

Asian Age 25-March-2021

India-Pak Indus water meet ends on a 'cordial note'

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

In yet another sign of improved bilateral ties, a two-day annual meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission, comprising Indus commissioners of India and Pakistan, was concluded "in a cordial manner" wherein "discussions continued on designs of two Indian projects, namely, Pakal Dul (1000 MW) and Lower Kalnai (48 MW)".

In a statement, New Delhi said the "Indian side held that these projects are fully compliant with the provisions of the treaty and provided technical data in support of its position" while the "Pakistan side requested India for sharing of information on design of other Indian hydropower projects being planned to be developed". New Delhi said the "Indian side assured that the information will be supplied as and when required to be supplied under the provisions of the Treaty".

The Permanent Indus Commission is a bipartisan body entrusted with

the everyday implementation of the Indus Waters Treaty, which mandates it to meet at least once every year, alternately in India and Pakistan. It comprises Indus commissioners from both sides and discusses technical matters related to the implementation of the treaty. It has met well over 100 times since 1960.

The meeting took place here after a gap of over two years.

It may be recalled that under the treaty, which was signed by the then Prime Minister

Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan's then President Ayub Khan in 1960, water of six rivers — Beas, Ravi, Sutlej, Indus, Chenab and Jhelum — were to be shared between the two countries. Pakistan has been complaining of not receiving enough water and gone for international arbitration in a couple of cases. The Indus system of rivers comprises three eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas and Sutlej and their tributaries) and three western rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab and their tributaries).

Deccan Chronicle 25-March-2021

24 'dead' lakes in Hyd as water quality worsens

T.S.S. SIDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 24

The lakes in the city are not in the pink of health. Of the 185 lakes in the Greater Hyderabad limits, 24 have very low dissolved oxygen levels and hence are identified as dead lakes.

This means that the water from these lakes can be used only for industrial cooling, irrigation or controlled waste disposal and that it could not sustain aquatic life.

In a report filed on Tuesday at the National Green Tribunal, the Telangana state pollution control board (TSPCB) stated that it took three years for the Bum-rukn-ud-dowla's water quality to graduate from below E category to E category.

Among the dead lakes are the Tirumalagiri lake, the DMRL lake in Kanchanbagh and the Mothkula Kunta in Machabollaram.

"The analysis of the lake samples collected in 2018

indicated the lake water quality was below 'E' class.

However, the present analysis of the sample of the Lake water collected by the Board Official on 18.03.2021 indicates that the lake water quality improved to 'E' class from below 'E' class," the report said.

Even as there is an improvement in the water quality, activists like Amjed Ullah Khan of the Majlis Bachao Tehreek rued that the lake is being usurped by encroachers.

"Many parts of the lake have been eaten away by encroachments. They resort to first drying up the lake and then dumping soil to make space on the lake bank. Despite these issues, the departments concerned —the GHMC, irrigation, and revenue— aren't proactive in stopping this from happening," he told *Deccan Chronicle*.

■ **Page 5: Activists: Need to demarcate lakes properly**

Indian Express 25-March-2021

Indus commissioners' meet concludes, Pak requests info on hydro project plans

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

THE TWO-DAY annual meeting between India and Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty concluded in New Delhi on Wednesday.

While the Indian side was led by Indus Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Saxena, the Pakistan delegation was led by its Indus Commissioner Syed Muhammad Meher Ali Shah.

"The meeting was held in a cordial manner. Both the Commissioners reaffirmed their commitment to interact more frequently in an attempt to resolve the issues by bilateral discussions under the Treaty," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement after the conclusion of the meeting. "It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the



The two-day meet was held in a cordial manner, said MEA. *Twitter/MoJSDoWRRDGR*

PIC [Permanent Indus Commission] in Pakistan on mutually convenient dates."

According to the statement, discussions continued on designs of two Indian projects – Pakal Dul (1000 MW) and Lower Kalnai (48 MW).

"The Indian side held that these projects are

fully compliant with the provisions of the Treaty and provided technical data in support of its position," the MEA statement said. "Pakistan side requested India for sharing of information on the design of other Indian hydropower projects being planned to be developed. The Indian side assured that the information will be supplied as and when required to be supplied under the provisions of the Treaty."

The Indus Commissioners of India and Pakistan met after a gap of more than two years. The meeting is being seen as a positive step after both countries agreed to "strict observance of all agreements, understanding and ceasefire along the Line of Control and all other sectors" last month.

The last meeting of the PIC was held in Lahore in 2018. The Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai projects were discussed in that meeting as well.

Indian Express 25-March-2021

FORCING THE RIVER

There are questions about Ken-Betwa project — some raised by SC committee. MP and UP governments must revisit report

ON MONDAY, UTTAR Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh buried a nearly 40-year-old hatchet to ink an agreement that paves the way for the implementation of independent India's first major river-linking project. The Rs 37,600 crore scheme, that will transfer water from the Ken river to its fellow tributary of the Yamuna, the Betwa, is seen as a panacea to the water crisis in the Bundelkhand region. The Union Jal Shakti ministry claims that the initiative will provide irrigation to 10.6 lakh hectares, supply drinking water to more than 60 lakh people in the two states and generate 103 MW of hydropower. The river linking initiative's EIA report predicts job opportunities in "construction, fishing and tourism". On paper, these are good reasons to embark on the project. Two related questions, however, demand urgent answers: Is the idea of transferring the waters of one river to another backed by science? Can the scheme stand scrutiny of an ecologically sound cost-benefit analysis?

Linking one river to another is not just a matter of transferring water. It means tampering with the ecological functions a river performs when in flow — carrying minerals, nourishing the ecosystems en route, charging groundwater, promoting biodiversity and catering to the needs of people downstream. The Ken performs these functions the best when it's flooded during the monsoons. But as hydrologists correctly point out, this does not mean that the river has water to spare. Moreover, during most parts of the dry season, the Ken is barely a rivulet. As late as 2016, the river had run dry even during the monsoon season. The annual average-based estimates of the Ken's water behind the "surplus water" reasoning fail to reckon with such seasonal vagaries in the river's flow that could aggravate because of climate change.

The first phase of the project will involve building a dam in Dhaudan in Panna district to channel water from the Ken to the Betwa. This will submerge large tracts of the Panna tiger reserve. According to government estimates, about 4,200 hectares of the reserve will be swept away by the project. This will upset the symbiotic relationship of the Ken with the forest, imperilling the water body — while the Ken nourishes biodiversity, roots and leaves of trees in the forests hold water and recharge the river's aquifers. That is why in 2019, a report of the Supreme Court's Central Empowered Committee questioned the project's viability. It recommended that "alternatives to meet the objectives of the proposed project are examined by agencies with expertise in arid zone agriculture and water conservation". The MP and UP governments would do well to revisit this report.

The Hindu 25-March-2021

'Dams in J&K compliant with treaty'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India has argued that the designs of Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai hydropower projects in Jammu and Kashmir are in line with the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty. The information was conveyed to the Pakistani delegation that participated in 116th Meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission.

An official statement said India provided technical data in support of its position. It said both the Commissioners reaffirmed their commitment to interact more frequently.

The Hindu 25-March-2021

Water, the looming frontier

There are only two unpolluted fresh water sources left in the country, which we must conserve and use



VIKRAM SONI

While we are still in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is airborne, we have forgotten that another such blight could well come from contaminated water. NITI Ayog and WaterAid, amongst others, have found that over 70% of India's surface and groundwater is contaminated by human and other waste and is likely to carry viruses. Indiscriminate human activity is often the reason for environmental degradation and pandemics. The practice of keeping animals locked together for mass production of meat produces an artificial environment that can birth mutations in erstwhile dormant viruses. Earlier, in the wild, animals were far away from human habitats. The viruses they harboured remained isolated. But today's practices can spawn viruses that can easily transfer to the human population.

A source of virus

Once the virus has found its way into the human population, it is bound to proliferate in wastewater. For example, in England, Wales and Scotland, several wastewater samples were tested and were found to carry traces of SARS-CoV-2. Remnants of the virus have also been detected in raw sewage across Sydney. Research at the University of Stirling in Scotland indicates that the SARS-CoV-2 virus can spread through sewage water.

But such water is often discharged into water bodies in India. This is an alarming prospect for us as river water or lake water, which carries human waste, sewage, and toxic waste, can be a very generous host for viruses of different kinds and we do not know where and how they can mutate and strike. Some water-transmitted viral pathogens are astrovirus, hepatitis A and norovirus. Unlike in the developed world, a huge section of the population in India uses polluted water from sources like rivers, lakes, or groundwater for drinking.

Are we prepared for this? Certainly not. Can we be prepared? Very unlikely, even if we understood the viruses, and we are not there yet. Can we decontaminate our water bodies and groundwater? This could take several decades. But despite the poor quality of water in India, the government has announced a ₹3 lakh crore 'Nal se Jal' scheme to provide drinking water connections to every rural household by 2024. Since most of

the water sources are contaminated, the only way to purify water is through reverse osmosis (RO). But though RO removes contaminants, it also takes out all the healthy minerals and nutrients required by the human body. This is an unhealthy and exorbitantly priced proposition. To neutralise the virus, we would need at least an ultraviolet aquaguard treatment. While this won't take out chemical contaminants, it is also costly.

So, what is the solution? The simple answer is that there is no technological substitute for living natural resources like pristine natural water and soil. This means that we must conserve and use our natural living resources. The water beneath our forests is as good as natural spring water. We must safeguard it for our own lives and for future generations. We have destroyed our natural living resources in our rush for development. Our development model is always focused on artificial infrastructure, building highways, industrial plants, high-rise structures. In doing this, we kill our natural resources. As a result, we are running out of natural infrastructure at an alarming pace. Let's not forget that developed countries have stable landscapes and populations whereas India has a growing population, which means there will be growing consumption.

Freshwater sources

There are two unpolluted fresh water sources left in the country. The first is the water lying below our forests; the second is the aquifers that lie below the floodplains of rivers. Both these sources provide natural underground storage and are renewable - the rains provide natural recharge year after year and it is this recharge which can be used to water our cities and towns. There is one sacred conservation condition: we should use only a fraction of the annual recharge.

The aquifers underlying forests can provide healthy mineral water purely for drinking purposes. Since a person drinks only 2-3 litres of water a day, the mineral water requirement is modest. The river floodplains are a great source of water for cities. The Yamuna floodplains in Delhi already use such a scheme to provide water to a million people each year. Forests and floodplains must be declared as water sanctuaries. Such schemes work with nature rather than against it. They can be used around the globe. It is important to remember that these evolutionary resources, once lost, will be lost forever. It is time we understood this is natural infrastructure bequeathed to us by nature. If we don't realise this, it will only be our loss.

Vikram Soni is Emeritus Professor at Jamia Millia and Jawaharlal Nehru University

The Tribune 25-March-2021

Deficient rainfall, Kullu orchardists a worried lot

ABHINAV VASHISHT

KULLU, MARCH 24

Low rainfall in Kullu valley this year has raised the concerns of the orchardists and the environmentalists.

According to Met department, Kullu district has received 119.6 mm of rains since January 2021 while it had recorded 326.7 mm rainfall in January, February and March 2020. Kullu district received 530.6 mm rainfall during the corresponding period in 2019. The district had received 1,072.1 mm rain in 2020 and 1,139 mm rainfall in 2019.

Kullu Fruit Growers' Association president Prem Sharma said that low rain and snowfall this year would result in inadequate chilling hours that are needed for apple crop. He said that flower size was small and it might have an impact on the quantity and quality of the produce.

The environmentalists were concerned that drought-like situation may arise due to scanty snowfall and rain. They said that many water bod-



INADEQUATE CHILLING HOURS

- Kullu Fruit Growers' Association president Prem Sharma said low rain and snowfall this year would result in inadequate chilling hours that are needed for apple crop
- He said the flower size was small and it might have an impact on the quantity and quality of the produce
- Environmentalists are concerned that a drought-like situation may arise due to scanty snowfall and rain
- Many water bodies will be affected as they will not be recharged adequately due to scanty rainfall

ies will be affected as they will not be recharged adequately due to scanty rainfall. The tourism beneficiaries were concerned that snow will vanish earlier from the major tourist attraction Rohtang Pass

which will have an adverse impact on the tourism industry.

Even Lahaul region experienced very low snowfall of 94.5 cm this year which is lowest in many decades. According to Met depart-

ment, 51.7 cm of snow was recorded in January, 15.6 cm in February and 27.2 cm so far in March. Last year the district received 280 cm of snow. The highest snowfall of 719 cm was witnessed by the valley in 2019 while the lowest snow of 172 cm was recorded in 2016 during the past decade.

The Lahaul valley has also recorded an unusual rise in temperature due to scanty snowfall. The snow has already disappeared in about 70 per cent of the region in March itself. The glaciers have not received armour this time due to less snowfall due to which the possibility of drought has increased.

These are the glaciers in the Lahaul-Spiti region which feed Sutlej and Chenab rivers. Less snowfall will affect these major rivers and have an impact on the speed of melting of glaciers as well.

Village elders Phunchog, Mandas, Jogchand and Dorje said that the region had experienced the lowest snowfall in the past many decades.

The Tribune 25-March-2021

Water crisis looms, SJPNL sans operational head

SHIMLA, MARCH 24

If Shimla faces water crisis this summer, as is being feared by Jal Shakti Minister Mahender Singh, Shimla Jal Prabandhan Nigam Limited (SJPNL) will have to handle it without a full-fledged operational head.

SJPNL's Managing Director-cum-CEO Dharmendra Gill has been transferred to Mandi and now he holds additional charge of the company. "It's ideal to have a full-fledged head but it would be wrong to assume that the SJPNL is headless. Chief Secretary as chairman of the Board of Directors is the top boss of the company," said Digvijay Chauhan, an independent director in the SJPNL Board of Directors.

"Besides, there are three AGMs to take care of bulk water supply, water distribution and sewerage and day to day functioning of the company. We will eventually need a full-fledged operational head," he said.

"Much of the negotiations with the World Bank have been done by Gill. Also, because of Covid, the World Bank is not releasing money at the expected rate. Gill has apparently been retained with an additional charge to ensure the project and funding do not suffer any setback," said Chauhan. — TNS

Telangana Today 25-March-2021

Hyderabad's water warrior

Kalpana Ramesh has been instrumental in reviving a number of lakes, ponds and borewells in the city

NAMRATA SRIVASTAVA
HYDERABAD

Water conservation through methods like rainwater harvesting is yet to become a part of life in Hyderabad, and that is what Kalpana Ramesh, a water warrior, as she likes to call herself, has been campaigning for in the city.

Kalpana, who has been instrumental in turning the fate of several water bodies in the city around, first implemented rainwater harvesting successfully at her home, and then convinced the members of her society to go for the same.

"We realised the full impact of the rainwater harvesting in 2016, which was one of the worst summers the city had seen in a long time. That year our society in Gachibowli went through the entire summer and beyond with the help of rainwater harvesting," she said.

Soon, the water warrior started working on reviving the Kudikunta lake. "It took me some time to map out the lake, and then understand the various departments that owned the lake. So, the water in any lake belongs to the Irrigation department, the land is owned between GHMC, Town Planning and Revenue Department, whereas the in-let and out-let pipes are taken care by the Water Board," she shared, adding that once she started the work, she created communities around the lake that kept a tab if there was any garbage being thrown in. "We also spoke to the shopkeepers



Kalpana worked for the revival of the Kudikunta Lake and also helped restore a step well at Kondapur.



THE RAINWATER PROJECT

Hyderabad has been exporting water from far away dams and reservoirs for a long time now. Kalpana, however, feels that the city has the capacity to become sustainable. "The Rainwater Project is an initiative to try and replenish the ground water levels of the city. We, with the help of IIT-H agri start-up, were able to divide the entire city into 98 micro watersheds and we are working on replenishing these," she said.

nearby to request them to not to throw their garbage anywhere near the lake," said Kalpana, who has worked on various water bodies in Kondapur, Gachibowli and Chandanagar too. She also leads the water ini-

tiatives for the Society for Advancement of Human Endeavor (SAHE).

"I was able to broaden my horizon after I joined SAHE, and could think beyond lakes. I noticed that several new bore-wells were being

In 2016, our society in Gachibowli went through the entire summer and beyond with the help of rainwater harvesting

— KALPANA
RAMESH,
WATER
WARRIOR



drilled in the city, whereas the old, dead bore-wells could be still revived. We have been able to revive several bore-wells and are actively working on many others," she added. Even during the pandemic,

Kalpana continued her work, and was able to revive a huge well near Kondapur right before the city was flooded last October. Incidentally, the well, which was in ruins for several years, was able to catch 13 lakh litres of water during the flood. However, though she has revived lakes, borewells and wells, Kalpana shares she was disappointed by the way people reacted to her efforts initially.

She said, "I faced several questions, ranging from 'why are you doing this?' to 'how is your family giving you permission to work on a lake for long hours?' and even, 'why should we listen to a woman?'. Initially, I was disappointed with the attitude. But, with time I learned that my focus should be on the job and not the negativity around. So now I don't let these things bother me."

Millennium Post 25-March-2021

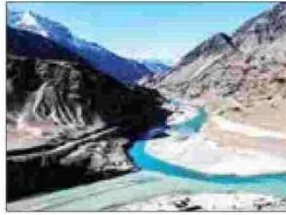
Indus Commissioners' meet concludes

Pak raises objection to designs of hydropower projects

NEW DELHI: The two-day meeting between India and Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty concluded here on Wednesday, during which Islamabad raised objections to the designs of Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai hydropower projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sources said Pakistan also sought additional information on hydropower projects in Ladakh sanctioned by India after the nullification of special provisions of Article 370 which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

On its part, India justified



its stand on the designs of Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai hydropower projects.

The meeting took place here after a gap of over two years. The last meeting had taken place in Lahore in August 2018.

The Indian delegation was

led by P K Saxena, India's Indus Commissioner, and his team included officials from the Central Water Commission, the Central Electricity Authority and the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation.

The Pakistani delegation was led by its Indus Commissioner Syed Muhammad Meher Ali Shah. The delegation arrived here on Monday evening.

The waters of the Indus river and its tributaries are crucial to India and Pakistan and serve as a lifeline for millions of people of the two nations. **MPPOST**

The Hans 25-March-2021

Teachers, students give fresh lease of life to lake

MeediKunta lake located in Hafeezpet sports serene looks once again



HAFEEZPET

BY breathing life back into a dying lake in the city of Nizams and pearls, a husband-wife team of educationists, has proved that positive change can begin even from school itself.

City-based founder of Fountainhead Global School, Meghana Musunuri and husband Sridhar Vunnam, didn't have the smallest inkling that a routine interaction session would evolve into a children-propelled movement and ultimately rescue a 15-acre lake from certain death.

That is precisely what happened, when Meghana's free-wheeling talk on children's rights and responsibilities, sometime in June 2019, set the tone for things to come.

"To help them understand the concept of their rights, I was giving them examples of lakes, forests, rivers and asked them, who do you think they belong to? The younger kids replied god,

♦ **Estimated budget was Rs 2 crore, funds collected were only Rs 10 lakh**

♦ **Founders of the Fountainhead Global School Meghana Musunuri and husband Sridhar Vunnam took the initiative**

and the older ones said the government. Then I said, you know, they belong to you.

The conversation veered to ownership, following which the kids joined hands to clean MeediKunta lake located in Hafeezpet, which was a kilometre away from their school.

Children along with Meghana and Sridhar, for the past three years waded through the friction and removed silt.

The groundwork began with the customary rounds of government offices for obtaining the mandatory permissions and as many as 120 went about their mission with an awareness kit for the children. Mascot called Cheru' symbolising the lake goddess boosted the morale of students.

By July 2019, the blueprint for salvaging MeediKunta lake was worked out. Fundraising drives, awareness runs and walks, tea parties near the lake, flash mobs, the team stepped up on the promotional efforts.

The initial drive resulted in collections, barely a fraction of the estimated cost of dredging and cleaning operations that required the hire of specialized equipment and manpower. Despite all efforts, they could collect only Rs 10 lakh which was less than the required fund. As per estimates, around Rs 2 crore would be required to repair and clean up the lake. However, the couple decided to plunge in with their own money rather than see the kids disheartened.

Sridhar recalls that Covid

lockdown actually proved helpful for them, "It was a tough job but we didn't stop till it was completed. He hired tractors from his village for transporting the garbage and other diggings as local lorries were difficult to arrange amid lockdown.

Gradually, local people understood our good intentions and started coming forward to help us in terms of equipment hire and other requirements.

The year 2020 was all about completing revival measures such as dredging the lake bed, redirecting sewage inflows away from the lake, shutting down unauthorized borewells in the lake storage area, repairing the lake embankment, and laying a walkway around it. While now 2021 the MeediKunta lake is a picture of serendipity.

Asked about the takeaways from the initiative, Meghana says, "Practical problem solving is the way to bridge the gap between school learning and real-life issues."

Dainik Jagran 25-March-2021

पाक ने भारतीय परियोजनाओं के डिजाइन पर आपत्ति जताई

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर: सिंधु जल समझौते के तहत भारत व पाक के बीच दो दिवसीय बैठक बुधवार को संपन्न हो गई। इस दौरान पाकिस्तान ने जम्मू-कश्मीर स्थित पाकल दुल और लोउर कलनाई पनबिजली संयंत्रों के डिजाइन पर आपत्ति जताई। सूत्रों ने बताया कि पाकिस्तान ने अनुच्छेद 370 के प्रविधानों को निरस्त किए जाने के बाद लद्दाख के लिए स्वीकृत पनबिजली परियोजनाओं पर भी अतिरिक्त जानकारी मांगी।

विदेश मंत्रालय ने बयान जारी कर कहा कि दो भारतीय परियोजनाओं- पाकल दुल (1000 मेगावाट) और लोउर कलनाई (48 मेगावाट) के

डिजाइन को लेकर बातचीत जारी है। भारतीय पक्ष ने कहा कि ये परियोजनाएं समझौते के अनुरूप हैं।

सिंधु जल आयोग की बैठक दो साल से अधिक समय के बाद हुई थी। विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि अगली बैठक पाक में होगी। बैठक में भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व भारत के सिंधु आयुक्त पीके सक्सेना ने किया। भारतीय दल में केंद्रीय जल आयोग, केंद्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण और नेशनल हाइड्रोइलेक्ट्रिक पावर कारपोरेशन के अधिकारी शामिल थे। पाक दल का नेतृत्व वहां के सिंधु आयुक्त सैयद मुहम्मद मेहर अली शाह ने किया।

Dainik Jagran 25-March-2021

जलाशयों में संग्रहित हो साफ पानी तो बढ़ेगा भूजल स्तर

338 जलाशयों में नहीं होता पानी, करीब 110 जलाशयों में भरा होता है गंदा पानी

राज्य व्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : विश्व जल दिवस पर केंद्र सरकार ने कैच द रेन अभियान की शुरुआत की है।



जल संग्रहण और भूजल रिचार्ज के लिए जलाशय प्रमुख स्रोत होते हैं। राष्ट्रीय

राजधानी दिल्ली में जलाशयों व झीलों की कभी कमी नहीं थी, लेकिन सैकड़ों जलाशय तेज विकास और अतिक्रमण की भेंट चढ़ गए। जो जलाशय बचे हैं उनमें भी करीब 110 जलाशय सीवरेज के गंदे पानी से भरे हैं। इसके अलावा 338 जलाशयों में पानी नहीं होता। विशेषज्ञ कहते हैं कि यदि जलाशयों में जल संग्रहण की व्यवस्था की जाए तो ये भूजल रिचार्ज में मददगार साबित होंगे। जल बोर्ड ने 155 जलाशयों के जीर्णोद्धार के लिए पहल भी की है।

कैच द रेन अभियान

- अतिक्रमण व शहरीकरण की भेंट चढ़ चुके हैं सैकड़ों जलाशय
- जल बोर्ड ने की है 155 जलाशयों के जीर्णोद्धार की पहल

दिल्ली में पहले कुल 1,061 जलाशय थे, जबकि राजस्व रिकार्ड में 629 जलाशय दर्ज थे। इनमें से 110 तालाबों में सीवर का गंदा पानी भरा होता है।

दिल्ली में गिरते भूजल स्तर के मद्देनजर वर्ष 2006-07 में दिल्ली के सिंचाई व बाढ़ नियंत्रण विभाग ने जलाशयों के जीर्णोद्धार का काम शुरू किया था। इसके तहत करीब 250 तालाबों का पक्कीकरण किया गया, लेकिन जलाशयों में बारिश का पानी संग्रहण के लिए उपयुक्त इंतजाम नहीं किए जाने से इसका खास फायदा नहीं हुआ। कुछ साल पहले दिल्ली पार्क एंड गार्डन सोसायटी

द्वारा किए गए सर्वे में दिल्ली में एक हजार से अधिक जलाशय होने की बात सामने आई थी। इसमें से 40 जलाशयों का नामोनिशान मिट चुका है। 342 जलाशयों का पहले सरकारी दस्तावेजों में कोई रिकार्ड नहीं था। 338 जलाशय सूखे रहते हैं। वहीं 168 जलाशयों पर अतिक्रमण है और 117 जलाशयों की जमीन पर निर्माण हो चुका है।

जल बोर्ड ने 376 करोड़ की लागत से 155 जलाशयों के जीर्णोद्धार की योजना तैयार की है। इनमें से 83 जलाशयों के पुनर्जीवन के लिए नीरी (राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण अभियांत्रिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान) व 72 जलाशयों के जीर्णोद्धार के लिए कई अन्य एजेंसियों की मदद ली जा रही है।

यह काम पूरा होने पर जिन जलाशयों में गंदा पानी भरा होता है, उनमें सीवरेज का गंदा पानी गिरना बंद होगा।

चेन्नई की तर्ज पर हो संग्रहण

यमुना जिले अभियान के संयोजक मनोज मिश्रा ने कहा कि बारिश का पानी जहां गिरे वहीं एकत्रित कर भूजल रिचार्ज किया जाए, यह बात पहले से कही जाती रही है, लेकिन इसे हकीकत में जमीन पर उतारने की जरूरत है। नीति आयोग ने कहा है कि दिल्ली में बहुत जल्द भूजल खत्म हो जाएगा। इसके लिए चेन्नई की तर्ज हर मकान में वर्षा जल संग्रहण की व्यवस्था कर भूजल रिचार्ज की व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिए। राष्ट्रीय राजधानी होने के नाते दिल्ली में सबसे ज्यादा सरकारी भवन हैं। सभी भवनों, स्कूल, अस्पताल व पार्कों में वर्षा जल संग्रहण की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। इसके अलावा प्राकृतिक जलाशयों का जीर्णोद्धार जरूरी है, अब तक खानापूर्ति ही होती रही है।

Dainik Jagran 25-March-2021

पार्कों में बंद किए जा रहे ट्यूबवेल, बढ़ सकता है प्रदूषण

एनजीटी के आदेश पर बंद हो रहे हैं ट्यूबवेल, एसटीपी के पानी से होनी है सिंचाई, पाइपलाइन बिछाने में लगेगा दो से तीन साल का समय

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली : राजधानी को आने वाले दिनों में प्रदूषण और परेशान कर सकता है, क्योंकि एनजीटी के आदेशों के पालन के चलते नगर निगमों के पार्कों के ट्यूबवेल बंद हो रहे हैं। जिला प्रशासन की मदद से हर दिन बड़ी संख्या में ट्यूबवेल बंद किए जा रहे हैं। नई दिल्ली नगर पालिका परिषद समेत उत्तरी, पूर्वी और दक्षिणी निगम के पार्कों की स्थिति बिगड़ सकती है। जब पार्कों में सिंचाई नहीं होगी तो वातावरण में धूल की मात्रा बढ़ जाएगी। इससे राजधानी में पीएम 2.5 का स्तर बढ़ सकता है। यह मुद्दा दक्षिणी निगम के सदन की बैठक में भी उठा। पार्कों ने जहां ट्यूबवेल बंद न करने की मांग की, वहीं इस फैसले पर पुनर्विचार के लिए एनजीटी में जाने को कहा गया है।

दरअसल, हाल ही में एनजीटी के आदेशों के अनुपालन में एसडीएम के नेतृत्व में टीम ने ट्यूबवेल सील करने की कार्यवाही शुरू की है। इससे पार्कों में पौधों को सिंचाई करने से



ट्यूबवेल बंद होने के बाद टैंकर के पानी से सिंचाई करता निगमकर्मि सौ. उत्तरी विभाग

लेकर धूल रोकने के लिए घास उगाने या फिर धूल वाले स्थानों पर पानी की कमी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। अगर, सीलिंग की कार्यवाही इसी तरह से चलती रही तो दो सप्ताह के अंदर तीनों निगमों के सारे पार्कों के ट्यूबवेल बंद हो जाएंगे। इससे धूल से होने वाले प्रदूषण के बढ़ने की संभावना है।

व्यवस्था करने में लगेगा तीन साल का समय : एनजीटी के आदेशों के तहत पार्कों की सिंचाई में सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट (एसटीपी) के पानी का ही उपयोग होना चाहिए। ऐसे में एसटीपी का पानी पार्कों में सिंचाई के लिए पहुंचे, इसके लिए दिल्ली जल बोर्ड को पाइप लाइन भी बिछानी होगी। पूरी दिल्ली में यह कार्य शुरू होने के बाद

हमने एनजीटी में इस संबंध में आवेदन किया है। आवेदन के जरिये हम एनजीटी से मांग करेंगे कि जब तक एसटीपी से पार्कों में सिंचाई की व्यवस्था नहीं हो जाती तब तक ट्यूबवेल से पार्कों की सिंचाई की अनुमति दी जाए।

- जय प्रकाश, महापौर, उत्तरी दिल्ली

तीन से चार साल में पूरा होने की उम्मीद है। ऐसे में निगमों के सामने मुसीबत है कि तब तक वे अपने पार्कों में पौधों को पानी कैसे दें? एसटीपी का पानी पार्कों तक पानी पहुंचाने के लिए दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने टंक लाइन बिछाने की योजना बनाई है। जल बोर्ड के सलाहकार ने यह सुझाव दिया है कि इसमें 850 करोड़ रुपये का खर्चा आएगा। इसे संबंधित एजेंसियों को भुगतना पड़ेगा। इस पर दिल्ली के स्थानीय निकाय भी तैयार नहीं हैं।

किसकी क्या है स्थिति

नई दिल्ली नगर पालिका परिषद समेत उत्तरी, पूर्वी और दक्षिणी निगम के पार्कों की बिगड़ सकती है स्थिति

उत्तरी दिल्ली नगर निगम

6095 पार्क हैं उत्तरी निगम क्षेत्र में, जो 2159 एकड़ क्षेत्र में हैं फैले

1862 ट्यूबवेल हैं उत्तरी निगम क्षेत्र में

99 ट्यूबवेल को किया जा चुका है सील

15 टैंकों से हो रही चुनिंदा पार्कों की सिंचाई

5000 लीटर क्षमता वाले 540 टैंकों की है आवश्यकता

162 करोड़ रुपये प्रति वर्ष आएगा इन टैंकों की खरीद व रखरखाव में खर्चा

दक्षिणी दिल्ली नगर निगम

6872 पार्क हैं दक्षिणी निगम क्षेत्र में, जो 2202 एकड़ क्षेत्र में हैं फैले

1398 ट्यूबवेल हैं दक्षिणी निगम क्षेत्र में

167 ट्यूबवेल को किया जा चुका है सील

132 पार्कों में पहले ही एसटीपी से शुरू की जा चुकी है सिंचाई, इससे 56 ट्यूबवेल को निगम ने किया है बंद

14 लाख वृक्षों को नहीं मिल पाएगा ट्यूबवेल बंद होने से पानी

5000 लीटर की क्षमता वाले 600 टैंकों की है आवश्यकता

180 करोड़ रुपये प्रति वर्ष आएगा इन टैंकों की खरीद व रखरखाव में खर्चा

नई दिल्ली नगर पालिका परिषद

1100 पार्क हैं एनडीएमसी के पास

1500 एकड़ में है एनडीएमसी का हरित क्षेत्र

11 एसटीपी से छह पार्कों को होती है सिंचाई

40 एसटीपी की जरूरत, पर एनडीएमसी के पास स्थान नहीं

40 एमजीडी पानी की है जरूरत, मिल रहा सिर्फ 18 एमजीडी

पूर्वी दिल्ली नगर निगम

2097 पार्क हैं पूर्वी निगम क्षेत्र में

1000 ट्यूबवेल हैं नगर निगम क्षेत्र में

474 ट्यूबवेल निगम क्षेत्र में कर दिए गए हैं बंद

20 टैंकों से फिलहाल कराई जा रही है सिंचाई

Rajasthan Patrika 25-March-2021

जयपुर में पेयजल के लिए मंत्रालय ने दी अतिरिक्त राशि देने की सहमति : बोहरा

जयपुर @ पत्रिका. जयपुर में पेयजल संकट से निपटने के लिए जल शक्ति मंत्रालय ने अतिरिक्त राशि आवंटन करने की सहमति दे दी है। सांसद रामचरण बोहरा ने इस संबंध में मुख्यमंत्री को पत्र लिखकर जानकारी दी है। उन्होंने कहा कि राज्य सरकार जल्द प्रस्ताव तैयार कर जलशक्ति मंत्रालय को भेजे, जिससे जयपुरवासियों को राहत मिल सके। बोहरा ने 17 मार्च को लोकसभा में पेयजल समस्या समाधान की दिशा में अतिरिक्त राशि आवंटन की मांग की थी। बोहरा ने जलशक्ति मंत्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत का आभार जताया है।

किसानों को शीघ्र राहत मिले: भाजपा

बारिश से फसलें बर्बाद, मुआवजा दे सरकार

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

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जयपुर. भारतीय जनता पार्टी की राष्ट्रीय उपाध्यक्ष वसुंधरा राजे एवं प्रदेश अध्यक्ष सतीश पूनिया ने बेमौसम बारिश से राज्य में फसलें चौपट होने पर चिन्ता जताते हुए कहा है कि राज्य सरकार किसानों को शीघ्र मुआवजा दे।

राजे ने कहा, राज्य सरकार

प्रभावित जिलों से फसल खराबे का आकलन कराकर शीघ्र रिपोर्ट मंगवाए और मुआवजा दे ताकि कर्ज में डूबे किसानों को थोड़ी राहत मिले। पूनिया ने कहा, तीन दिन से विभिन्न जिलों में आंधी, बारिश और ओलावृष्टि से पकी फसलें नष्ट हो गई हैं। सरकार तुरन्त गिरदावरी कराकर आर्थिक सहायता दे।

Hindustan 25-March-2021

पनबिजली परियोजनाओं के डिजाइन ठीक : भारत

नई दिल्ली | एजेंसी

भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच सिंधु जल समझौते को लेकर दो दिवसीय बैठक बुधवार को दिल्ली में समाप्त हो गई। इस दौरान भारत ने पाकल दुल (1000 मेगा वाट) और लोअर कनलाई (48 मेगा वाट) पनबिजली परियोजनाओं के डिजाइन को उचित ठहराया। लेकिन पाक ने जम्मू-कश्मीर में पाकल दुल और लोअर कलनाई पनबिजली परियोजनाओं के डिजाइन को लेकर आपत्तियां जताईं।

भारतीय विदेश मंत्रालय ने बैठक समाप्त होने की पुष्टि करते हुए कहा कि अगली बैठक पाकिस्तान में तिथि तय होने के बाद होगी। सूत्रों ने कहा कि पाक ने जम्मू-कश्मीर को विशेष दर्जा देने वाले अनुच्छेद 370 को खत्म किए

क्या है सिंधु जल समझौता

भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच वर्ष 1960 में हुए सिंधु जल समझौते के तहत सतलुज ब्यास और रावी नदी का पानी भारत को सिंधु, झेलम और चिनाब का पानी पाक को मिलता है। समझौते में दोनों देशों के आयोगों की साल में कम से कम एक बार बैठक का प्रावधान है। बैठक बारी-बारी से भारत और पाकिस्तान में होती है।

जाने के बाद लद्दाख में भारत द्वारा शुरू की पनबिजली परियोजनाओं के बारे में अतिरिक्त जानकारी मांगी। दोनों पक्षों में दो साल के बाद यह बैठक हुई। अगस्त 2018 में लाहौर में बैठक हुई थी। बैठक में शामिल भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व भारत के सिंधु आयोग के आयुक्त पीके सक्सेना ने किया।