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The Hindu Business Line- 05- January-2024

# Storage drops below 60% of capacity

**ALARMING DIP.** Reservoir levels down for 13<sup>th</sup> week in a row; water level in the southern region declines to 40%

**Subramani Ra Mancombu**  
Chennai

The storage level in the 150 major Indian reservoirs declined for the 13th week to below 60 per cent of the capacity with the situation in South India turning precarious.

Data from the Central Water Commission (CWC) weekly bulletin showed that the level in the southern region dropped to 40 per cent or 21.129 billion cubic metres (BCM) of the 53.334 BCM capacity.

Overall, the 150 reservoirs level was 105.273 BCM or 59 per cent of the 178.784 BCM capacity. This is 22 percentage points lower than last year and 35 percentage points lower than the last 10 years' average.

Of the major reservoirs, 33 (32 last week) have a level be-

low 40 per cent of capacity with the southern region accounting for 18 and the central region 8. Ten States have storage lower than normal, with the situation turning a little dicey in Punjab, where the level is 38 per cent below normal this week (29 per cent below normal last week).

The storage level continued to be grim despite the country receiving 60 per cent excess rainfall in December. Some of the reservoirs are reaping the benefits of the rainfall with the levels in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka improving to 23 per cent (26 per cent) and 36 per cent (38 per cent) below normal, respectively.

## NO RESERVOIR FULL

Overall, 50 per cent of 21 of the 42 reservoirs in the southern region had storage of less than 50 per cent of the capacity. Last week, the level



in 22 reservoirs was lower than 50 per cent. Of the 10 reservoirs in the northern region, the level dropped to 57 per cent (59 per cent) of the 19.663 BCM at 11.150 BCM. While the storage in one was below 40 per cent, no reservoir was filled to capacity.

In the eastern region, three of the 23 reservoirs were

## States with below normal storage

States	Departure from normal in %
Punjab	-38
Nagaland	-13
Bihar	-19
Maharashtra	-10
Uttar Pradesh	-25
Chattisgarh	-18
Andhra	-53
Karnataka	-36
Kerala	-3
Tamil Nadu	-23

Source: Central Water Commission

filled to capacity with the level being 69 per cent (70 per cent) of the 20.430 BCM capacity at 14.127 BCM. This was higher than 65 per cent of the capacity a year ago as also the last 10 years' average. However, three reservoirs had storage below 40 per cent.

In the western region, the

storage dropped to 71 per cent (72 per cent) of the 37.130 BCM capacity at 26.337 BCM. One reservoir was filled to capacity, while three had storage below 40 per cent.

## SOURCE OF WORRY

Of the 26 reservoirs in the central region, the level was 32.530 BCM of 67 per cent (69 per cent) of the 48.227 BCM capacity. No reservoir in the region had water level above 81 per cent, while in four the storage was less than 50 per cent.

The current storage level is a source of worry for rabi crops, especially in the South. In the North, irrigation canals will help provide water for key crops such as wheat and coarse cereals. However, the availability of water in the southern regions for paddy and pulses will likely become a problem.

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Telangana Today- 05- January-2024

# Demand for KRMB HQ at Kurnool, Vij

**TS for relocating Board to a place convenient for all stakeholders within Krishna river basin**

D CHANDRA BHASKAR RAO  
HYDERABAD

The chorus is growing louder for the relocation of the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) either to Vijayawada or Kurnool. Not many are in favour of moving the Board headquarters to Visakhapatnam as proposed by the government of Andhra Pradesh.

The board has in all 56 employees from both technical and non-technical wings and a majority of them are from Andhra Pradesh. They have already made their options clear by insisting on the relocation of the headquarters to any other place of the government's choice within the Krishna river basin. Shifting the headquarters to Visakhapatnam would be ill-advised as it would amount to venturing to manage the water-sharing issues the board has been tasked with, in absentia, said sources.

Now that AP is at loggerheads with Telangana staking claim for more say in the

operation of the joint projects on the Krishna river, it would insist on the immediate relocation of the KRMB headquarters. It would be more so in the backdrop of the November 29 face-off between police forces of the two States at the Nagarjuna Sagar dam site.

As the KRMB is gearing up to take over the operational control of the joint projects, including the Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar dams from the two riparian States, it would be a tough task for it to manage the operations from a distance. Visakhapatnam is away from the Krishna river basin.

The only justification for relocating the Board to Visakhapatnam is that it would facilitate coordination between the KRMB and the Department of Water Resources of AP to be located in Visakhapatnam. The top brass of the Board may prefer Visakhapatnam as the Board Chairman holds the charge of the Polavaram project as well. However, the rest of the

staff would not have any option but to fly to Hyderabad to reach the projects every time there is an emergency. They have to adopt the same mode for frequenting the project, which would be mandatory during monsoon. But the support staff would not be eligible for the expensive air travel.

Besides this, the Board, which has been insisting on the allotment of office space of some 17,000 sft, is yet to be given the final confirmation on this count. Besides representatives of the peasant bodies from the Rayalaseema region in AP, the government of Telangana has also requested the AP government to relocate the board to a place convenient for all stakeholders well within the river basin.

The shifting of the KRMB headquarters may take a little more time as the AP High Court gave a written direction to the State government not to relocate the government offices to Visakhapatnam until all petitions filed challenging the relocation were disposed of.



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The Statesman- 05- January-2024

# Transforming Rajasthan's arid realms: Empowering women through water conservation

**ABHJIT DEB**

BARMER, 4 JANUARY

In the heart of Rajasthan's unforgiving desert, where the scorching sun and parched lands were once the norm, a transformational tide has swept through the lives of its inhabitants, especially its resilient women.

Barmer and Jaisalmer, known for their arid landscapes and tales of hardship, once witnessed women enduring grueling journeys of 4 to 5 km under the relentless sun just to secure drinking water. It was a daily saga of resilience and struggle etched into the folklore of these lands, where women balanced matkas



(water pots) on their heads, weaving through oppressive heat during summer days.

Amidst this adversity, a beacon of change emerged with the inception of a water conservation initiative under various programmes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Prime Minister Awas Yojana. This initiative somewhat alleviated

the water crisis haunting these districts. The traditional 'takas' or tanks, with a capacity of 30 thousand litres each, were constructed across villages, heralding hope in these parched lands. Arun Purohit, the Collector of Barmer district, reflected on the severity of the crisis, stating, "Villagers used to handle milk and ghee generously but were miserly with water due to its scarcity in the desert areas."

The Indira Gandhi Nahar Project and Narmada project were also being implemented, spanning the desert expanse, covering over 2765 villages. These endeavors were lifelines, providing a sustained flow of water where

it was once a rarity. The impact of these 'Takas' (tanks) among the villages, especially for the women who bore the brunt of the water crisis is giving them some relief.

Dami Devi from Kurla village in Barmer expressed her relief: "These 'takas' have become saviours for women in the villages. We no longer endure exhausting treks for water in the scorching heat. With stored water available at anytime, our lives have transformed somewhat."

The narrative has shifted from tales of struggle to one of empowerment and relief, though there are miles to go to quench the thirst for development.

# साल के अंत तक यमुना में होगी शत-प्रतिशत स्वच्छता : शेखावत

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो  
नई दिल्ली, 4 जनवरी।

केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत ने उत्तर प्रदेश के बागपत में रोजाना 1.4 करोड़ लीटर क्षमता के सीवेज उपचार संयंत्र (एसटीपी) और 2.4 किलोमीटर लंबे आइएंडडी नेटवर्क का उद्घाटन किया।

परियोजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य नमामि गंगे कार्यक्रम के तहत शत-प्रतिशत केंद्रीय वित्तपोषण अत्याधुनिक सीवेज उपचार संयंत्र की स्थापना करना है। परियोजना की अनुमानित लागत 77.36 करोड़ रुपए है।

केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री ने कहा कि गंगा और यमुना नदी के जल को शुद्ध करने की प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की प्रतिबद्धता को पूरा करने की दिशा में

महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति हुई है। उन्होंने कहा कि नमामि गंगे मिशन के माध्यम से हिमाचल प्रदेश से लेकर बंगाल तक व्यापक संरक्षण कार्य किए जा रहे हैं।

केंद्रीय मंत्री ने बदलती परिस्थितियों और शहरीकरण के कारण नदियों के लुप्त होते अस्तित्व पर चिंता जताई। उन्होंने कहा कि एक उल्लेखनीय उपलब्धि के रूप में गंगा का पानी अब पीने योग्य मानक तक पहुंच चुका है।

यमुना को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने की दिशा में पैदा हो रही चुनौतियों पर कहा कि ओखला में एशिया का सबसे बड़ा सीवेज उपचार संयंत्र (एसटीपी) की स्थापना सफलतापूर्वक की गई है। शेखावत ने वर्ष के अंत तक दिल्ली में यमुना के पानी की 100 फीसद स्वच्छता सुनिश्चित करने के दृढ़ संकल्प के साथ यमुना के प्रदूषण का मुकाबला करने की प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई।

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