

The Times of India - 06- February-2024

GRMB meet with T & AP reps today

Vijayawada: The Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) has convened a meeting with officials of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on Tuesday to discuss various issues, including handing over of projects in the Godavari basin. The meeting has been convened as per the instructions of Union Jal Shakti ministry.

Interestingly, neither AP nor Telangana is ready to hand over the projects to GRMB, with the former asking the Centre to constitute a tribunal for allocation of waters between the two Telugu states to avoid further disputes in future. Sources said the Centre has agreed to set up the tribunal to bring all long-standing disputes to an end, as the award (verdict) of the tribunal is considered irrevocable and equivalent to any Supreme Court judgment.

AP has raised objections to Telangana taking up more lift irrigation projects to tap Godavari waters. TNN

I/162035/2024

Telangana Today - 06- February-2024

Projects row: Harish exposes Revanth's lies

Presents documentary proof that shows BRS govt didn't agree to handover

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

In a blow-by-blow expose of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's lies on the fate of the joint projects in the Krishna river basin and water sharing, BRS leader and former Minister T Harish Rao on Monday presented documentary evidence, which showed that neither the BRS government nor former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao had ever signed any agreement to hand over the irrigation projects to river management boards.

Chandrashekhara Rao and the BRS government had repeatedly insisted on Telangana's concerns being addressed before any component of the projects were handed over to the boards, he said, citing the summary record of discussions of the 17th meeting of the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) on May 10, 2023, wherein Telangana had not agreed to the transfer of components of the Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailem, and stressed that the matter be referred to the Apex Council to discuss common assets.

Harish Rao, who condemned the foul language used by Revanth Reddy in Sunday's press conference, said the Chief Minister's arguments were baseless as he had hardly any knowledge of the underlying facts. Whether it was in the KRMB meetings or even at the Apex council, the former BRS government had stuck to its stand without yielding to the pressure of the Centre and had refused to hand over operational control over the joint projects and their outlets.

At the 16th meeting of the KRMB held on May 27, 2022, Andhra Pradesh had readily offered to hand over the

CALLING OUT THE BLUFF

WHETHER IT WAS IN KRMB MEETINGS OR AT THE APEX COUNCIL, FORMER BRS GOVT STUCK TO ITS STAND WITHOUT YIELDING TO THE CENTRE'S PRESSURE. IT ALSO REFUSED TO HAND OVER OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE JOINT PROJECTS AND THEIR OUTLETS, SAYS HARISH



REVANTH REDDY'S ALLEGATION

- KCR, Harish spreading misleading information against Cong govt
- KCR gave nod to handing over distribution of Krishna, Godavari waters to Centre when AP State Reorganisation Act was framed
- Handing over of projects to Centre initiated when KCR was MP
- KCR accepted to permanently divert the water to AP, which otherwise should have come to TS
- Previous BRS govt agreed to hand over 15 projects to KRMB
- KCR accepted to hand over projects in 17th KRMB meeting
- Harish, Nayini Narsimha Reddy were Ministers when decision to enhance capacity of Pothireddypadu was taken

HARISH RAO'S REPLY

- 16TH MEETING OF KRMB: Board Member Secretary said though AP agreed for handing over projects, decision of TS govt on operational control of projects and components "awaited"
- 17TH MEETING OF KRMB: TS Irrigation Secretary informed KRMB that TS was not for handing over projects without issues involved in water sharing being addressed
- SECOND APEX COUNCIL MEETING: KCR openly stated that Krishna projects cannot be handed over to KRMB without resolving issues; AP CM YS Jaganmohan Reddy also present
- JAL SHAKTI MEETING ON JAN 17, 2024: TS, AP agreed to hand over projects within a month
- LETTER TO SECRETARY, JAL SHAKTI, JAN 27, 2024: TS govt writes to Jal Shakti claiming minutes of Delhi meeting wrongly conveyed

FOLLOW-UP MEETING BY KRMB ON FEB 1:
U-turn again with E-in-Cs of both States agreeing to hand over management of projects to KRMB

projects to the Board, whereas Telangana had declined to part with them without addressing its concerns. Presenting the consensus decision taken at the meeting, the Member Secretary of the Board had made it clear that though AP had agreed for handing over the projects, the decision of the Telangana government on the operational control of

the projects and their components was "awaited", Harish Rao said, presenting documentary proof for the same.

At the 17th meeting of the KRMB as well, the Telangana Irrigation Secretary had made it clear that the State was not for handing over the projects without all other issues involved in water sharing between the

two States being addressed. Even at the second apex council meeting chaired by the Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Chandrashekhara Rao had openly stated that the Krishna projects could not be handed over to the KRMB without resolving the whole gamut of issues involved as it would be against the interests of the State. Stating that the truth would speak for

the BRS and prove who made real sacrifices for Telangana and who had fallen to the lure of berths, Harish Rao also quoted minutes of the meeting held with the Irrigation Secretaries and E-in-Cs of both States on January 17 by the union Secretary for Jal Shakti in New Delhi after Revanth Reddy assumed charge.

U-turn in Congress rule

Officials of Telangana had given the concurrence for handing over the projects along with their outlets within a month, thus taking a U-turn in the stand of Telangana after the Congress came to power.

Harish Rao pointed out that Irrigation officials wrote to the Ministry of Jal Shakti correcting their stand only when they were questioned and condemned by him after going through the minutes. But the State officials repeated their mistake at the latest KRMB meeting too.

Officials of both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh had gone on record expressing their willingness to hand over the management of the projects to the KRMB, the BRS leader said.

Harish Rao questioned as to why the State government had preferred to be silent when the Srisailem project continued to be under the operational control of AP while allowing the CRPF to guard the NSP dam, which was under the operational control of Telangana till December 28, 2023.

Irrigation officials and police personnel from Telangana were denied entry by the CRPF to the dam site for even taking up maintenance works, he pointed out, again citing documents.

(SEE PAGE 2)
(CONGRESS GOVT IN STATE OF CONFUSION" PAGE 5)

Projects row: Harish exposes Revanth's lies

On the Pothireddypadu issue, Harish Rao pointed out that Congress leaders from Telangana, including N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and others, who were part of the YS Rajasekhara Reddy Cabinet in 2005, had remained tight-lipped when the Pothireddypadu Head Regulator was widened, further facilitating drawl of more than the permitted volume.

Dismissing Revanth Reddy's allegation that the widening work on Pothireddypadu was executed when he and late Nayini Narsimha Reddy were part of the YSR Cabinet, Harish Rao said they had resigned from the Cabinet on July 4, 2005, protesting against the injustice meted out to Telangana, the non-implementation of GO No. 610, the construction of the Pulichintala project without addressing the concerns of Telangana

and the continued encounter killings of naxalites without calling them for talks. Three months after their exit, the YSR Cabinet issued GO No. 170 on September 13, 2005, and GO No. 233 on December 19, 2005, for widening the Pothireddypadu head regulator. The TRS had then moved an adjournment motion in the House, opposing the augmentation of Pothireddypadu, which was intended to benefit Rayalaseema at the cost of Telangana and the delta region. But the motion was disallowed in the House by the then Speaker. The TRS members had stalled the House on the issue for 40 days. However, the Chief Minister was blaming the BRS with a pack of lies, Harish Rao said, reiterating that he would present more proof for Revanth Reddy's blatant lies once the Assembly session began.

'Congress govt is in state of confusion'

BRS leader says Telangana entitled to much larger water share

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Congress leaders, who were trying to point fingers at the previous BRS government over the takeover of Krishna basin projects — Nagarjuna Sagar Dam and Srisailem along by the Krishna River Management Board, were never on the frontlines of the fight for Telangana State or its interests, said V Prakash Rao, BRS leader and former chairman, Telangana Water Resources Development Corporation.

Having come to power, now they need to take a legitimate stand on the issue to serve the interests of the State in the long run, he said. Talking to 'Telangana Today', he said the need of the hour was to ensure that the tone and tenor of the voice of both the government and the opposition were the same and reflected their sincere approach to safeguard the interest of the State.



The govt should take a legitimate stand on the issue to serve the interests of the State in the long run, says Prakash Rao.

He explained that the BRS government had for the last 10 years been relentlessly fighting for an equal share in Krishna waters. It had staked a claim for sharing water with Andhra Pradesh on a 50:50 ratio. "But in fact, Telangana is entitled to a much larger greater share. Nearly 68 per cent of the Krishna basin falls within Telangana. Our rightful entitlement should be 68 per cent based on the extent of

the river basin compared to AP. But unfortunately, the new government is yet to spell out its stand," he said.

It is hard to understand why the Congress government could not mount pressure on the Centre for sharing of Krishna water between the two Telugu States on a 50:50 ratio. The government seemed to be in a state of confusion over the water issues. They cannot justify their blame game as

the need of the hour was water. No government can afford to be complacent on such serious issues. The government's stand on Krishna river water sharing smacks of ignorance, Prakash Rao said.

The Chief Minister had gone on record seeking to involve Karnataka to resolve the issue. This would be a blunder on his part. Both the Telugu States would stand to lose on this count. Initially, we also thought on the same lines but realised ultimately that Karnataka had nothing to do with the en bloc allotment given to the undivided AP to be shared between the residuary States, he said. Leaders such as Konda Surekha and N Uttam Kumar Reddy were part of the YSR government that was responsible for the water issues to crop up. But they never raised their voice against the water loot depriving Telangana of its riparian share, he noted.

I/162035/2024

Deccan Chronicle - 06- February-2024

Uttam: Will never give state projects to KRMB

Says BRS spreading misinformation; faults KCR for issues

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 5

Irrigation and civil supplies minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday attacked the BRS for spreading misinformation about irrigation projects and categorically sought to refute allegations that the Congress government handed over control of Telangana's projects to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB).

Addressing a press conference at Dr B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, Uttam Kumar Reddy said: "The Congress government took charge on December 7, 2023, and in the past 56 days, the proposal was never considered, and the government would never hand over the control to KRMB."

He said that the then TRS government should have insisted on a bigger share of Krishna water for Telangana in 2014. "In river basins, river water sharing is decided based on catchment area, drought-prone area, population, and cultivable area. However, injustice was done to Telangana on all parameters," he said.

Reading out the minutes of the KRMB meeting, he pointed out that it was the BRS government that agreed to hand over the projects to KRMB, and the same was reflected in the documents of the 2023-24 Budget presented by K. Chandrashekar Rao. He cited the BRS government allocating ₹200 crore for maintenance.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said: "It was the KCR government that facilitated the AP government to float tenders for the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation schemes by postponing the Apex Council meeting."

He criticised the Chandrashekar Rao government for failing to utilise about seven TMC ft of Krishna water that comes to Telangana and allowing

Andhra Pradesh to draw 8 TMC ft per day from Srisailem. He highlighted that on May 5, 2020, the AP government issued GO No 203 in this regard.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the KCR government wasted public money in the guise of irrigation projects.

"The Kaleshwaram project was constructed by spending about ₹95,000 crore, but not even one lakh acres were irrigated. With the

COUNTER ATTACK ASSERTS...

THE CHANDRASHEKAR RAO government failed to utilise about

7 TMC ft of Krishna water that comes to Telangana and allowed Andhra Pradesh to draw **8 TMC ft** per day from Srisailem.



It was the KCR government that facilitated the AP government to float tenders for the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation schemes by postponing the Apex Council meeting.

N. UTTAM KUMAR REDDY
Irrigation and civil supplies minister

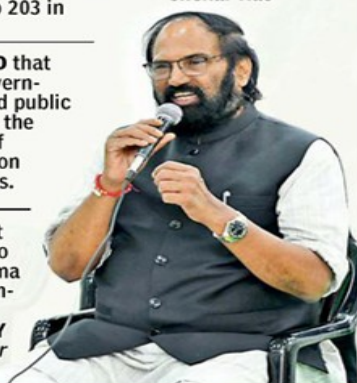
UTTAM ALLEGES THAT IT WAS THE BRS GOVERNMENT THAT AGREED TO HAND OVER THE PROJECTS TO KRMB

UTTAM KUMAR HIGHLIGHTED that on May 5, 2020, the AP government issued GO No 203 in this regard.

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SAYS

THE SAME was reflected in the documents of the 2023-24 Budget presented by K. Chandrashekar Rao



BRS likely to hold public meet on Krishna water

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 5

The BRS is expected to hold a public meeting in Nalgonda district with two lakh people in the third week of February to explain to the people the issues around Krishna water sharing and handing over of projects to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), sources said.

Earlier, BRS legislator T. Harish Rao accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of displaying arrogance and disseminating misleading statements, half-truths, and sophistry regarding the handover of projects to the KRMB.

Addressing the media, Harish Rao stated that Revanth Reddy, despite his earlier commitment to refrain from personal attacks, had challenged him to discuss the projects' handover issue in



T. Harish Rao

the Assembly. Harish Rao asserted, "The truth that K. Chandrashekar Rao did not hand over the projects to the Centre for 10 years, and the Congress is giving them in just two months cannot be hidden."

He referred to KRMB meeting minutes, indicating the handover within the next month, with engineers requiring CRPF permission for inspections.

Challenging the CM, Harish Rao demanded condemnation if media

reports on the states' responsibility for project maintenance were incorrect.

Questioning why engineers-in-chief accepted the handover and discussed employee salaries, Harish Rao claimed the Congress responded only after his inquiries. He refuted Chandrashekar Rao's approval claims, emphasising their sacrifice in the Pothireddypadu issue.

Harish Rao recalled the former chief minister's opposition to Rayalaseema and Pothireddypadu projects during the Assembly stall in 2005. He called on Revanth Reddy to acknowledge his party's role in state bifurcation.

He said that Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat had told BRS MPs who met him recently that the handover of projects was closed issue.

Medigadda and other two barrages suffering damages, the entire project has come to a standstill. Similarly, the cost of Palamuru Rangareddy was escalated, and despite spending ₹27,500 crore, not a single acre was cultivated. All projects in undivided Mahabubnagar district, like Kalwakurthy, Bhimasagar and Koyal

Sagar, were kept pending," he said.

The minister also rapped BRS leader T. Harish Rao for questioning his role in the Telangana statehood movement.

He said that Telangana became a reality due to the all-party meeting convened by the then Union home minister P. Chidambaram, and he had played a crucial role

in it. He alleged that BRS leaders were "blackmailers" even during the statehood movement.

Uttam Kumar Reddy alleged that AP Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, at the instance of Chandrashekar Rao, deliberately sent forces to Nagarjunasagar ahead of Assembly elections in a bid to influence the electoral outcome.

Dainik Jagran - 06- February-2024

पानी के क्षेत्र में सर्वाधिक निवेश करने वाला देश भारत : शेखावत

जागरण संवाददाता, दक्षिणी दिल्ली: केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत ने कहा कि दुनिया में पानी के क्षेत्र में सर्वाधिक निवेश करने वाला देश भारत है। यहां पानी के क्षेत्र में काम करने को लेकर लगातार बेहतर कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं। केंद्रीय मंत्री सोमवार को वसंत विहार स्थित एक होटल में आयोजित वाटर डाइजेस्ट मैगजीन के अवार्ड समारोह में बोल रहे थे। यहां पर पानी के क्षेत्र में बेहतर काम करने के लिए नीर फाउंडेशन को वर्ल्ड वाटर अवार्ड 2024 से नवाजा गया। यह अवार्ड केंद्रीय मंत्री ने फाउंडेशन के अध्यक्ष रिवरमैन रमन कांत को दिया।

शेखावत ने कहा कि जब देश परिवर्तन की ओर जा रहा था, तब उन्हें पानी के क्षेत्र में काम करने की जिम्मेदारी प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने दी। तब से प्रधानमंत्री के नेतृत्व में



वसंत विहार में आयोजित अवार्ड समारोह में केंद्रीय मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत (बाएं) रमन कांत को सम्मानित करते हुए ● जागरण

जल शक्ति मंत्रालय पानी को लेकर लगातार काम कर रहा है। इसका परिणाम यह है कि अब देश के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में जनता व विभिन्न संस्थाएं भी काम में सहयोग कर रही हैं। मात्र एक साल में देश में 75 हजार अमृत सरोवर का निर्माण किया गया है। मंत्रालय की तरफ से हर साल पानी के क्षेत्र में किए गए काम की रिपोर्ट जारी की जाती है।

Dainik Jagran - 06- February-2024

गंगा में प्रदूषण का स्तर तेजी से हो रहा कम

मनीष तिवारी • नई दिल्ली

गंगा में डाल्फिन की संख्या बढ़ रही है और प्रदूषण का स्तर तेजी से कम हो रहा है। यह दावा केंद्र सरकार ने नमामि गंगे अभियान की समीक्षा के बाद किया है। जलशक्ति मंत्रालय ने हाल में राज्यों के अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक में यह जानकारी दी कि गंगा को साफ-स्वच्छ बनाने के लिए चल रहे अभियान के सार्थक नतीजे सामने आने लगे हैं। गंगा डाल्फिन की संख्या बढ़कर चार हजार से अधिक हो गई है। केंद्र सरकार ने इसके साथ ही प्रदूषण की निगरानी के लिए बनाए गए प्लेटफार्म प्रयाग की सफलता का दावा करते हुए कहा है कि उसने रियल टाइम मॉनिटरिंग का प्रभावी सिस्टम बना लिया है।

सूत्रों के अनुसार, केंद्र ने अपने प्रजेंटेशन में बताया है कि गंगा के प्रदूषण को आंकने के लिए जो पांच स्तर तय किए गए हैं। उनके अनुसार



- केंद्र सरकार ने नमामि गंगे अभियान की समीक्षा के बाद किया दावा
- चार राज्यों में अब कोई खंड जैव विविधता के लिए चिंताजनक स्तर पर नहीं

अब उत्तराखंड, उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार और बंगाल का कोई भी हिस्सा सबसे गंभीर प्रदूषण की पहली चार श्रेणियों में नहीं है। इसका मतलब है कि इन राज्यों में गंगा का प्रदूषण पांचवीं श्रेणी का है, जो सबसे कम गंभीर और स्वीकार्य सीमाओं के भीतर है। इसमें भी उत्तराखंड में हरिद्वार से सुल्तानपुर का स्ट्रेच अब साफ की श्रेणी में है। दूसरे अर्थों में केंद्र सरकार ने कहा है कि गंगा के लगभग पूरे स्ट्रेच में घुलित आक्सीजन (डीओ) का औसत स्वीकार करने लायक सीमाओं में है। यानी इस नदी का जल बुनियादी रूप से स्नान करने योग्य है और यह नदी के पूरे इकोसिस्टम के

अनुकूल है। कुछ स्थान अभी भी स्वीकार्य सीमाओं से थोड़ा ऊपर हैं, जैसे फर्रुखाबाद से रायबरेली और मीरजापुर से गाजीपुर। केंद्र सरकार ने नमामि गंगे अभियान के तहत 97 स्थानों पर गंगा में डीओ, बायोकेमिकल आक्सीजन डिमांड (बीओडी) की निगरानी की है। इसके मुताबिक 43 स्थानों पर बीओडी बेहतर हुई है और 32 स्थानों पर घुलित आक्सीजन का स्तर सुधरा है। राज्यों में बचाव और पुनर्वास केंद्रों ने फल देना शुरू कर दिया है। गंगा डाल्फिन, घड़ियाल व कछुओं की संख्या तेजी से बढ़ रही है। सर्वे में चार हजार गंगा डाल्फिन की मौजूदगी नोट की गई है।

Amar Ujala - 06- February-2024

यमुना में फिर बढ़ी अमोनिया की मात्रा

नई दिल्ली। यमुना नदी में एक बार फिर अमोनिया का स्तर बढ़ गया है। इस कारण दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के वजीराबाद व चंद्रावल जलशोधक संयंत्र पूरी क्षमता से चलने बंद हो गए हैं। लिहाजा नई दिल्ली समेत करीब 30 प्रतिशत दिल्ली में पेयजल आपूर्ति संकट गहराने के आसार हैं। इस मामले में दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने हरियाणा सरकार के सिचाई विभाग को अवगत कराते हुए यमुना नदी में दूषित कचरा आने से रोकने का आग्रह किया है। दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के अनुसार वजीराबाद बैराज में उच्च स्तर के प्रदूषक तत्व हो गए हैं। इस कारण वजीराबाद बैराज का पानी दूषित हो गया है। ब्यूरो

Hindustan - 06- February-2024

देश में भूजल स्तर में वृद्धि हो रही: सरकार

सरकार ने सोमवार को बताया कि देश में प्रति व्यक्ति पानी की उपलब्धता आजादी के बाद लगातार कम होती गई लेकिन भूजल को 'रिचार्ज' करने के प्रयासों के फलस्वरूप अब भूजल स्तर में वृद्धि होने लगी है। जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत ने राज्यसभा में प्रश्नकाल के दौरान यह जानकारी दी। उन्होंने कहा कि यह सही है कि पानी का समुचित उपयोग बेहद जरूरी है और भारत 2047 में विकसित राष्ट्र बनने की दिशा में भी अग्रसर है।