

The Times of India- 28- November-2022

Project to turn Ganga floodwater potable launched

Rajgir/Patna: Bihar CM Nitish Kumar on Sunday inaugurated the Ganga Jal Aapurti Yojana at Rajgir, calling the water supply scheme “path breaking, a marvel of engineering and the outcome of a Himalayan resolve of the state government”, report **Farrukh Nadim & Madan Kumar**.

The first phase of the scheme will ensure uninterrupted drinking water sup-

ply to Rajgir, Bodh Gaya and Gaya towns. Nawada is in the second phase of the project.

“It is one of the most gratifying days of my life as I see my dream of Har Ghar Ganga

BIHAR SCHEME

Jal becoming a reality with this first-of-its-kind project completed in record time,” said Nitish, adding that the project was necessitated be-

cause of groundwater depletion in the affected areas. He warned people against the use of groundwater any more.

As per the scheme, floodwater from the Ganga will be drawn and transported in a special pipeline for 151 km, stored in huge reservoirs, treated in state-of-the-art water treatment plant and then supplied as potable water to households and institutions in these cities.

Nitish said 135 litres of Ganga water per person per day would be supplied to each household in Rajgir. On Monday, the Bodh Gaya and Gaya plants would be inaugurated. The Ganga water is drawn from Hathidah in Patna district. “Nitish is a global visionary and thinks ahead of time. Clean water has always been CM’s priority,” said water resources department minister Sanjay Kumar Jha.

Millennium Post- 28- November-2022

Man's resolve to recharge groundwater pays off

3,500 water bodies dug in 7 months

DEHRADUN: In May, Dwarika Prasad Semwal started going door to door in Chamkot village in Uttarakhand, convincing people to dig pits near their homes to store rainwater.

Seven months on, his perseverance has paid off.

A total of 3,500 water bodies have come up over an area of 3 sqm in the village as a result of Semwal's persistent efforts.

However, involving people in the campaign called 'Kal Ke Liye Jal' (Water for tomorrow) was not easy.

"They seemed attentive as I urged them to make a small but significant contribution to save water, recharge the receding water table underground and offer birds and animals a means to quench thirst by digging ponds.



Dwarika Prasad Semwal promoting rainwater conservation in Chamkot village of U'khand PTI

"But the response initially was rather lukewarm. It got me thinking what I could do to lure them to the campaign in larger numbers," said Semwal, who also heads the Himalayan Paryavaran Jadibooti Agro Sansthan.

Soon an idea dawned upon him. Semwal began asking people to dig water bodies in memory of a near and dear one or to mark an important occasion in the family like a marriage anniversary or a birthday. AGENCIES

Hindustan Times- 28- November-2022

Nitish inaugurates Ganga water supply project for southern Bihar

Arun Kumar

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PATNA: Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday inaugurated a scheme in Nalanda district, under which, flood waters will be treated for supply to households in the southern parts of the state.

After the inauguration of the Ganga Water Supply Scheme (GWSS) in Rajgir, he said the project has been developed keeping in view the requirements in the four towns of southern Bihar region for the next 50 years.

A total of 135 litres per person will be provided through the project, he added.

"It should be enough. Seeing the impact of this project, I will also plan something on similar



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar at the launch of the GWSS at Rajgir, in Nalanda on Sunday. ANI

lines for Patna also, which is situated on the banks of the Ganga. In a few months, Ganga water will also reach Nawada. All the four South Bihar towns will use Ganga water during the flood season and store it to tackle drinking water woes in the region," he added.

He said that the project had

been envisaged as part of the "Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali" project in 2020 in view of the water woes in the region.

"This project will also help in ground water recharge for agriculture...." he added.

The state's water resources minister, Sanjay Kumar Jha, said that floodwaters will be lifted through pumps at Hathidah and transported through a 151-kilometre pipeline to three enormous reservoirs in Rajgir, Tatar, and Gaya. From there the water will travel to two treatment plants, where it is treated and transported to the cities.

"Three South Bihar cities of Rajgir, Gaya, and Bodh Gaya are experiencing water shortage due to excessive groundwater extraction..." he said.

The Indian Express- 28- November-2022

Bihar's Har Ghar Gangajal scheme for Rajgir, Gaya regions

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, NOVEMBER 27

BIHAR CHIEF Minister Nitish Kumar Sunday launched the first phase of the Har Ghar Gangajal project, an ambitious initiative to provide Ganga water on tap in parched areas of the state.

The scheme will harvest the excess water in the Ganga during the monsoon flooding season, to be treated, stored, and piped to Rajgir, Gaya, and Bodhgaya.

Har Ghar Gangajal scheme

Har Ghar Gangajal is part of the Bihar government's Jal, Jeevan, Hariyali scheme. In the Rs 4,000-crore first phase of the project, giant pumps will lift Ganga water from Hathidah near Mokama and supply it to about 7.5 lakh homes in the state's main tourism destinations of Rajgir, Bodhgaya, and Gaya.

The water will be stored in reservoirs in Rajgir and Gaya before being channelled to

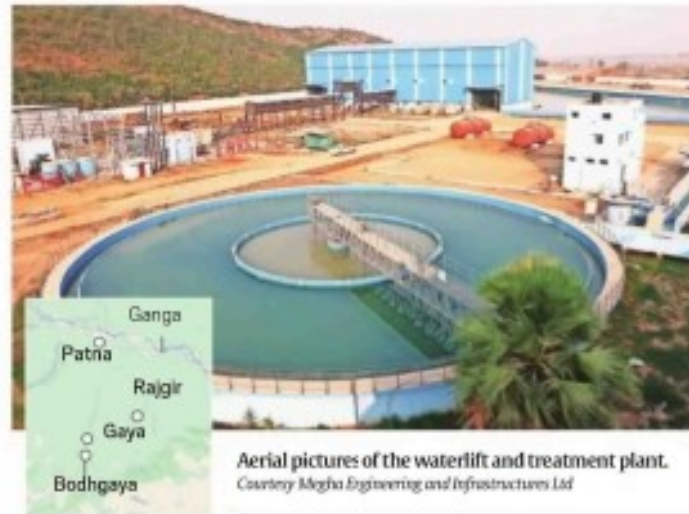
three treatment-and-purification plants, from where it will be supplied to the public. The water will travel more than 150 km through pipes from Hathidah.

According to government estimates, the scheme will provide every beneficiary with 135 litres — about two large buckets — of Ganga water every day for drinking and domestic use. During the second phase of the project, Ganga water will be taken to Nawada.

The need for the scheme

The area around Rajgir (in Nalanda district), which was the nucleus of the ancient kingdom of Magadh and is associated with the founders of both Buddhism and Jainism, is rocky and water-deficient. Over the years, unplanned use of groundwater has depleted subterranean reservoirs, lowered the water table, and affected the quality of the water.

The bulk of the urban water supply continues to be through tube wells. A study by the Bihar Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) showed the average



Aerial pictures of the waterlift and treatment plant.
Courtesy Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd

groundwater level in Gaya district had plunged from 30.30 feet in July 2021 to 41.50 feet in July 2022. Data from the Central Ground Water Board's Year Book for Bihar show the water table in Gaya and Rajgir fell by between 2 and 4 metres between 2014-15 and 2020-21.

Handpumps have been going dry at many places in the region. The district administrations of Nalanda and Gaya have been arranging for water tankers to supply drinking water in the town areas as the scarcity becomes acute in the summer.

Projected twin benefits

The government expects the Har Ghar Gangajal scheme to also help alleviate distress from the annual flooding of the Ganga. Over the years, heavy silting in the riverbed — affecting especially Mokama, Hathidah, Barh, and Lakhisarai — and the release of water from dams in Nepal have resulted in the Ganga spilling over even when the monsoon rainfall over Bihar has not been exception-

ally heavy. The government has assured that the water for the scheme would be lifted only during the four months of the monsoon when the Ganga has excess water.

Working of the system

The project has been described as a "lift-store-tame-treat-supply" system. Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) has been working on the project since 2019, employing about 2,200 people and high-end technology.

A 447-metre approach channel has been constructed in Hathidah on the right bank of the Ganga near the Rajendra Bridge, through which water is taken to an intake-well-cum-pumphouse, which is powered by a dedicated electricity substation with a 7500 KVA transformer, and two smaller 250 KVA transformers.

State-of-the-art online filters have been installed near the intake well to ensure silt-free water enters the pump and pipeline, and there is no erosion in the riverbed.

The Morning Standard- 28- November-2022

Krishna river row: Telangana decides to move SC

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THE State government has decided to approach the Supreme Court over the 'inordinate delay' by the Union government in referring the Krishna river water-sharing issue between the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to a tribunal.

On Sunday, sources with the Irrigation department told this newspaper, "Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has given the in-principle nod for filing the case in the apex court. The draft is ready. We are currently vetting the draft and taking legal opinions. We will move the

EIGHT YEARS ON...

July 2014: Telangana writes to Centre on the Krishna water-sharing issue

2015: Telangana files case in Supreme Court with a request to refer the matter to a Tribunal

October 2020: Jal Shakti

Minister requests Telangana to withdraw the case and assures that the Centre will refer the matter to the Tribunal

October 2021: Telangana withdraws the case

■ The Centre is yet to refer the matter

November 2022: Telangana decides to approach the apex court again

Supreme Court shortly."

While Section 3 of the Interstate River Water Disputes (IRWD) Act, 1956, gives the

State government the right to request the Union government to refer the water dispute to a Tribunal for adjudication, the

matter has reportedly been pending for over two years. "(The act of) not referring the matter to a Tribunal, even after being assured by the Centre two years ago, is nothing but political vengeance," a senior official said.

A team of irrigation officials, led by Special Chief Secretary (Irrigation) Rajat Kumar, will be in New Delhi on November 29 to attend the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting of the Central Water Commission (CWC). They are likely to discuss the detailed reports of the Chinna Kaleshwaram, Choutpally Hanumanth Reddy and Chanaka-Korata projects.

The Telegraph- 28- November-2022

Focus on Teesta irrigation canals

AVIJIT SINHA

Siliguri: The Mamata Banerjee government has recast its focus on the 46-year-old Teesta Barrage Project — the largest irrigation project in north Bengal — and has taken up the task of finishing some prominent distribution canals which can take water to hundreds of hectares of farmland.

The move is being seen as the Trinamul Congress's strategy ahead of next year's panchayat elections.

On one hand, the party intends to prove its sincerity to farmers who have time and again demanded the completion of the project.

On the other hand, Trinamul wants to counter the BJP which has often questioned the chief minister's stand that has halted the signing of the proposed treaty with Bangladesh to share the Teesta's waters.

Irrigation minister Partha Bhowmik announced in Jalpaiguri on Saturday that the government would start the

construction of two irrigation canals on the left bank of the Teesta which will eventually connect to the Jaldhaka that flows on the east of the Teesta. This will be funded by the state government. However, the cost estimation is yet to be made.

"We will start the work in January. The work had got delayed over land hurdles, but eventually, we have the land required for these canals. Once the canals are ready,

around 1,600 hectares of agricultural land in Maynaguri block and 1,960 hectares in Kranti block of Jalpaiguri district will be irrigated," said Bhowmik.

The Teesta Barrage Project was initiated in 1976 with a cost estimate of around Rs 70 crore. There was a plan to provide water to around 9.22 lakh hectares across north Bengal.

Till now, irrigation facilities could be given only to around 1.16 lakh acres.

In 2009, the Centre announced the Teesta as a national project with an estimated project cost of Rs 3,000 crore.

However, in the past 10 years, the state government has time and again said that the Centre is not giving funds for the project. No major work like canal network extension was taken up during this period.

Navbharat Times- 28- November-2022

बिहार में बाढ़ का पानी पीने के काम आएगा, गंगा से हुई शुरुआत

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■ **राजगीर:** बिहार में बाढ़ के पानी का अब पेयजल के तौर पर इस्तेमाल होगा। खास बात यह है कि शुरुआत गंगा के पानी से हुई है। देश में अपनी तरह की यह पहली पेयजल परियोजना बताई गई है। राज्य में बाढ़ के कारण होने वाला पलायन अरसे से मुद्दा बनता रहा है।

बिहार में बाढ़ के पानी को जमा करने के बाद उसे साफ करके घर घर पेयजल पहुंचाने की योजना 2019 में बनी। इसके तुरंत बाद कोविड महामारी आ गई। हैदराबाद को कंपनी मेधा इंजीनियरिंग एंड इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर लिमिटेड ने इसे चुनौती की तरह देखा और प्रोजेक्ट पर काम जारी रखा।

परियोजना के पहले चरण को तीन साल के भीतर पूरा कर लिया गया है।



रविवार को बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार ने गंगाजल आपूर्ति योजना के पहले चरण का उद्घाटन प्रसिद्ध पर्यटन स्थल राजगीर में किया।

खास बात यह है कि प्रोजेक्ट सबसे पहले तीन लोकप्रिय पर्यटन स्थलों राजगीर, गया और बोधगया के लिए शुरू किया गया। इन जगहों को सामूहिक रूप से 'बौद्ध सर्किट' के रूप में जाना जाता है। दक्षिण बिहार के ये तीन शहर फिलहाल बोरवेल के माध्यम से अत्यधिक भूजल

यह है योजना

- बाढ़ के पानी को पंपों के माध्यम से उठाया जाएगा। इसे पाइपलाइन के माध्यम से विशाल जलाशयों तक पहुंचाया जाएगा।
- जलाशयों से पानी उन संयंत्रों में जाएगा, जहां इसका ट्रीटमेंट किया जाता है। फिर इसका घर घर वितरण किया जाएगा।

निकासी के कारण पानी की कमी का सामना कर रहे हैं। अब गंगा जल से इन तीन शहरों के करीब सात लाख घरों को फायदा होगा। अगले साल एक और शहर नवादा में भी इस प्रोजेक्ट के तहत पानी सप्लाई होगी। गंगाजल आपूर्ति योजना को 2051 तक की आबादी को ध्यान में रखकर तैयार किया गया है।