Secretary, who represented the State at the pre-Budget meeting convened by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Friday, said the cost of the mega project had been met from borrowings by the Kaleshwaram Corporation but the debt servicing burden was huge and thus, the State had requested the Centre to grant the project national status.

Other projects

Presenting other issues pertaining to the State, Mr. Ramakrishna Rao reminded that the NITI Aayog had recommended special assistance of ₹19,205 crore to Mission Bhagiratha, intended to supply piped drinking water to every household, and ₹5,000 crore to Mission Kakatiya, meant to restore over 45,000 tanks in the State.

He urged the Centre to make a provision for the special assistance in the 2019-20 Union Budget. The State sought an assistance of ₹50 crore to each of the backward districts as promised under the A.P. Reorganisation Act and urged that the package be extended to all districts of the State as the erstwhile nine districts had now been divided into 32.

Presenting the State's views on the coming Union Budget, the Telangana government said investment in both the public and private sectors should be promoted to revive growth momentum, and sought greater involvement of the States as much of the economic activity would lie in the domain of the States.

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Why the government must get its act together on water diplomacy

Unlike oil, water has no substitute; it increasingly will be a critical factor in regional development

Narendra Modi's rise as the dominant force in Indian politics cannot obscure the daunting foreign policy challenges he faces, including on transnational water issues. For example, communist-ruled Nepal's tilt towards China is apparent not only from mandatory Mandarin in many schools, but also from its resurrection of a scrapped deal with China to build the $2.5 billion, 1,200-megawatt (MW) Budhi-Gandaki Dam. Beijing's dam-building frenzy on India's periphery extends from Myanmar and Tibet to Pakistan-held Kashmir, where it is constructing the 720 MW Karot and the 1,124 MW Kohala (the largest Chinese investment under the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor).

South Asia accounts for about 22% of the world's population but must manage with barely 8.3% of the global water resources. Water is becoming the new oil in this region. But unlike oil — dependence on which can be reduced by tapping other sources of energy — there is no substitute for water. India ought to make water diplomacy an important tool of its regional foreign policy so as to facilitate rules-based cooperation and conflict prevention.

India has a unique riparian status: It is the only regional country that falls in all three categories — upper, middle and lower riparian. Such is India's geographical spread that it has a stake in all the important river basins in the region. India is potentially affected by water-related actions of upstream countries, especially China and Nepal, while its own room for manoeuvre is constricted by the treaty it has with downstream Pakistan and Bangladesh on the Indus and the Ganges, respectively. Indeed, no country in Asia is more vulnerable to China's re-engineering of trans-boundary flows than India because it alone receives — directly or via rivers that flow in through Nepal — nearly half of all river waters that leave Chinese-controlled territory.

Yet hydro-diplomacy has scarcely been a major instrument of Indian foreign policy. For example, the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT): one-sided, and the world's most generous water-sharing pact. The chief Indian negotiator, Niranjan Gulhati, admitted in his book that the IWT was concluded without any study on its potential long-term impact on the Indian water situation. Today, water woes in India's lower Indus Basin have resulted in the world's second-most rapid rate of groundwater depletion in the Punjab-Haryana-Rajasthan belt after the Arabian Peninsula.

Meanwhile, China and Pakistan are employing water as a tool against India. Pakistan's water war strategy is centred on invoking the IWT's conflict-resolution provisions to internationalise any perceived disagreement with India. China's cut-off of hydrological data to India in 2017 — an action that not only breached bilateral accords but also caused preventable flood-related deaths in Assam — helped highlight how Beijing is fashioning unconventional tools of coercive diplomacy.

Modi's new, unified water power ministry aims to rectify a splintered, piecemeal approach that has compounded India's water challenges. But without institutionalised, integrated policymaking, it will not be easy to develop a holistic approach to a critical resource increasingly in short supply or to fashion an effective hydro-diplomacy that advances long-term water interests.

India must build pressure on China to abide by international norms on shared water resources. With Pakistan, there is no need for India to bend over backwards. Two weeks before the Pulwama massacre, India hosted a team of Indus inspectors from Pakistan,

▪ **Indian and Pakistani members of the Indus Water Treat meet in Lahore, August 29, 2018. With Pakistan, there is no need for India to bend over backwards on water diplomacy** AFP

although, under the IWT's terms, such a visit could have waited until March 2020. The Permanent Indus Commission met in August 2018, just five months after its previous meeting, although its next meeting was not due until March 2019. In February, India gratuitously supplied Pakistan the design data of three tiny hydropower plants it plans to build. Pakistan, however, has indefinitely deferred Indian inspectors' reciprocal visit.

In keeping with Modi's preference for the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec), a forward-looking diplomacy should promote multilateral cooperation on water and hydropower resources in the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Myanmar-Nepal growth corridor. The goal should be a water and energy grid that turns Bimstec into Asia's economic-growth zone. India has already issued a new cross-border power trading regulation that allows any neighbour to export electricity to third countries via Indian transmission lines.

Water-rich Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal sit on vast untapped hydropower reserves. While Nepal still imports electricity from India, the flourishing Bhutan-India relationship is underpinned by close collaboration on water and clean and affordable energy. Bhutan's hydropower exports to India have been the primary driver of what is one of the world's smallest but fastest-growing economies. From modest, environmentally friendly, run-of-river plants, Bhutan is stepping up its India collaboration with a reservoir-based, 2,585 MW project on River Sankosh — larger than any dam in India.

Water increasingly will be a critical factor in regional development. India must get its act together on hydro-diplomacy and exert stronger leadership on trans-boundary water issues.

Brahma Chellaney is author, "Water, Peace, and War"
The views expressed are personal

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IN BRIEF

Plan to draw water from Linganamakki opposed

SHIVAMOGGA H-22-H

The move to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) on providing drinking water to Bengaluru from the Linganamakki reservoir has evoked strong opposition. Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara had earlier directed officials to prepare a DPR on bringing water from the Linganamakki reservoir to Bengaluru. Environmentalist Na. D'Souza said since the forests in Sharavathi valley were home to rare varieties of flora and fauna, any activity that could wreck damage to the fragile ecology of the region should not be allowed.

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TN reels under water crisis, CM appreciates Kerala offer

SNS & PTI
CHENNAI, 21 JUNE

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami on Friday urged his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan to extend cooperation to store water to the full level in the Mullaperiyar dam as the state was reeling under a severe water shortage.

Welcoming Kerala's gesture to supply water to Tamil Nadu, the chief minister said the neighbouring state had only offered two MLD (Million Litres per Day) for a day, whereas every day supply would help.

"I thank the Kerala Chief Minister, but 2 MLD water will not be sufficient. We are everyday supplying 525 MLD water (in Chennai) and if 2 MLD water could be given everyday, it will be useful for the people," he said, addressing a press conference at the Secretariat here. A letter will be written to Kerala in this regard, he said. Earlier, he chaired a meet of top officials and Ministers to review the steps taken for proper drinking water distribution to the people in view of the scarcity situation in the state.

On the Mullaperiyar dam issue, he said: "Honourable Kerala Chief Minister should extend cooperation to store 152 feet water as per the Supreme Court order. Tamil Nadu faces a severe water problem." He also sought the Kerala government's cooperation to implement the Aanamalayar, Nallaru projects to meet the needs of farmers and the public in Coimbatore and Tirupur districts.

Pointing to the Supreme Court judgement on the dam issue, which had said water could be stored to the full level of 152 feet after carrying out strengthening works, he alleged that Kerala, however, had scuttled refurbishment works.

As early as three years ago, Tamil Nadu had floated Rs 7.85 crore worth tender and begun dam strengthening work. "Kerala, however, created several stumbling blocks to begin work. We could not transport materials like sand and take labourers," he said.

"We need every drop of water," he said, adding people in five districts, including Theni and Ramanathapuram, are dependent on Mullaiperiyar water for their livelihood. Going into the factors that led to water shortage situation, Palaniswami cited factors like monsoon failure, deficient rainfall and a dip in the water table. The government has been taking appropriate steps to address the issue, he said. Also water from other sources did not materialise, he pointed out. Tamil Nadu received only 2 tmc Krishna river water from Andhra Pradesh, while the state should have got 18 tmc ft of water, the Chief Minister said.

"Now, they (AP) say Kandaleru dam has only about 4 tmc of water. Water could be pumped to Chennai through the canal only if the storage is 8.5 tmc at the reservoir," he said, adding there was no possibility to get Krishna water as of now.

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CM to call all-party meeting over groundwater depletion

Reconstitutes Cabinet sub-committee to tackle crisis

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 21

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Friday announced to call an all-party meeting to evolve a consensus on comprehensively addressing the problem of depleting groundwater in the state.

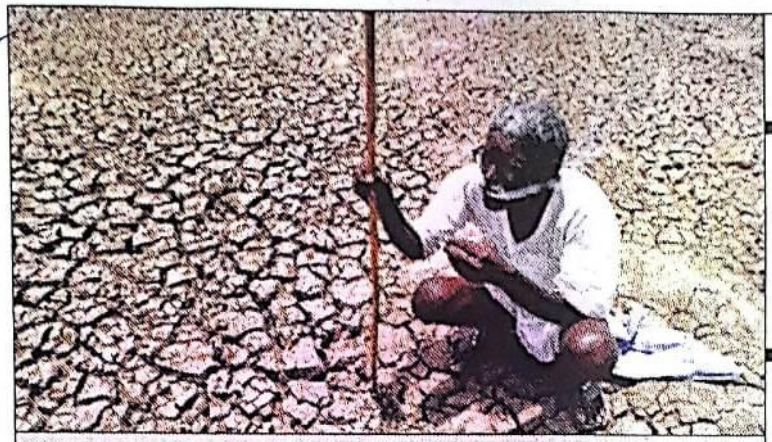
The CM also reconstituted a Cabinet sub-committee to give recommendations for the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill. Instead of Navjot Singh Sidhu, the sub-committee will now be headed by new Local Bodies Minister Brahm Mohindra, with other members being Tripat Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Sukh Sarkaria and Razia Sultana.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting of the Cabinet ministers, leaders, senior officers, water experts, scientists and representatives of the farmers' organisations and industry at Punjab Bhawan here to discuss ways and means to resolve the alarming situation emerging out of fast depleting groundwater table across the state.

The CM said it was high time to tackle this problem for our future generations else fertile Punjab was on the verge of becoming a desert. He sought the cooperation of the farmers and their organisations as the issue was directly concerned with the very existence of the mankind.

Acceding to the demand of water experts, academicians and scientists besides representatives from other states like Maharashtra, where a broad consensus emerged after a brain-storming session that almost lasted for over four hours, the CM gave in-principal nod to set up a state water authority to ensure better management of water for domestic, agriculture, industry and other purposes.

He also announced to form a committee under Additional Chief Secretary (Development) Viswajeet Khanna and PAU Vice Chancellor BS Dhillon to explore the possibility for a change in the existing cropping pattern, besides developing a viable scheme to motivate farmers to give up paddy sowing and switch over to other crops to save water.



STATE INCREASING AREA UNDER DRIP IRRIGATION

Cotton: From 2.90 lakh hectares (ha) to 4.02 lakh ha in 2019, subsequently enhancing to 6 lakh ha

Maize: From 1.08 lakh ha in 2018 to 2.5 lakh ha by 2021

Basmati: From 5.16 lakh ha in 2018 to 7 lakh ha by 2022

Horticulture crops: From 3.81 lakh ha in 2018 to 4.85 lakh ha by 2023-24

Punjab may turn into desert in 25 yrs: Study

- The Central Ground Water Board's (North-Western region) draft report states that Punjab might turn into a desert in 25 years if exploitation of its water resources continues at the current rate
- In a study on groundwater recharge, of the 138 blocks covered, 109 are over-exploited, 2 critical, 5 semi-critical and only 22 are safe
- The report states: "If extraction continues at the present rate, groundwater resources up to 300 m will exhaust in 20 to 25 years, while those at a depth of 100 m will deplete within 10 years."

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हिमालय क्षेत्र के जल स्रोतों को बढ़ाने की योजना बनेगी

नई दिल्ली | मदन जैड़ा

केंद्र सरकार जल प्रबंधन पर ध्यान केंद्रीत कर रही है। इसी कड़ी में कई मंत्रालय अपने सौ दिनों का एजेंडा तैयार कर रहे हैं। इसके तहत वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्रालय ने हिमालयी राज्यों के परंपरागत जल स्रोतों के संरक्षण का जिम्मा उठाने का निर्णय लिया है।

पर्वतीय क्षेत्र में बहने वाले झरनों, तालाब, नौलों और अन्य सभी प्रकार के जल स्रोतों जो अभी किसी योजना के दायरे में नहीं आते हैं। लेकिन उन्हें अब इसके दायरे में लाया जाएगा। झील और नदियां इसमें शामिल नहीं हैं क्योंकि उनके लिए पहले से योजनाएं चल रही हैं। वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्रालय के सूत्रों ने इस बात की पुष्टि की है। उच्च पदस्थ सूत्रों ने बताया कि इसके तहत उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल प्रदेश, कश्मीर और पूर्वोत्तर के राज्यों में ऐसे जल स्रोतों की पहचान की जाएगी। उन्हें संरक्षित करने के लिए कार्य योजना बनाई जाएगी। यदि कहीं जल स्रोत पहले से सूख गए हैं तो उन्हें फिर से पुनजीर्वित करने के भी प्रयास किए जाएंगे। पर्यावरण मंत्रालय से जुड़े सूत्रों का कहना है कि सरकार सौ दिनों के एजेंडे में इस योजना का औपचारिक ऐलान कर सकती है।

गोविन्द बल्लभ पंत पर्यावरण संस्थान को जिम्माः मंत्रालय के सूत्रों ने कहा कि इसके लिए अल्मोड़ा स्थित गोविन्द बल्लभ पंत पर्यावरण संस्थान को योजना तैयार करने का जिम्मा सौंपा गया है। संस्थान के पास हिमालय के जल स्रोतों को लेकर पहले से कई अध्ययन हैं।

जल की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित कराना मकसदः मंत्रालय के सूत्रों ने कहा कि इस योजना का मकसद हिमालयी क्षेत्र में जल की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित कराना है ताकि पानी की कमी की वजह से वहां से होने वाले पलायन और तनाव को रोका जा सके।

बिहार में मानसून की दस्तक, मौसम सुहाना

H 22/6

पटना। लेट-लतीफी के बीच शुक्रवार को बिहार में मानसून ने दस्तक दे दी। पूर्णिया की ओर से मानसून ने बिहार में प्रवेश किया। इस इलाके में पिछले 24 घंटे में 21.7 मिमी बारिश दर्ज की गई। मौसमविदों के मुताबिक, अगले 48 घंटे में इसका विस्तार पटना सहित बिहार के बाकी हिस्सों में हो जाएगा। इधर मानसून के प्रवेश की आहट पटना में भी दिखी और कुछ इलाकों में आंशिक बारिश दर्ज हुई। दोपहर बाद आसमान में बादल छाए और 2.2 मिमी बारिश दर्ज की गई। पटना में 30 से 40 किमी की रफ्तार से तेज हवा चली। गौरतलब है कि पिछले साल मानसून ने 25 जून को बिहार में दस्तक दी थी। हालांकि बिहार में मानसून के प्रवेश का सामान्य समय 12 से 13 जून है। इस लिहाज से मानसून के प्रवेश में आठ से नौ दिनों की इस बार भी देरी हुई है।

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युवाओं के हाथ होगी कमान

BP 24/6

जल संरक्षण करेगा नागरिक वॉटर सेल

पत्रिका न्यूज़ नेटवर्क
patrika.com

भोपाल. प्रदेश सरकार जनता के साथ मिलकर जल संरक्षण को जन आंदोलन बनाने जा रही है। मुख्यमंत्री कमलनाथ ने अपने संदेश में कहा है कि प्रदेश में जनता की सलाह और भागीदारी से पानी बचाने का काम होगा। राज्यस्तर पर जल प्रकोष्ठ गठित किया गया है। इसकी जिम्मेदारी सचिव स्तर के अधिकारी को दी गई है।

आम नागरिक वाटर सेल के जरिए पानी बचाने से संबंधित अपने सुझाव दे सकते हैं। सीएम ने लोगों से पानी सहेजने और नए जल स्त्रोतों को विकसित करने के लिए अपने अनुभव और सुझाव साझा करने की अपील की है। युवाओं से जल दूत बनने की अपील भी की है।

बड़े पैमाने पर पौधरोपण

कमलनाथ ने कहा, इस बार बारिश का पानी गांव में ही रोकने के लिए स्थानीय स्तर पर तालाबों, चैकडेम, बंधान, कुआं रिचार्ज जैसे छोटे, लेकिन महत्त्वपूर्ण काम मिलकर करने होंगे। इसके अलावा बड़े पैमाने पर पैमाने पर पौधरोपण करें और उन्हें सिंचित करने के साथ सुरक्षित भी रखें। उन्होंने किसानों से आग्रह किया है कि तालाब और भू-जल रिचार्ज का काम करें। सांसदों और विधायकों से अनुरोध किया है कि वे अपनी निधि का उपयोग पानी सहेजने के काम पर प्राथमिकता से करें।

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16 वर्षों में 8 हजार वर्ग किमी से अधिक हो चुका है शहर विस्तार, जयललिता सरकार के अनिवार्य वर्षा जल संचयन योजना पर नहीं हुआ काम

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चेन्नई. तमिलनाडु में जल प्रबंधन पर ईमानदारी से काम न किए जाने का ही परिणाम है कि देश के चार बड़े शहरों में शुमार चेन्नई आज बूंद-बूंद पानी के लिए तरस रहा है। 116 बांध वाले राज्य में इस कदर जलसंकट है कि भगवान का जलाभिषेक तक करने में परेशानी आ रही है।

जानकारों का कहना है कि किसी भी पार्टी की सरकार ने जल प्रबंधन व संरक्षण के ठोस उपाय नहीं किए, अन्यथा 2015 में बाढ़ के हालात का सामना करने वाला चेन्नई पानी के लिए तिल-तिल नहीं मरता। यही नहीं, देश के अन्य शहरों में भी जलसंकट के हालात बन रहे हैं, जल्द ही सरकारों ने जल प्रबंधन पर सही से ध्यान न दिया तो अन्य शहरों में भी हालात भयावह हो सकते हैं।

16 साल पुरानी योजना, नहीं हुआ सही से काम

2003 के जलसंकट के बाद सबसे पहले जयललिता सरकार ने समुद्र के खारे पानी को पेयजल बनाने की योजना पर कार्य शुरू किया था। फिलहाल 100 एमएलडी वाले दो समुद्री जल निर्लवणीकरण (डिसेलिनेशन) प्लांट मिंजूर और नेमिली में चल रहे हैं।

चेन्नई में पानी की कमी के चलते सूखा पुझल जलाशय।

2003 में पैदा हुई थी जलसंकट की स्थिति

गौरतलब है कि चेन्नई में 2003 में जलसंकट की स्थिति पैदा हुई थी। उस वक्त तुलनात्मक रूप में इतनी त्राहि-त्राहि नहीं थी। जनसंख्या भी कमोबेश कम थी। अब महानगर का विस्तार 8 हजार वर्ग किमी से अधिक हो चुका है और आबादी 80 लाख से अधिक है। महानगर की प्यास बुझाने का दारोमदार पूण्डी, चोलावरम, चेम्बरबाक्कम व रेडहिल्स झील पर है। इन झीलों में केवल पांच प्रतिशत पानी है।

60 बड़े जलस्रोत थे, 28 ही रह गए

अण्णा विश्वविद्यालय के भूविज्ञान विभाग की एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 1893 में महानगर में 60 बड़े जलस्रोत थे, जो घटकर 28 रह गए हैं। जल प्रबंधन को लेकर ठोस उपाय नहीं हुए। 2003-04 में जयललिता सरकार ने अनिवार्य वर्षा जल संचयन योजना शुरू की गई थी, जिसका अगर प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन होता तो राज्य में अगले तीस साल तक जलसंकट के हालात पैदा नहीं होते।

मुल्लापेरियार बांध को ऊंचा करने दे केरल

राज्य में जलसंकट पर तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री सीएम पलानीस्वामी ने कहा है कि उनकी सरकार मुल्लापेरियार बांध को ऊंचा करना चाहती है, लेकिन केरल सरकार इस कार्य में सहयोग नहीं कर रही है। 'मैं केरल सरकार से अनुरोध करूंगा कि वह इसमें हमारी मदद करे। मैं केरल के मुख्यमंत्री को पानी का ऑफर देने के लिए धन्यवाद देता हूं। मैं उन्हें जल्द पत्र लिखूंगा।'

'मानसून भी जिम्मेदार'

एक आपातकालीन बैठक के बाद सीएम ने कहा कि सरकार अलवणीकरण संयंत्रों, भूजल और खदानों के पानी का ट्रीटमेंट करेगी। ट्रेन से जोलारपेट्टई से 10 मिलियन लीटर पानी लाया जाएगा। सीएम ने जल संकट के लिए विलंबित मानसून को भी जिम्मेदार ठहराया।

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भागीरथ बने बुन्देलखंड के बलवीर

सूखी नदी को किया लबालब, हैंडपंप भी देने लगे पानी

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महोबा. बूंद-बूंद पानी को मोहताज बुंदेलखंड के आधुनिक भगीरथ ने अपने निजी नलकूप से पानी डाल दम तोड़ती सालों से सूखी पड़ी चंद्रावल नदी को जीवंत कर इतिहास रच दिया है। कबरई विकास खंड के बन्नी गांव में रहने वाले बुजुर्ग किसान बलवीर नामक भगीरथ के कठिन मेहनत और लगन के चलते आस पास के गांवों के जलस्तर में तेजी से बढ़ोत्तरी होने लगी है।

बलवीर सिंह ने अपने निजी नलकूप से पाइप और खेतों में कच्ची नाली के माध्यम से अद्भुद चमत्कार कर पानी को नदी की मुख्यधारा में जोड़ पानी से लबालब कर दिया है। आसपास के सभी गांवों के साथ यह पानी करीब 8 किलोमीटर की सीमा पार कर चुका है। सूखे तालाब,पोखरों में नदी का पानी मिलने से इंसानों के साथ-साथ पशु-पक्षियों के लिए यह नदी की जलधारा एक जीवनदायिनी बनकर सामने आयी है। बलबीर के निस्वार्थ तपस्या से खुश ग्रामीण मन्दिरों में पूजा अर्चना कर आज के कर्मयोगी भागीरथ की संज्ञा देने में जुटे हुए है और सभी ग्रामीण उनके इस कारनामे का गुणगान गा रहे हैं।

50 फीट ऊपर आया जल स्तर

बलबीर सिंह ने जल संचयन ओर जल संवर्धन कर अनोखी मिशाल पेश की है। पानी जैसी विकराल समस्या से पास के गांव वालों को जलस्रोत के माध्यम और निजी खर्चे से इंसानों के साथ-साथ मवेशियों, जीव जंतुओं को जीवनदान दे रहे है। किसान की सराहनीय पहल को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किसान को सम्मानित ओर प्रोत्साहित किया जाएगा। किसान अपने खेत से 25 सौ फुट लम्बे पाइप के जरिये पानी नदी तक पहुंचा रहा है। आज भी नदी में पानी डाला जा रहा है। तो वहीं गांव का जलस्तर बढ़ने से नीचे खिसक चुका जल स्तर 50 फुट ऊपर आ गया है।

महीनों की मेहनत लाई रंग

महोबा के सदर तहसील के कबरई विकास खंड के बन्नी गांव में भीषण गर्मी से सभी नदियां, नाले , तालाब , पोखर सूख गये थे जिससे पशु, पक्षी और जंगली जानवर प्यास से तड़प तड़प के दम तोड़ने लगे थे। महोबा ज़िले का एक किसान बलबीर आधुनिक भगीरथ के रूप में सामने आया और उसने अपना निजी ट्यूबवेल चलाकर सूखी नदी में पानी भर नया इतिहास रच दिया। तीन महीने की कड़ी मशक्कत के बाद उसने नदी में पानी भर के चमत्कार कर दिखाया है। प्यास से तड़प रहे पशु, पक्षी और इंसान अपनी प्यास बुझा रहे है। गांव की सभी महिलाएं मानती हैं कि करीब तीन माह से दिन रात ट्यूबवेल चलना किसी चमत्कार से कम नहीं है। बलबीर की मानें तो श्री रामराजा सरकार की प्रेरणा से वह इस कठिन और आश्चर्य चकित काम करने में सफल हुए है। तीन महीनों से लगातार चल रहा यह निजी नलकूप बुंदेलों के लिए किसी संजीवनी से कम नहीं है। बलवीर बताते है कि दिन रात पानी नदी में पहुंचाने के लिए उसे कई मुश्किलों का भी सामना करना पड़ता था।