

Postpone gazette on projects: KCR

Urges Centre to first finalise water sharing between TS and AP

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao raised concerns of Telangana over the Centre's decision to bring all the irrigation projects on Krishna and Godavari Rivers under the purview of the respective River Management Boards as per the gazette notification issued earlier.

The Chief Minister is learnt to have appealed that only the irrigation projects which are under the joint control of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, should be brought under the purview of the River Management Boards.

In his meeting with Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat for over 40 minutes at the latter's camp office in Delhi on Saturday, the Chief Minister had discussed at length over the provisions of the gazette notification issued by the Centre bringing all irrigation projects of both the Telugu States under the control of the Godavari River Management Board



Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao with Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi on Friday.

(GRMB) and Krishna River Management Board (KRMB). He is said to have requested the Union Minister once again to postpone the implementation of gazette notification and allow the Boards to take control over the projects only after the river water sharing between both the States is finalised.

He also took up the inter-State disputes between Telangana and AP over sharing of river waters, with the Union Minister. Accompanied by legislators representing erstwhile Mahabub-

nagar district — C Laxma Reddy, Rajender Reddy and Ala Venkateshwar Reddy, the Chief Minister urged Shekhawat to issue final approvals for the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, apart from making necessary water allocations.

He submitted representations to the Union Minister on five issues pertaining to the Irrigation Department and also sought his intervention to stop the ongoing works of the RLIS in AP which was detrimental to the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district. (SEE PAGE 2)

Postpone gazette on projects: KCR

In a tweet, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat stated that he had discussed with the Chief Minister over effective implementation of the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission and Har Ghar Jal programmes in all the State including Telangana, among other issues. It may be recalled that both Jal Jeevan Mission and Har Ghar Jal programmes were inspired from Telangana's Mission Bhagiratha where the State government had succeeded in providing drinking water connection to every household in the State.

Telangana Today- 26- September-2021

Cyclone alert for Odisha, AP

Extremely heavy rainfall likely today; fishermen told not venture into sea till Sept 27

NEW DELHI/BHUBANESWAR

The deep depression over the Bay of Bengal intensified into Cyclone 'Gulab' on Saturday and an 'orange' alert has been issued for north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha coasts, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The cyclonic storm is likely to move nearly westwards and cross north Andhra Pradesh-south Odisha coasts between Kalingapatnam and Gopalpur around Sunday evening, the Cyclone Warning Division of the IMD said.

"The deep depression over northwest and adjoining westcentral Bay of Bengal moved nearly westwards with a speed of 7 kmph in last six hours, and intensified into Cyclonic Storm 'Gulab'," the IMD said. The deep depression

Gulab may cross north AP and south Odisha coast, between Vishakhapatnam and Gopalpur, by the evening of September 26

— INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

lay centred 510 km east-southeast of Gopalpur and 590 km east of Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh early on Saturday.

"It may move nearly westwards and cross north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coasts, between Vishakhapatnam and Gopalpur around Kalingapatnam by the evening of September 26," the IMD stated.

There is also a likelihood of light to moderate showers at most places on Sunday with heavy to very heavy rain in some areas and extremely heavy rainfall at iso-

lated places over south Odisha and north coastal Andhra Pradesh. Parts of north interior Odisha, Telangana and Chhattisgarh may also experience heavy rainfall on Sunday.

Similarly, for September 27, the IMD forecast light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy showers at isolated places over Odisha and Telangana and heavy rainfall at isolated places over coastal West Bengal.

It also predicted squally weather with wind speed reaching 50-60 kmph and gusting up to 70 kmph over

northwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal. The wind speed may gradually increase to 70-80 kmph and gust up to 90 kmph on Sunday.

During the next three days, the sea condition will be rough to very rough and fishermen in Odisha, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have been told not to venture into east-central and adjoining northeast Bay of Bengal from September 25 to September 27.

The IMD also predicted localised flooding of roads, waterlogging in low-lying areas due to torrential rain over coastal Andhra Pradesh on September 26 and Odisha and Chhattisgarh over the next two days.

The Special Relief Commissioner (SRC), Odisha, has asked all District Collectors to remain alert in view of the weather forecast. PTI

Deccan Chronicle- 26- September-2021

HMWS&SB plans projects worth ₹7,528 cr

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

The HMWS&SB has planned projects worth ₹2,528 crore, apart from constructing 31 sewage treatment plants (STPs), in addition to the existing 25 STPs, at an estimated cost of ₹3,866.21 crore.

A second project costing ₹1,200 crore involves the board constructing additional service reservoirs for 137 million litres a day (MLD) and laying a new pipelines network covering about 2,100 km to supply adequate water to urban local bodies (ULBs) and gram panchayats in the area between the GHMC

area and the Outer Ring Road (ORR).

Overall, board has planned projects worth ₹7,528 crore in Hyderabad Urban Agglomeration (HUA).

As a part of Sunkishala intake project the board has made drafted plans to draw raw water from Krishna basin at the cost of ₹1450 crore, which will be treated and supplied to the city. This project will remove the need for emergency pumping during the summer.

A ₹1,200 crore project has been proposed to facilitate water supply to ULBs and gram panchayats within the ORR, including housing layouts and gated commu-

• **THE 17 STPs in the Hussainsagar catchment area under Package III with 376.50 MLD capacity would treat sewage in Kukatpally, Quthbullapur and Serilingampally circles.**

nities, by creation of 137 million litres capacity of service reservoirs and 2,100 km of pipelines. Another project, worth ₹285 crore, will provide drinking water to the Singur command areas, and a double bedroom housing project at Kollur and Kokapet township. This pipeline project is a part of a proposed 158-km ring main along the

ORR for integration of the water sources to the HUA.

The diversion of Godavari water into the Manjira and Singur systems by a 46-km 1,800-mm diameter pipeline will cost the board ₹430 crore.

The construction of eight STPs on the north of the Musi under Package I will cost the board ₹1230.21 crore. With 402.50 MLD capacity, they would treat all the sewage from the catchment areas in Uppal, Kapra, Malkajgiri and Alwal circles.

Six STPs proposed to be constructed south of the river at ₹1355.13 crore would take of sewage flows from the Rajendranagar

and LB Nagar circles.

The 17 STPs in the Hussainsagar catchment area under Package III with 376.50 MLD capacity would treat sewage in Kukatpally, Quthbullapur and Serilingampally circles.

This apart, the HMWS&SB has embarked on strengthening and improvement of sewerage system in Zone III area of the core city with a new network and replacements valued at ₹297 crore. The project will provide 100 per cent waste water collection, no direct dry weather flow discharge into river Musi in the project area, and improved health and hygiene in the project area.

Indian Express- 26- September-2021

For dam-rehabilitated villagers in Odisha, a three-decade fight for a name

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
KORAPUT, SEPTEMBER 25

A SIGNBOARD at a narrow deviation from the Koraput-Kotpad road leads to a village of 500 people around two kilometers away.

Its residents were all rehabilitated here in 1988 after the Upper Kolab Dam in Odisha's Koraput district, constructed in 1976 over the Kolab river, submerged their ancestral homes.

Its name changes depending on who you ask. It is Colony 6 in official records, Baikunthapur if you go by its residents, and Camp 6 in

local parlance. The signboard bears out this confusion, carrying the last two names in English and Odia.

"When we moved here initially we were told that we were being moved to camps. Then eventually when we got official documents like our Aadhar cards, it said we lived in colonies. But we are still identified as residents of camps," says resident Gangai Burudi.

This is a grievance one hears in multiple dam rehabilitation camps in the district — they never got an official name for decades.

In 2018, the residents of Colonies 5, 6 and 7 — three of the

five villages without an official name — decided to act. Between April and May, they put up boards declaring 'Santoshpur,' 'Baikunthapur' and 'Purshottampur' at the entrance to these villages. These are also the names that now appear in some of their postal addresses. Baikunthapur and Santoshpur fall under Batasuna gram panchayat while Purushottampur falls under SB Nuagaan GP.

The names, however, are yet to be officially added in land and revenue records.

Back in 1988, each affected family was given 3 acres of land for



Baikunthapur is yet to be added in land, revenue records.

constructing a house and farming, and Rs 14,000 as compensation. After 2000, these camps started

getting basic facilities such as drinking water, electricity, schools and anganwadi centres.

But the lack of an official name still rankles.

"This keeps reminding us of being displaced from our own ancestral village where we grew up. It does not help us feel settled," says Burudi.

Over 3,000 families from 57 villages were displaced by the Kolab Dam project. About 52 per cent of the affected people are Paraja tribes and 17 per cent are Dalits, according to a study by the South Orissa Voluntary Action, an NGO in Koraput.

Tehsildar Janardhan Dalai said: "Some of the villages have changed their names voluntarily but that is

not legally acceptable. They are still registered as Colony 6, 7 etc, as per revenue records. But these hamlets can approach us for changing their names. No such change is in process at the moment from our end."

In Camp 4A, with a population of 603, Kuma Muduli says residents have held consultations with block-level officers but to no avail. "We initiate the dialogue with one official and by the time the papers are to be processed a new official comes in and we are back to zero. Villagers also keep getting anxious that they would have to go through so many procedures all over again. But we are

still at it and we would want to change the name of our village, not just ourselves but officially as well," Muduli says.

Harihar Nayak (60) from Colony 7 says, "When you are uprooted and moved to another location, there are a lot of things in mind to begin with, a lot of basic facilities. But eventually one realises that we have been reduced to camps and colonies. A person anywhere in the world derives his or her identity from the place they come from. We come from a camp. Our Aadhaar says we live in colony number 7. It feels like we do not belong here."

New Indian Express- 26- September-2021

Chennai's groundwater safe for consumption?

**In your
water**
1,800 ppm

Highest
maximum
TDS level (In
Perungudi
zone of
Chennai
corporation)

Sholinganallur
1,700

Anna Nagar
1,600

TDS: Total
Dissolved Solids



**Sewage is
being let into
waterbodies,
thereby
contaminating
groundwater**

R Subbramani,
an activist

K V NAVYA @ Chennai

AHEAD of the northeast monsoon, earlier this month, the Chennai Metro Water Board conducted a survey to test groundwater quality. It revealed the levels of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), a measure of dissolved combined content of all inorganic and organic substances in the groundwater, were found between 500 and 1,800 parts per million (ppm) among the 15 corporation zones.

Although the levels fall within the permissible limits of 2,000 ppm, experts and waterbody protection activists are of the opinion the quality of water is worse.

“Every year, we conduct the survey at random places across all the 15 zones. This year, water quality is found to be good and the ppm will further decrease once the rains begin,” said an official from the Metro Water Board.

According to the data, Perungudi zone had the highest maximum ppm level of 1,800, followed by Sholinganallur (1,700), Anna Nagar and Madhavaram (1,600 each), and Thiru Vi Ka Nagar and Adyar (1,500 each). Thiruvottiur and Alandur corporation zones recorded the best water quality with TDS under the 1,000 ppm mark.

Groundwater resources have played a vital role in meeting the additional demand by households and industries. However, indiscriminate utilisation of groundwater has also led to a rapid fall in the city's water tables.

CONTINUED ON: P3

New Indian Express- 26- September-2021

‘Transparent survey must’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“IF the quality of the water is as good as what is being claimed, it can be purified using household water purifiers and taken for drinking purpose. But, that is definitely not the case in Chennai,” said S Janakarajan, president of South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resource Studies. North Chennai is affected by sea intrusion and TDS levels go beyond 3,000 ppm there, he claimed.

Sewage is being blatantly let into waterbodies, thereby contaminating groundwater, said R Subbramani, an activist, adding such surveys must be done transparently.

Chennai water quality in September 2021

TDS LEVELS (IN PPM)

Zone	Min	Max
Thiruvottiur	500	800
Manali	500	1,300
Madhavaram	500	1,600
Tondiarpet	800	1,200
Royapuram	900	1,300
Thiruvika Nagar	1,100	1,500
Ambattur	700	1,300
Anna Nagar	100	1,600
Teynampet	500	1,200
Kodambakkam	400	1,300
Valasaravakkam	200	1,200
Alandur	500	900
Adyar	300	1,500
Perungudi	600	1,800
Sholinganallur	300	1,700

New Indian Express- 26- September-2021

AZEefa FATHIMA @Virudhunagar

ASK old-timers here about River Vaippar and they will turn raconteurs. Be it for drinking or for irrigation, all the Sattur region turned to its mighty currents, and entire railway tracks were laid to carry agricultural produce from its bustling shores.

Today, neither that river nor the verdant farmlands along its banks exist in Sattur town; both are dead, and has been so for the past three decades. In its place flows a 'sewer' carrying waste from the Sattur Municipality and nearby villages, and effluent from industries in Sivakasi-Virudhunagar-Thoothukudi belt. "Despite the existence of strict government laws, effluent from factories and untreated sewage from the towns/villages are discharged into the river," said Sundarapandian (45), an activist trying to revive the Vaippar.

He dismissed discourses that Sivakasi-Sattur-Vembakottai belt has nothing but firecracker industries to depend upon and claimed that the entire region once composed of swathes of agricultural land, with Vaippar being its throbbing heart.

"It was only in the late 1980s that the river started drying up rapidly," he said, adding: "Two things occurred simultaneously to make this region dependent on cracker industry: 1) Machineries replaced labour in safety-match industries with the implementation of the new economic policy; 2) the river started drying up because of sand mining and associated activities such as felling of trees and breaking the river banks," said Sundarapandian. Following this, thousands of farmers and farmhands became workers in cracker units, while some left the region for cities.

Seventy-five-year-old farmer Ellapparaj said the riverbed had been mined for sand



WILL VAIPPAR'S GLORY DAYS RETURN?

for nearly 12 feet, exposing the rocks beneath. "We pose this question to the government: Will the Vaippar be revived?" he said, adding: "If that's done, Sattur and nearby regions won't have to depend on any external sources of water." Stating that the river used to flow even during the dog days, Bajanai Krishnan (72) said Sattur town and nearby villages have now been forced to depend on the Thamirabarani water supplied via pipelines. "If there are repair works on the pipe-

line, we won't get water," he added.

Partial revival works

When contacted, Executive Engineer (PWD) of Vaippar Basin, Raja, told *TNIE* that arrangements are being made to remove *seemai karuvelam* from the riverbed and proposals have been sent to the government for regradation of rivers, construction of floodbanks, and related activities.

Moreover, works on an underground drainage (UGD) system, worth ₹37.66 crore,

under the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) are underway in Sattur town since 2019. The construction of a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) with the capacity to treat 4.63 MLD (Million Litre per Day) is underway; this would help treat sewage from the 24 wards in the municipality, said officials from the TWAD board.

"Also, permission has been sought from the Public Works Department (PWD) to release the treated water into the river. The residents, however, oppose this scheme," said an official, seeking anonymity. Further, the treated water would be purchased by SIP-COT for their ongoing construction works, said official sources.

As we celebrate the World Rivers Day today, *TNIE* looks at the problems plaguing the rivers flowing through TN.



We pose this question to the government: Will the Vaippar be revived? If that's done, Sattur and nearby regions won't have to depend on any external sources of water

Ellapparaj, a farmer

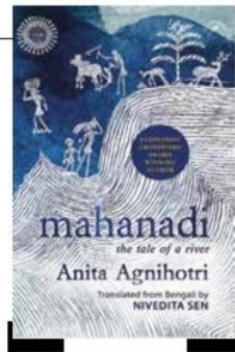
Life along 'Mahanadi'



Anita Agnihotri's *Mahanadi* — skilfully translated by Nivedita Sen — tells the tale of the epic river, intertwined with both happy and sorrow realities of the lives of the books' vibrant characters; Excerpts:

One can hardly imagine now what a long journey it was fifty-seven years ago. At one extreme end of it was Kutherpali village on the western bank of the Mahanadi. And how far away near its southern tip was Jujumura! A minibus now comes to Sambalpur town from the turn to Hirakud. From there, one can take the trekker or another minibus. If you have to go to Nuabalanda, there is no way of course except to take a hired car or trekker from the block district of Jujumura. There was no road at all about four years ago. One had to go on foot for the last three-four kilometres. Unpaved and broken, that flooded road was such in the monsoons that the owners of cars would desist from having their cars traverse that path. Two years ago, two Maoists and two policemen were killed in an encounter. Papers and documents were seized, along with two disguises of police uniform, bullets and gunpowder. A police constable in actual uniform from the Sambalpur Armed Police, Siddhinath, had been struck by a bullet that had pierced his chest and found its way out through his back. After that, the government took the decision to construct a concrete road. That road has of course been built – it is nice though a little crooked. It is a tarred and macadamized road, although it has started getting eroded already with the constant inflow of water due to not having built a water drainage system next to it.

One can guess that the appearance of the road will not change, either until the road erodes to merge with the earth, and innumerable wild weeds grow around its skeletal frame, or until another encounter takes place. The people in this village had come from Kutherpali village that was on the bank touching the Mahanadi on the west. There were no villages here then – only rocky plateaus and endless forests. They had come in a team walking all the way from the edge of the Mahanadi, crossing the town of Sambalpur on the way. It had taken them two-three days. They had stopped on the way, and cooked and eaten their meals under the shade of trees. With them were all the goats



Price: ₹ 595
Publisher: Niyogi Books

Until the water level reached up to their nose, the last refugee group of the people displaced by the Hirakud dam had sat there, believing that they might eventually escape evacuation

and cattle that were fit to walk. The lorries loaned to them by contractors had arranged to transport only the doors and window frames of their old houses and the paddy they had stored in their homes. The ripe paddy in their fields had got drowned as they had watched helplessly. The flood that had come would sink over 140 villages that were strewn on either bank of the Mahanadi.

The government had directed them to leave behind all the stuff, as well as the unripe crops and plants, saying, 'You will be given money that will be equivalent in terms of the price of all those things you have left behind.' That compensation had never come their way afterwards.

They had had to come away after getting Rs 400 per acre. This was the last refugee group of the people displaced by the Hirakud dam who had had to go away from Kutherpali. Until the water level reached up to their nose, they had sat there believing that they might eventually not have to get evacuated from their village – perhaps the work of building the dam would get stalled, or maybe the government would change its decision, and such like.

The women were crying in spasms as they went along. They had wept all the way, and in different ways. They had blended the lamentation in their hearts with a sort of broken melody and poured it all into the singing of old songs. The faces of the men were stern, grim and despondent.

The government had driven them away. This had really hurt all of them. This was the government of independent India.

What a contrast there was between the perennially overflowing Kutherpali, and Nuabalanda of the Jujumura panchayat, surrounded by hills and forests! One had to go a long way to the south from Sambalpur and then turn inside again. From their habitation at Kutherpali, one could see the rolling hills of the Dungri mountain range. That sight was very charming, like a picturesque landscape in subtle green. Here, a mountain virtually stumbled over at their backs and a wild forest caused terror in their minds, filling their eyes with tears in fear and anxiety. The village of Nuabalanda is enveloped by forests. Even after five decades, if the forest has such prowess, you can make out how it was at that time. Now, however, there are roads and junctions, wells at which people draw water, school buildings and playing grounds. Fifty-seven years ago, the entire area was a dense forest. They had dug up a little piece of it and fashioned it into a village. On the way were Ghenupali and Barashahi – two large villages. After that, there were two huge, steep hills – Bander and Karrapat. There was a way between the two hills.

(Excerpted with permission from Anita Agnihotri's *Mahanadi*; published by: Niyogi Books)

VAISHALI DAR

Clean drinking water from taps is a privilege in India. That's because piped water supply isn't universally available in many areas and tap water isn't potable. Besides installation of a seamless network of supply, reliable and real-time monitoring of water quality, the health hazards associated with piped water require a lot of 'trust' for it to be consumed directly from taps.

Recently, Puri in Odisha became the first Indian city to provide 24x7 safe drinking water from taps for residents in July this year. It's indeed a laudable effort for a city, which is also a major tourist hotspot, to provide clean water to nearly two crore people annually. The city has installed water fountains to eliminate the use of plastic water bottles and reduce 400 metric tons of plastic waste.

Puri may have taken the lead in 24x7 supply of quality tap water, but the road to achieve 100% target for every household in India is no cakewalk. In addition to providing potable tap water connection in rural India under the government's flagship 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' scheme, factors like steady water supply and quality checks, testing and contamination-free water at local level are a concern, as also a real-time surveillance system to track and log consumer complaints, remove overhead water tanks, pumps and RO-based water filters—the efforts to achieve a seamless supply are far and wide.

"What Puri has achieved is commendable and can certainly be done across India with proper planning. However, some challenges remain like legacy water pipelines with leakages, undetected mixing of water supply with sewerage and uncertainty in source water availability all through the year," says Dr Sunderajan Krishnan, executive director, India Natural Resource Economics and Management (INREM) Foundation, a research institution probing societal issues concerning water, public health, agriculture and the environment.

Even though the efforts of the city are laudable, experts also feel the focus should not be to achieve the coverage but sustain the gains in the long run. "All this can be achieved through efficient service delivery benchmarks with adequate operation and maintenance of created infrastructure," says Anshuman, associate director, water resources, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi. TERI is a not-for-profit, policy research organisation working in the fields of energy, environment, and sustainable development.

Country under a mission

Clean drinking water is a must for the population to have reduced burden of water-borne diseases and to have an improved life. But it also requires substantial capital investments for related infrastructure and necessitates efficient operation and maintenance for sustained and effective service delivery, besides adequate awareness generation and capacity building of relevant stakeholders (beneficiaries, relevant departments, and staff, etc) on drinking water supply systems, health, and hygiene. This is something that Odisha has done.

Water-borne diseases due to water contamination were a never-ending issue in the state but authorities have now ensured 24x7 supply of regular network, quality control at tap connection and stressed on quality checking of surface and groundwater. "Because water is not a commodity, it's a public good, so quality drinking water is closely linked with human health, human development index and economy," says G Mathi Vathanan, principal secretary, housing and urban development department, Odisha, who spoke with *Sunday BE* and explained how the step-by-step process of the 'drink-from-tap' project started in 2017 when Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik launched a mission called 'SUJAL' for universal coverage of tap water in every household.

"By 2019, our pipeline network had crossed 80% of the target in many urban local bodies. With 10% area left to be covered, the government then came up with the '5T' governance mantra in 2019 [5T stands for transparency, technology, team, time, and transformation]. We zeroed in on ISO-10500 quality water, an 'assured quality water' standard, besides 30 other parameters, which include chemical and metal content, water treatment and storage reservoir, IoT-based real-time monitoring of water supply quantity and quality, etc," says Vathanan. By October 2023, the state plans to cover 17 cities including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela and Baripada.

While international cities like London, New York and Singapore have long ago been supplying quality piped drinking water from tap, India has improved considerably in the past few decades in access and provision of safe drinking water to urban and rural populations.

As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019-20), in the last five

PIPE DREAM

Despite govt efforts, safe tap water remains a privilege in India due to concerns over steady supply, quality checks, testing and real-time surveillance of consumer complaints, among other factors



(Above) 'SUJAL: Drink From Tap Mission' being inaugurated in Odisha. In July, Puri became the first Indian city to provide 24x7 safe drinking water from taps to residents; (below) household tap water connection being provided at a village in Chhattisgarh under Jal Jeevan Mission

of tap water supply, as stated by MoS for Jal Shakti Pralhad Singh Patel in Lok Sabha on July 29 this year.

Two years on, the states and UTs showing progress under the JIM and covering 100% of households with a functional tap water connection are Goa, Telangana, Puducherry, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Daman and Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli, as per official data. Haryana and Bihar are expected to join by the end of this year. UTs may be able to accomplish the same in 2022, and by 2024, most states can be estimated to reach 100% water access. "This will encourage other states to

years, access to improved drinking water sources for the household population increased across all the 22 reserved states and Union territories (except Sikkim, which registered a 5% decline), informs Anshuman of TERI.

"Except Manipur, Meghalaya, A. sam, Tripura and Ladakh, all other 17 states and UTs recorded above 90% population having access to improved sources of drinking water," he says.

Furthermore, the Central government's mission to supply drinking water and connections is an ongoing mission pursued since 2019, when the Jal Shakti Ministry was formed. Announced as one of the most aspirational programmes on August 15, 2019 by PM Narendra Modi, the ₹3.5 lakh crore Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide a functional household tap water connection (FHTC) to 157 million rural households by 2024. The mission is under implementation in partnership with states' UTs to provide tap water connection to every rural household with ₹50,011 crore as budget in 2021-22. With states' own resources and ₹2,940 crore as 15th Finance Commission tied grant for water and sanitation to rural local bodies or Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) this year, more than ₹1 lakh crore is being invested in providing rural drinking water supply.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JIM) Karnataka was allocated ₹5,009 crore by the Centre in July for 2021-22. Similarly, Kerala was allocated ₹1,804.59 crore in June this year. Tamil Nadu was allocated ₹3,691.21 crore, and Andhra Pradesh got ₹3,182.88 crore this year.

Gujarat plans to provide tap connections in 11.15 lakh households during 2020-21. In 2020-21, ₹883.08 crore was allocated. Including state share, there is assured availability of ₹1,777.56 crore. Gujarat has been allocated ₹3,195 crore under 15th Finance Commission grants to PRIs and 50% of it is to be used mandatorily for water supply and sanitation.

In Odisha, ₹364.74 crore in 2012-20, ₹812.15 crore in 2020-21 and ₹3.3/3.42 crore in 2021-22 have been allocated as Central grant under JIM to make provision



Clean drinking water is a must for the people to have reduced burden of water-borne diseases and to have an improved life



Because water is not a commodity, it's a public good, quality drinking water is closely linked with human health, human development index and economy

— G MATHI VATHANAN, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, ODISHA



The urban and rural drinking water supply coverage in India has to be looked at holistically by the states

— ANSHUMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, WATER RESOURCES, TERI, NEW DELHI

pace up and achieve the mission targets well in time. The urban and rural drinking water supply coverage has to be looked at holistically by the states, though," says Anshuman of TERI.

As per the Jal Jeevan Mission's official data released, over 78 districts, 933 blocks, 57,179 gram panchayats and 1,141,012 villages across the country have assured tap water connections along with 75% government schools and 66% anganwadi centres.

Problem areas

The basic challenge in coping with the provision of safe drinking water would be to sustainably ensure efficient service delivery with adequate quantity. This means ensuring 24x7 access to safe drinking water of adequate quantity (for instance, 135 litre per capita per day (lpcd) to urban population and minimum 55 lpcd to rural population) and a leakage quality conforming to norms (BS: 10500, 2012).

For instance, the Delhi government has set a target of providing 24x7 water supply to every household by 2024, but supply is an issue. On an average, a household in Delhi gets around four hours of water supply per day and the Delhi Jal Board, the government agency responsible for supply of potable water to the National Capital Territory of

Delhi, supplies around 935 million gallons of water per day (MGD) against the demand of 1,140 MGD.

DJB now plans to discharge treated effluent of high quality at Palla along the Delhi-Haryana border and lift it at Wazirabad for further treatment. This will give an additional 95 MGD of water by December 2024, besides 50 MGD of water from Himachal Pradesh by December 2022. By October next year, the board will draw 25 MGD from the reservoirs created in the Yamuna floodplains to retain excess water in the monsoon season and around 200 MGD of groundwater will be extracted from areas with high water tables. Overall, Delhi will have 1,305 MGD of water available to meet the demand of its residents by March 2025, as per news reports.

Besides the historically known challenges in water supply and distribution such as high leakages/losses, high non-revenue water (NRW), inequity in distribution, poor operation and maintenance, among others, there is a need to engage with local communities.

Another challenge is to convince people to drink from taps, which in turn will let go of the system of water storage in vessels, drums, overhead tanks, since these have a high risk of contamination. "While one city in each state (or maybe a part of it) could actually move towards this possible goal, for the system at large to go towards it is really difficult at present. If the water is indeed pure to drink, after that it is a matter of developing trust in people," says Krishnan of INREM Foundation.

Water conservation measures like rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge, repair of traditional water bodies, desilting of ponds and lakes, watershed development, afforestation, etc, are vital for increasing the groundwater availability, which will help in achieving water security in villages.

Anshuman of TERI feels a majority of the Indian population has continually faced challenges in accessing drinking water of adequate quantity and quality, historically, inequitable access, inadequate supply, unreliable supply timings compounded with water quality issues from time to time have rendered people to rely less on the traditional water supply. "A majority of the population, especially in urban setup, relies on individual household drinking water treatment units. The situation is less of a choice in rural setups where communities have to depend on public handpumps, stand-posts, borewells, etc, for their drinking water needs. This situation must change, and India should head towards achieving a reliable and safe source of drinking water through taps within the households," adds Anshuman.

Many solutions to the existing challenges are taken state-wise. Problems like land acquisition in states can take time to start a project. Rural areas that have an existing water supply can require time-to-time analysis of tube wells, handpumps, or tap water for water quality and availability. "We ensure water treatment plants in such areas or surface water-based sources to treat water. If needed, we can install a capital-intensive sedimentation tank. But the idea is to push states on groundwater availability," says a government official associated with Jal Jeevan Mission.

For water scarcity areas in states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu coastal

belt, there is provision of bulk water transportation. "We have a solar-based water pumping system installed in Odisha, Jharkhand and Majuli in Assam. So, not all states have the same model. We take a broader approach," the official says.

While treatment is not a problem, standardising the practice as a process is important. Vathanan, the principal secretary of housing and urban development department in Odisha, says, "The quality of water is compromised not at the end route but from treatment plant to supply to the distribution plant. The network has to be fixed, keeping in mind the ferrule point, which mostly gets contaminated due to breakage or due to poor connection or supply. For this purpose, we have changed all leaky pipelines throughout the state."

Testing and analysis

Water pipeline is continuous and a considerable process. And in this process, the JIM has begun to empower citizens to monitor water quality. While groundwater contamination is a huge problem and has been the cause of severe public health risks, drinking water contamination due to geogenic (natural causes) and anthropogenic (human-made) activities has led to severe water-borne diseases in the past.

To combat the issue of poor water quality, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Jal Shakti Ministry has introduced Water Quality Management Information System (WQMS), a dedicated one-stop information portal which allows people to register, book and get their household water tested at the nearest government-affiliated laboratory by paying a nominal fee. The portal has received 4.9 lakh samples for water quality testing as of July this year.

The system has been trying its best to make water quality management not just for public health engineers but empower communities and women to monitor water quality at the community level using Field Test Kits (FTKs). "In rural areas, we are building the capacity of public health engineers by providing certain standards to the supply of water," says a senior government official.

Puri has launched 'Jalsathis', an all-women crew to facilitate new connections, field water quality testing, reading water meters, distributing water bills, collecting user charges and sensitising people on water conservation. Also, a chlorine dosing system with automated programmable logic controllers (PLCs) is installed to ensure appropriate water quality at the consumer end. "We have liberalised the connection process and exempted the documentation process which is a major hurdle in getting a connection," says Vathanan.

To tap polluted water and prevent its flow in the rivers and other freshwater bodies, Indore in Madhya Pradesh has worked in more than 7,000 outfalls of grey water. The city has claimed 'Water Plus' tag which is accorded to cities under the Swachh Survekshan survey on the basis of their performance. The administration has constructed seven sewerage water treatment plants and the city reuses about 110 million litres of treated water every day.

WHILE CITIES LIKE LONDON, NEW YORK AND SINGAPORE HAVE BEEN SUPPLYING QUALITY PIPED DRINKING WATER FOR A LONG TIME NOW, INDIA HAS IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY IN THE PAST FEW DECADES



The Statesman- 26- September-2021

'Put off river boards implementation'

Telangana wants to wait till sharing of river waters with Andhra Pradesh is finalised, writes to Centre

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 25 SEPTEMBER

Telangana has urged the Union ministry of water resources to postpone the implementation of the recent gazette notification issued by the ministry on the jurisdiction of Krishna and Godavari River Management Boards till the sharing of water between the two Telugu states gets finalised.

The state also wants the river management boards to have jurisdiction only on those projects which it shared with Andhra Pradesh and not on all the major and big irri-

gation projects across the two rivers.

The gazette notification issued by the water resources ministry featured in the discussion between Union minister Gajendra Singh Sekhawat and Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao during a meeting today.

The chief minister on his second visit to Delhi in less than a month had met the Union minister during his earlier visit as well.

More than seven years after the bifurcation of the erstwhile unified state of Andhra Pradesh and formation of Telangana the ministry had



finally issued the required notification in July this year bringing the various projects across rivers Krishna and Godavari in the two states under the respective boards which will henceforth have

complete control over the operations and maintenance of the common reservoirs shared between the two states.

The provisions of the notification which gave the two river boards complete control over 107 projects would be operational from 14 October.

Telangana was unhappy over the notification which was issued by the Centre after Andhra Pradesh moved Supreme Court to resolve the water sharing disputes between the two states.

The chief minister had complained in a public rally about the step motherly treat-

ment meted out to Telangana by the Centre and accused Andhra Pradesh of taking recourse to bullying. Telangana has been actively trying to stop AP government from going ahead with its Rayalseema Lift Irrigation Scheme and demanded equal sharing of waters from Krishna and Godavari rivers.

It has also lodged a complaint at the National Green Tribunal over this project of AP which aims to bring water to the parched region of Rayalseema. Mr Rao also urged the Union minister to give approval to Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Scheme.

Rajasthan Patrika- 26- September-2021

दूर हो रही पीने के पानी की दिक्कत

5 हजार से ज्यादा गांवों में घर-घर पहुंचा नल का पानी

लखनऊ @ पत्रिका. प्रदेश के गांवों में घर घर नल का पानी पहुंचाने का काम गांवों में तेजी से चल है। प्रदेश सरकार के दावों की मानें तो करीब 11 लाख से ज्यादा ग्रामीण परिवारों को अब पीने का पानी दूर से नहीं लाना होगा। पीने का शुद्ध पानी उन्हें उनके घरों में ही मिलना शुरू हो गया है।

नमामिगंगे, ग्रामीण पेयजल आपूर्ति विभाग ने राज्य के 5 हजार से ज्यादा गांवों के 1089844 घरों में जलापूर्ति शुरू कर दी है।

इन घरों में पानी के कनेक्शन कर दिए गए हैं। फिलहाल प्रदेश के 5 हजार गांवों में नल के जरिये पानी की आपूर्ति



की जा रही है। इसके साथ ही जल जीवन मिशन के तहत विभाग दिसंबर से बुंदेलखंड और विंध्य के हजारों गांवों को जलापूर्ति से जोड़ने की योजना को अंतिम रूप देने में जुटा है। राज्य सरकार ने 1906 योजनाओं के जरिये

65 जिलों के इन गांवों में जलापूर्ति शुरू की है। 2017 से शुरू हुई इन योजनाओं के जरिये कुल 1089844 घरों तक पानी की सप्लाई की जा रही है।

ऐसे इलाके भी सरकार की प्राथमिकता में हैं जहां दूषित पानी पीने के कारण लोग बीमार हो रहे थे। मुजफ्फरनगर में 92358, कुशीनगर में 78657, कन्नौज में 14553, गोरखपुर में 45363, देवरिया में 32865 और राज्य सरकार ने उन योजनाओं को भी दुरुस्त कर पानी की सप्लाई शुरू की है जो पिछली सरकारों में अधूरी रह गई थी।

Dainik Bhaskar- 26- September-2021

विश्व नदी दिवस विशेष

फसलों की सिंचाई के लिए नहरों में गया नदियों का पानी, नदी अब बारिश के ही भरोसे, नालों जैसे दायरे में बह रही

लुप्त हो रही नदियां; खनन और इंडस्ट्री की गंदगी से बिगड़ रही यमुना की धार, ऐसा ही रहा तो सरस्वती की तरह खोजने का संघर्ष करना होगा

भास्कर न्यूज | पानीपत

हरियाणा में 8 प्रमुख नदियां यमुना, घग्गर, टांगरी, मारकंडा, सरस्वती, साहिबी, दोहान और कृष्णावती नदी हैं। लेकिन ज्यादातर पहले ही लुप्त हो चुकी हैं। बाकी भी धीरे-धीरे बरसाती नदी बन गई हैं या फिर नालों के रूप में रह गई हैं। इसका बड़ा कारण सिंचाई के लिए नदियों का पानी नहरों में शिफ्ट होना है। एकमात्र ठीक बची यमुना भी दिल्ली से जल विवाद, खनन और इंडस्ट्री के गंदे पानी से धीरे-धीरे कम होती जा रही है। नदी के लिए न्यूनतम 1800 क्यूसिक पानी तो दूर गर्मी में पक्षियों के लिए भी पानी नहीं बचता। एनजीटी के दबाव में 350 क्यूसिक पानी छोड़ते हैं, जो खनन के गड्ढों में ही रह जाता है। वहीं, फैक्ट्रियों का गंदा पानी भी इसी में आ रहा है। ऐसा ही रहा तो एक दिन यमुना को भी सरस्वती नदी की तरह खोजने का संघर्ष करना पड़ेगा। सरस्वती के लिए 450 करोड़ का प्लान बनाना पड़ा है।

बिगड़ता स्वरूप: पानी नहरों में शिफ्ट, नदी में नालों की गंदगी बह रही 1500 नहरों में बंटी नदियां

हरियाणा में 14010.62 किमी लंबी छोटी-बड़ी करीब 1500 नहरें हैं। नहरों के पानी से अपनी और दिल्ली की करीब 24 लाख हेक्टेयर भूमि में सिंचाई कर रहा है। जब हरियाणा बना, तब के मुकाबले यह 68.73 % ज्यादा है।

फैक्ट्रियों से पवित्रता भंग

एनजीटी के अनुसार, यमुना में करनाल, पानीपत और सोनीपत की फैक्ट्रियों का गंदा पानी 38 बड़े नालों से जा रहा है। जिससे इसका पानी खराब हो रहा है। यह न तो पीने लायक रहता और न ही किसी अन्य प्रयोग में लेने का रहता है। इन नालों से इसकी पवित्रता भंग हो रही है।



पानीपत | यमुना नदी के पानी में फैक्ट्रियों का गंदा पानी नालों से जाकर मिलता हुआ।

सरकार की आंखों का पानी सूखने से नदियां भी सूखी

वाटरमैन राजेन्द्र सिंह के अनुसार, नदी केवल पहाड़ों से कम पानी आने से नहीं सूखती। सरकार की आंखों का पानी सूख गया है, इसलिए नदी लुप्त होने की स्थिति में है। हर नदी के 3 अधिकार होते हैं- जमीन, पानी और निर्मलता। तीनों ही अधिकार नहीं मिल रहे। एक नदी को फलों के लिए 1800 क्यूसेक पानी चाहिए, जो नहीं मिलता। अवैध खनन करने वालों ने यमुना को खोद दिया है, जिससे पानी मध्य में ही रह जाता है। नदियों में पानी न होने से इको सिस्टम भी प्रभावित हो रहा है।

