

Hindustan Times - 03- January-2023

Will lead Goa delegation to Delhi on Mahadayi issue: CM

Gerard de Souza

gerard.desouza@htlive.com

PANAJI: Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant on Monday said he will soon lead a delegation of state leaders to New Delhi and urge the Union government to withdraw its approval granted to Karnataka for detailed project reports (DPRs) of two dams on Mahadayi River.

The distribution of the Mahadayi River water has remained a major dispute between Goa and Karnataka for years, with the former opposing the Centre's decision to allow diversion of 3.9 tmc (thousand million cubic metre) water from Kalasa and Banduri streams that feed the west-flowing Mahadayi in the upper reaches of Western Ghats.

On Monday, Sawant chaired a special cabinet meeting to draw up a "strategy" to counter the Centre's clearance to Karnataka for DPRs of two dams on Mahadayi (spelt Mhadei in Goa).

"The Goa government will not compromise on the Mahadayi river issue," Sawant told reporters after the cabinet meeting. "The construction of dams at Kalsa and Bhandura will affect drinking water requirement of the people living in North Goa district."



Goa CM Pramod Sawant

Later in the day, Sawant also called an all-party meeting, but the opposition parties—including the Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party, the Goa Forward Party and the Revolutionary Goans Party—boycotted it, accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led state government of "sacrificing Goa's interests" in favour of the party's electoral prospects in neighbouring Karnataka, which will go to assembly polls in a few months. The opposition parties also accused the chief minister of drawing up the state's strategy without seeking their inputs.

"The opposition should not create issues for the sake of opposition. Everyone should be united as Mahadayi is a lifeline for us," Sawant said. "I reiterate, Mahadayi is like a mother to me."

The chief minister said the cabinet has decided to lead an all-party delegation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah and Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat to express opposition to the approval granted for dam DPRs.

"Even though the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal has awarded Karnataka 3.9 tmc to divert to the Malaprabha River Basin, we will pursue this matter in the Supreme Court, where our petition is pending, and follow it up rigorously," Sawant said.

He further said the approval granted for the DPR is an in-principle one as Karnataka will have to get permission from the Union ministry of environment, forests and climate change (MoEF&CC). "This (environment ministry) approval will not be possible as the Mahadayi River runs through a wildlife sanctuary," Sawant added.

Goa has opposed any diversion of water from Mahadayi, which originates in the Western Ghats in Karnataka, takes a detour via Maharashtra and enters Goa as the Mandovi. The river basin drains an area of 2,032 sqkm, of which 375 sqkm lies in Karnataka, 77 sqkm in Maharashtra.

Both the Goa and Karnataka governments have, for different reasons, challenged the Mahadayi Interstate Water Disputes Tribunal's verdict in August 2018 that granted Karnataka a total of 13.42 thousand million cubic feet of water out of their demand of 36.558 thousand million cubic feet. However, Goa has not opposed Karnataka's right to use the water within Mahadayi basin.

While Goa has approached the Supreme Court arguing that Karnataka should not be allowed to divert any water owing to the fact that the Mahadayi river is a water-deficient river, Karnataka is before the Supreme Court arguing that the tribunal erred in granting it 13.42 thousand million cubic feet of water.

The opposition Congress boycotted the all-party meeting, claiming Sawant had already taken the decision in morning.

"We were called today to discuss this issue. It is shocking to see that the CM after his cabinet meeting has announced certain decisions on the Mhadei issue. It is completely undemocratic," alleged leader of opposition Yuri Alemão. "What have you called us for then: To nod our heads like cattle?"

Millennium Post- 03- January-2023

Significant goals achieved under Namami Ganga plan: Jal Shakti Minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: While chairing the National Ganga Council meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about ways to enhance cleanliness efforts, including expanding the network of sewage treatment plants in smaller towns.

Emphasising ways to enhance various forms of herbal farming along the Ganga, the PM said that the purity of Maa Ganga is our common heritage and also our responsibility as our forefathers have given us a precious heritage and it is our destiny to hand over this heritage to future generations in the same condition and with same purity.



PIC/MPOST

The Ganga council meeting was held on December 30 in Kolkata and PM Modi chaired the meeting through video conferencing.

On the occasion, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that under the leadership of PM

Modi significant improvement has been achieved in all verticals under the Namami Ganga programme.

The minister further said that several major initiatives have been initiated under Arth Ganga that primarily aims to establish a people-river connection through the “bridge of economy” and develop Namami Gange as a self-sustainable river rejuvenation model for the entire country.

Shekhawat said that novel initiatives have been undertaken including the promotion of natural farming, reuse of treated water and sludge, livelihood generation, institutional capacity building, etc.

The Tribune- 03- January-2023

For a new paradigm of growth

Groundwater crises of Arizona and Punjab show how things have gone wrong



ARUN MAIRA

CHAIRMAN, HELPAGE INTERNATIONAL

ARIZONA is racing to its last drop of groundwater — this was the headline of a report in the *New York Times* (December 29, 2022). It reminded me of Punjab. The report said: "Arizona's water is running worrying low. Amidst the worst drought in more than a millennium, which has left communities with barren wells, the state is depleting what remains of its precious groundwater. Much of it goes to private companies nearly free, including Saudi Arabia's largest dairy company."

Arizona draws most of its water from the Colorado river, which it shares with seven other states that are unable to come to an agreement for sharing the resource fairly. Punjab shares river waters with Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi, and they too have been unable to come to a satisfactory agreement. Like Arizona, Punjab's groundwater has been overdrawn to support farms producing crops for export. Punjab's wheat and rice are exported all over India and to other countries. Alfalfa, grown in Arizona, feeds cows in the US and even in water-scarce Saudi Arabia.

Both Arizona and Punjab are suffering from the globalisation and corporatisation of agriculture. Punjab's Green Revolution was propelled by US agricultural technology. The US also provided modern dairying technology to Saudi Arabia, spawning the giant Saudi agricultural company, Almarai. Needing more fodder and more water to feed its cattle, it looked for sources in the US. In return for a large investment of FDI, Arizona state leased 3,500 acres at a very low price to Almarai to grow alfalfa, and water usage charges were one-sixth the market rate. Almarai's "ease of doing business" has turned into difficulties in ease of living for cit-



ALARMING: Lake Powell, the second-largest reservoir in the United States, now stands at its lowest level since it was filled in the mid-1960s. REUTERS

The pursuit of relentless growth of global and national GDP has become a cancer that is sucking water out of the Earth.

izens of Arizona who are running out of water for their own needs.

The technologies of the US and the size of its economy made it a global power. Its economy grew very large in the 20th century with the mechanisation of its farms and industries. Its citizens' ease of living improved with the ownership of automobiles and home appliances. The growth of the US economy and improvement of its citizens' lives was powered with hydrocarbon energy. The US way of life became an aspiration for people around the world.

The problem with the US way is that it does not sit well with nature. Scientists estimate that if all citizens of the world were to attain the standards of consumption of the average of an American, humanity would need three Earths to provide sufficient resources for everyone. We have only one Earth, and it is running out of water, which is fundamental for life for everyone, even in the US. We clearly need a better model of what a good life is, and a better way of enabling everyone to live good lives wherever on the planet they are.

Change is essential in fundamental concepts driving economic policies. One is the measure of productivity. The productivity of enterprises, and

the entire economy too, is measured as the output of a unit of labour. Therefore, when the amount of human effort used in an enterprise, and for overall economic growth is reduced, productivity thus measured is improved. To improve the productivity of the agriculture sector, fewer persons should be employed in the sector. They should be replaced by machines (which requires financial capital), and their energy should be replaced by other energy sources — hydrocarbons being the most efficient so far. Humans displaced from agriculture to improve "productivity" must find employment in manufacturing or services. When human effort in those sectors is also replaced by machines and artificial intelligence (which requires other sources of energy and investment of capital), no wonder the economy will have an overall employment problem.

The second concept is value. When the value of an enterprise's output is measured purely in terms of money, and decisions made about fairly sharing the value amongst contributors to it, it is convenient to measure contributions in financial terms too. Therefore, the intrinsic values of human labour (and environmental resources), which are qualitative in nature, are

stripped off for the ease of mathematical calculations. Qualitative values become 'externalities' to the economy; and money becomes the only currency for evaluating the worth of human beings and nature.

The third concept is efficiency, which business managers and economic policymakers strive to improve. Efficiency (like productivity) is the ratio of the output produced by an input. The philosophical question is: what is the outcome that people within a society value the most? Can workers value the stock market valuation of a business enterprise as much as investors and senior executives whose compensations are directly tied to it? What worth is growth of GDP to common citizens when they cannot earn enough to provide for their family's needs for shelter, nutrition, health, and education?

The fourth concept is equity — a measure of fairness in sharing the outcomes. Economists and managers duck this question, as mentioned before, by their mathematical computations of the inputs and outputs of an enterprise in money terms. Fairness and trust are essential qualities of good enterprises and good societies. They enable enterprises to perform more efficiently and become more productive, by reducing costs of supervision, policing, and dispute resolution, which do not add any intrinsic value to the production of the desired outcomes.

The fifth concept is growth. Growth is good, provided it is not a cancer that saps the life out of its host. The pursuit of relentless growth of global and national GDP has become a cancer that is sucking water out of the Earth and life out of the planet, as the stories of Arizona and Punjab illustrate.

Humanity needs a new paradigm of growth: growth of equity and social trust along with the growth of environmental sustainability. The curriculums of schools, as well as models of business and the economy, must be changed urgently. They must be built upon new foundations: with new concepts of productivity, value, efficiency, equity and growth.

The Morning Standard- 03- January-2023

GOA, KARNATAKA SPAR OVER KALASA-BANDURI WATER DISPUTE

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @Belagavi

THERE was a war of words between the Karnataka and Goa governments on Monday over the Kalasa-Banduri project across the Mahadayi river.

Water Resources Minister Govind Karjol said that Goa cannot prevent Karnataka from implementing the project as the Union Government has given its approval to the revised detailed project report (DPR). Karjol said tenders will be floated in a month and the project will be implemented within a year.

Karjol's statement came on a day when Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant held a special meeting on the Mahadayi dispute. The meeting decided to appeal to the Centre for withdrawal of the approval given to Karnataka's revised DPR.

In the meeting, Sawant said an all-party party dele-

gation from Goa will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah if the situation demands.

He reiterated his demand for the creation of a Mahadayi Water Management Authority to oversee the execution of Mahadayi tribunal's award and asked the Centre to provide a copy of the DPR of the Kalasa Banduri project. The Mahadayi

Interstate Water Disputes Tribunal, in its verdict in August 2018, granted Karnataka 13.42 tmcft of water against the demand for 36.558 tmcft.

The Central Water Commission approved the DPR based on the proposal drawn up by the Karnataka Water Resources Department seeking to divert 3.9 tmcft — 2.18 tmcft from Banduri and 1.72 tmcft from Kalasa nalas—for drinking water purposes in the twin cities of Hubballi-Dharwad and a few other areas of North Karnataka.



Dainik Bhaskar- 03- January-2023

भारत के जल विज्ञान @2047 का ब्लूप्रिंट तैयार

नदियों पर बांध बनाकर पानी को हथियार बना रहा चीन : पटेल

भोपाल में जल संसाधन और सिंचाई मंत्रियों का सम्मेलन

पॉलिटिकल रिपोर्टर | भोपाल

केंद्रीय जल शक्ति राज्यमंत्री प्रहलाद सिंह पटेल ने चीन से आने वाली नदियों को भविष्य में भारत के लिए बड़ी चुनौती बताया है। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय नदियों से कभी



छेड़छाड़ नहीं की है और न ही दूसरे देशों के पानी में कटौती की है, लेकिन चीन ने तिब्बती इलाके में नदियों पर बांध

बनाकर भारत के लिए पानी को हथियार के रूप में इस्तेमाल करने की चुनौती खड़ी कर दी है। चीन द्वारा बनाए जा रहे बांध पानी की जरूरत के लिए नहीं, बल्कि भारत को बाढ़ के दौरान डराने के लिए हैं। केंद्रीय जल शक्ति राज्यमंत्री प्रहलाद सिंह पटेल ने बताया कि भारत के इतिहास में पहली बार पानी के मुद्दों पर राज्यों के मंत्रियों और सचिवों का अखिल भारतीय जल सम्मेलन होने जा रहा है। इस सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन सीएम शिवराज सिंह और केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत करेंगे। पटेल ने बताया कि सम्मेलन को पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी भी वर्चुअली संबोधित कर सकते हैं।

जल इतिहास पोर्टल तैयार

देशभर की 75 से अधिक जल संरचनाओं का होगा उद्घाटन

पटेल ने बताया कि देश में अगले 25 साल में पानी की कमी और जल प्रदूषण दूर करने के लिए केंद्र सरकार 'जल विज्ञान @2047' तैयार करने जा रही है। खास बात ये है कि यह जल विज्ञान भोपाल में तैयार होगा। इसे तैयार करने के लिए केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्रालय सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के जल संसाधन, सिंचाई और पीएचई मंत्रियों का सम्मेलन करने जा रहा है। यह सम्मेलन 5 और 6 जनवरी को भोपाल के कुशाभाऊ इंटरनेशनल कन्वेंशन सेंटर में होगा।

सम्मेलन के छह सत्र होंगे

सम्मेलन में छह सत्र होंगे, उद्घाटन सत्र में जल शक्ति मंत्री शेखावत जल सम्मेलन का एजेंडा रखेंगे। दो दिन तक पांच थीमेटिक सेशन होंगे। पहला सत्र पानी की कमी, दूसरा ग्रे वॉटर के दोबारा इस्तेमाल, तीसरा वॉटर गवर्नेंस, चौथा जलवायु परिवर्तन, पांचवां पानी की गुणवत्ता पर होगा। इस अवसर पर जल इतिहास पोर्टल लॉन्च होगा। इसी दौरान देशभर में 75 जल संरचनाओं का भी उद्घाटन होगा।