

The Hindu- 28- November-2023

NGT bans desilting work at Bisalpur dam in Rajasthan

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has banned desilting and dredging activities in Rajasthan's Bisalpur dam, saying it had been started recently through a sand mining tender without obtaining prior environmental clearance. The NGT's Central Zone Bench has held that the award of the contract involved keeping a watch on the quantity of silt and there was a conscious decision for sharing benefit from extraction by requiring the contractor to pay a substantial amount to the tenderer, the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project Corporation. In its 90-page judgment delivered last week, the NGT has restrained the corporation and the firm from proceeding with desilting unless the contractor obtained environmental clearance. The Bench also directed the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board to take appropriate action against the defaulters if the tribunal's directions and the environmental laws were not complied with.



I/154450/2023

The Hindu- 28- November-2023

Veeramuthuvel says ISRO chose to land Chandrayaan at south pole for water molecules

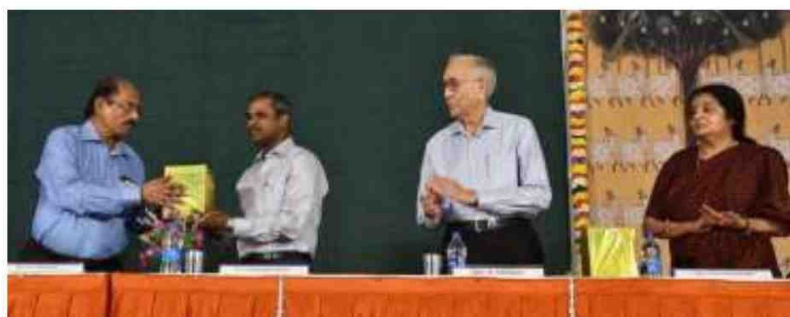
The Hindu Bureau

MADURAI

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chose to land Chandrayaan in the south pole of the moon because of the availability of more resources for fuel, Chandrayaan-3 Project Director P. Veeramuthuvel said here on Monday.

He was delivering the sixth memorial lecture of Manikam Ramaswami at Thiagarajar School of Management. During an interaction with students, Mr. Veeramuthuvel said India had a road map for its space programmes till 2047. The ISRO wanted to set up its space station by 2035. The water molecules could be used as a resource for fuel and the organisation could make the best use of the moon's escape velocity of 2.38 km per second to reach other planets, making the moon a gateway.

Stating that all planet explorations were for looking



P. Veeramuthuvel, Project Director of Chandrayaan-3, being honoured at an event in Madurai on Monday. N. Murali, Director, The Hindu Group, and Valli Ramaswami are seen. G. MOORTHY

for new resources, he said if Helium-3 was tapped, it could help future generations in producing power.

"Lunar 25 was targeting closer to the point targeted by the ISRO and all future missions are targeted towards the pole," he added.

India chose to land at the South Pole in the first time due to the availability of more resources.

"Since it was a second attempt, failure was not an option. The only agenda we had was to have a soft landing, so everything was led towards that," he said.

Chandrayaan-3 had shown that one should not

view failure as a setback, but as a lesson from which one could learn and come back stronger, he added.

Earlier, The Hindu Group of Publications Director N. Murali, also a member of the TSM Board of Governors, showered encomiums on Manikam Ramaswami. Stating that Ramaswami was his neighbour in Chennai, Mr. Murali said he was a strict disciplinarian and a well-rounded individual.

"He was not for only making profits, but was for sustainable development and inclusive growth," Mr. Murali said.

Millennium Post- 28- November-2023

IIPA TO STUDY SOCIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED WASTE WTP PROJECT

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government has assigned the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) a study for assessing the social impact of a proposed waste water treatment plant project at Tajpur Khurd village here, officials said on Monday. Earlier this month, the land and building department in a notification had stated that the lieutenant governor intends to acquire 19.14 bighas (around four acres) of land at the village in South West Delhi for constructing the treatment plant for the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). The IIPA has been assigned as the social impact assessment unit to carry out the social impact assessment study in relation to the proposed land acquisition, the notification said. The assessment will involve consultation with stakeholders and public, survey and public hearing, the officials said and added that the assessment report and social impact plan would be prepared in a six months period. The IIPA has also been assigned a social impact study related to the proposed acquisition of 9.12 bighas of land at Sabhapur Shahdara village for construction of the Sonia Vihar police station. The land acquisition for both the projects will take place after the social impact studies are completed and reports are in the public domain through websites as well as leaflets, posters and public hearings in affected areas, the officials said.

I/154450/2023

The Morning Standard- 28- November-2023

Gujarat failed to utilise funds marked for Kalpsar sweet water project

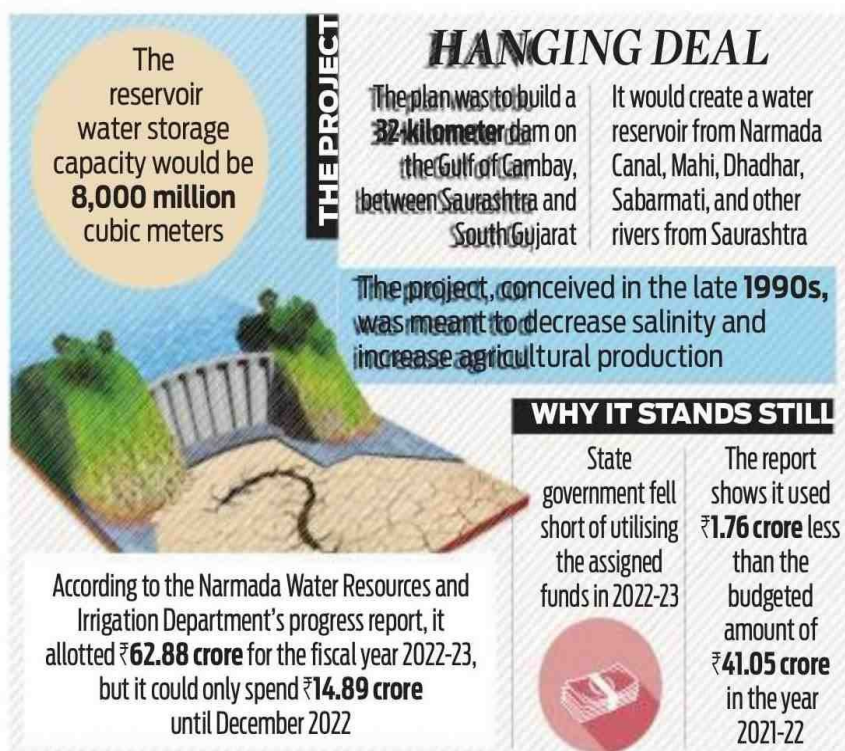
DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA

@ Ahmedabad

THE Gujarat government had hoped to build the Kalpsar dam on the Gulf Cambay to create a sweet water reservoir. The project was conceived in the late 1990s, but it has yet to take off; in the most recent fiscal year 2022-23, the state government fell short of utilizing the assigned funds for the project.

According to the Narmada Water Resources and Irrigation Department's progress report, it allotted ₹62.88 crore for the fiscal year 2022-23, but it could only spend ₹14.89 crore until December 2022.

According to this report in the year 2021-22, it used ₹1.76 crore less the budgeted amount of ₹41.05 crore. It also states that planning of the command area and water distribution network is going on. The original plan of the project was to build a 32 32-kilometer dam on the Gulf of Cambay, between Saurashtra and South Gujarat. which will create a sweet water reservoir from the water of the Narmada



Canal, Mahi, Dhadhar, Sabarmati, and other rivers from Saurashtra. The primary estimate is that the said reservoir water storage capacity would be 8,000 million cubic meters.

The said water reservoir, planning to provide 45,000 million cubic meters of water for irrigation, addressing the need

for 10 lakh hectares of land along the sea coast of 37 Taluka of nine districts, according to the progress report. The remaining water will be supplied for drinking, commercial, and industrial usage.

It is expected to decrease salinity in the area and increase agricultural production.

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Business Standard- 28- November-2023

Maharashtra's farmers thirst for a trickle of hope amid water crisis

AJINKYA KAWALE

Pune, 27 November

After a laborious day on the farm, Bhagwannathu Bhagat was on his way back home to Rajuri village in Purandar tehsil last year when he met with an accident that paralysed him due to a spinal injury. The mishap rendered him unemployable as he lost strength in his limbs.

Bhagat, who used to earn ₹200 per day, has been confined to a hastily assembled makeshift tent outside his home for the past 12

months. His mobility has been impaired, and he is unable to walk, climb stairs, or even lift himself.

As a result, his brother Kundalik Bhagat finds himself in a tight spot.

"If it had rained this year, I could have harvested some produce and spent the money getting my brother some serious medical attention. I could have got him a wheelchair. The lack of rain has prevented me from sowing anything this year, and I will end up earning negligible cash this season," Kundalik, 54, said.



While crops are wilting in the fields of Rohilgad in Jalna district, wells and borewells have already run out of water in Pune's Purandar taluka PHOTOS: AJINKYA KAWALE

Kundalik is among thousands of farmers in drought-hit regions of Maharashtra who are walking a tightrope due to insufficient water supply. The state government declared a drought across 40 tehsils in 15 districts earlier this month following a 13 per cent

rainfall deficit in the state.

A poor monsoon in the state has desiccated the aforementioned regions as early as five months before the onset of summer, sparking serious concerns about access to drinking water and agriculture.

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Water crisis...

Thirst, unquenched

Currently, numerous individuals across villages in the state are squarely dependent on external sources of water, such as tankers, to quench their drinking water needs.

"The village panchayat has arranged for a minimum of four to five water tankers every day, fulfilling our everyday drinking demands. This isn't something that started yesterday or even a month ago," said Balasaheb Bhagat, a resident of Rajuri village in Purandar tehsil.

Parts of Marathwada, which includes eight districts — Beed, Hingoli, Jalna, Latur, Nanded, Dharashiv (formerly Osmanabad), Parbhani, and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (erstwhile Aurangabad) — are facing a similar challenge. In Jalna's Adul village, residents are paying for their daily drinking water needs, and these costs are adding up. "Even when it comes to our drinking needs, we rush to a nearby water-filtering facility. It costs us anywhere between ₹10 to ₹20 to fill up a vessel of around 15 litres," said Gorakhnath Bhavle, 65, a resident of Adul village.

Villages like Adul and Rohilgad in Jalna have witnessed an irregular supply of water in the past few months. These settlements get their drinking water supply either once every 15 days or once a month. "We have to endure this water crisis for another eight months before the next monsoon season kicks in. We have given up on farming this year as our wells and borewells have dried up," said Bhagwandas

Patil (name changed on request), a Rohilgad-based farmer.

As a last-minute effort, gram panchayats are chalking out plans to ensure drinking water is available to village residents for at least another month.

"We have connected nine wells and are trying to quench the demand for 200,000 litres of water per day for Rohilgad. Currently, we get drinking water on tap twice a month," said Shamsundar Patil, the village *sarpanch*.

Parched farmlands

Farmers and village residents *Business Standard* spoke to said they were no longer focusing on harvesting a crop this season due to the lack of water in their fields. "This year, I am barely harvesting just one to two quintals of cotton as opposed to 7 quintals per acre," said Dadasaheb Magar, a resident of drought-hit Rohilgad village.

Bharat Takle of the same village had hopes of harvesting a bumper *toor* (pigeon pea) crop this season. However, he points out his crop has stunted growth this year. "Just a few days earlier, I bought some water via tankers to moisturise the land, and I am not doing it to save the crop. The *toor* is dead. I'm trying to ensure it can at least be converted into some green fodder for my cows," Takle said.

Farmers like Takle have resorted to buying water from adjoining villages. He adds that dampening an acre of land may take around three to four tankers with a capacity of 5,000 litres each. One tanker can cost anywhere between ₹800 and ₹1,300 to the farmer.

Others who cannot afford to

buy water have resorted to chopping down their orchards to cut down on their expenses.

"I have around 600 lime trees on my farm, of which I have begun chopping down close to 300 lime trees. Unless the earth has some water in her belly, a farmer cannot afford agriculture here," Bhavle said.

Others in Rohilgad, including Patil, have decided to remove over 900 sweet lime trees on their field, incurring hefty losses. "If things would have been hunky-dory, I would have earned ₹15 lakh from sweet lime alone. The annual revenue from my 14-acre farm has fallen to a mere ₹2 lakh."

Meanwhile, others having a large number of sweet lime trees have tried to look out for alternative sources of water beyond just their fields. As opposed to comparatively smaller farmers, Rajendra Wagh has around 9,000 sweet lime trees planted across his 60-acre plot. Wagh explains that, on average, a sweet lime tree may take up to five years to bear fruit. Wagh's farm has as many as seven wells and around 20 borewells. However, of these, only one well and one borewell have some water. He is now dependent on the farm ponds that he has constructed on his field.

Farmers like Wagh suggest they avoid noting down any expenses incurred during such tough months.

Thirsty cattle at risk

As villages in the state get deprived of water, cattle are among the worst hit. Some of these cattle are at risk of death due to water shortage. As a

result, farmers consider selling them off, at whatever price they get, to ensure their animals don't suffer such a fate.

"Today, while agriculture is out of the question, fodder for cattle has become expensive, and our cows remain parched. I have 15 cows now; last year, that number was close to 30. By June next year, I may sell another six or seven cows if the situation continues to be grim," Bhagat said.

Others like Bhagat have a similar story. Takle sold a pair of bulls this year at a loss as he couldn't afford to keep them alive. "I have already sold a pair of bulls this year. I bought them for ₹48,000 and sold them for a loss of ₹24,000. There's no other option than selling them if you are doubtful about their survival," he said.

Some suggest that farmers have to be extra-cautious during months when the water crisis intensifies. Cows, buffaloes, and bulls alike are prone to getting abducted as people try to earn an extra buck, farmers said. "One of the bulls in a friend's barn was tranquilised and stuffed into a pick-up truck to be sold at the district markets," said Ram Dudhate, who sold his cows.

Gender matters

The impact of a water shortage has a cascading effect on women across villages. Women, who wish to contribute financially towards their families, are confined to their homes as they are tasked with duties such as stocking up water and ensuring the cattle are well-fed.

"I have to look after our cows and constantly check if they are

well-fed and have enough water to drink. If it had rained this year, I would have worked on the farm and harvested the produce. But now, I am confined to the house and cannot earn," Swapnali Bhagat of Rajuri village complained.

A single Savitribai in her seventies, who lost mobility in one of her legs when a cow kicked her, is facing a similar challenge. "I am dependent on my brother now. We sold some cows because we could not afford to buy water for them. My sustenance is only dependent on two goats," a teary-eyed Savitribai said.

I/154450/2023

Yugmarg- 28- November-2023

205 piezometers will be installed across the state to check ground water level

SANJAY AGGARWAL

DHARAMSHALA: 205 piezometers will be installed across the state to check ground water level. These piezometers will be installed through outsource by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Dharamshala. Piezometer works to measure ground water pressure. At present, CGWB monitors the ground water level of the entire state through rigs in Kangra and Kala Amb. Along with the installation of 205 piezometers, the same number of Digital Ground Water Level Recorders (DWLR) will also be installed. Piezometers are geotechnical sensors used to measure pore water pressure (piezometric level) in the ground. It is designed to measure pore water pressure in soil, soil/rock fill, foundations and concrete structures. Digital Ground Water Level Recorder (DWLR) is an automatic water level recorder, after its installation, experts do not need to go to the field to check the ground water level. Experts can monitor the ground water level by meeting in the office. Through DWLR, water monitoring can be done twice a day without going to the spot and readings can be taken through computer in the morning and evening. Earlier, experts from Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) Dharamshala had to personally go to the identified places and check the ground water level, which resulted in wastage of time. CGWB has installed more than 400 tube wells across the state to check the ground water level. To know the level of ground water, CGWB installs tube wells and pumps tests on the places where water is found. After obtaining information about ground water through tube wells, the tube wells are handed over to the Jal Shakti Department for the use of the general public. So far, CGWB has built around 400 tube wells and handed them over to the Jal Shakti Department. In Himachal Pradesh, 205 piezometers will be installed across the state, this is also a type of tube well, these piezometers will be outsourced.

Himachal Pradesh- 28- November-2023

जल जीवन मिशन की प्रोग्रेस से केंद्रीय टीम खुश

तीन दिवसीय दौरे के बाद वापस लौटे अफसर, काम में तेजी लाने के दिए निर्देश

विशेष संवाददाता ■ शिमला

जल जीवन मिशन के तहत हिमाचल प्रदेश ने दूसरे राज्यों से बेहतर काम किया है। हिमाचल को इसी वजह से दो दफा इंसेंटिव भी केंद्र सरकार की तरफ से मिल चुके हैं। वर्तमान में काम किस गति से चल रहा है इसे जांचने के लिए केंद्र से टीम आई थी जिसने यहां फील्ड में जाकर फीडबैक लिया है। केंद्र से तीन दिवसीय दौरे पर आई टीम वापस लौट गई है। यहां अपने दौरे के दौरान टीम के सदस्यों ने किन्नौर में वाइब्रेंट विलेज का दौरा कर यहां पर जल जीवन मिशन के कार्यों की प्रोग्रेस को जांचा और लोगों से योजना की फीडबैक ली। लोगों से मिली फीडबैक के आधार पर जल जीवन मिशन के अधिकारियों ने विभाग के अधिकारियों को काम में तेजी लाने के निर्देश जारी किए। दिल्ली जाने से पहले टीम के सदस्यों ने शिमला में विभाग के अधिकारियों के साथ समीक्षा बैठक की। इस दौरान अधिकारियों को जहां मिशन के तहत किए जा रहे कार्यों में तेजी लाने को कहा गया वहीं लोगों को जल की उपयोगिता के महत्व के बारे

■ टीम के सदस्यों ने किन्नौर में वाइब्रेंट विलेज का दौरा कर लोगों से योजना की फीडबैक ली



लोगों को 24 घंटे शुद्ध पानी देना सुनिश्चित करें अधिकारी

लोगों से मिली फीडबैक के आधार पर अधिकारियों को यह भी सुनिश्चित करने को कहा कि वह लोगों को 24 घंटे शुद्ध पानी देना सुनिश्चित करें। इसके अलावा उन्होंने हर घर को नल से जल योजना से जोड़ने के अपने लक्ष्य को समयबद्ध तरीके से पूरा करने के निर्देश भी जारी किए हैं। दावा किया जा रहा है कि प्रदेश में 17.08 लाख ग्रामीण परिवारों को विभाग ने शतप्रतिशत नल से जल सुविधा से जोड़ दिया है। अब योजना के तहत स्कीमों के रखरखाव पर काम किया जा रहा है।

केंद्र से जल जीवन मिशन की टीम प्रदेश के तीन दिवसीय दौरे पर आई थी। टीम प्रदेश की प्रोग्रेस को देख कर संतुष्ट रही। टीम ने योजना के कार्य में तेजी लाने और लोगों को शत-प्रतिशत शुद्ध जल मुहैया करवाने को कहा है।

- अंजु शर्मा, मुख्य अभियंता, जल शक्ति विभाग।

में जागरूकता लाने की भी बात कही गई। इसके अलावा टीम ने अधिकारियों को अपना नेटवर्क बढ़ाने को कहा ताकि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों तक लोगों को इस योजना का लाभ मिल सके। यहां बता दें कि यह योजना मार्च 2024 में समाप्त हो रही है, इसलिए केंद्र चाह रहा है कि योजना के समाप्त होने से पहले

ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोग इस योजना का लाभ पा सकें। इसके लिए अधिकारियों को योजना के प्रति जागरूकता बढ़ाने को कहा गया है। टीम प्रदेश में मिशन के तहत किए गए कार्यों से भी काफी संतुष्ट दिखी और अन्य राज्यों के मुकाबले यहां पर किए गए कार्यों को भी टीम ने काफी सराहा।