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East flowing rivers between Mahanadi and Pennar basins have no water at present: Official data

Rushikulya, Bahuda, Vamsadhara, Nagavati, Sarada, Varaha, Tandava, Eluru, Gundlakamma, Tammileru, Musi, Paleru as well as Manneru are the rivers left with no water

NEW DELHI: Rivers between Mahanadi and Pennar basins that flow through Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha have no water at present, according to the Central Water Commission data.

Rushikulya, Bahuda, Vamsadhara, Nagavati, Sarada, Varaha, Tandava, Eluru, Gundlakamma, Tammileru, Musi, Paleru and Manneru are the rivers left with no water, with experts blaming reduced monsoon, changing rainfall patterns, catchment degradation and groundwater depletion for it.

Nitin Bassi from the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) said their analysis of the Mahanadi river basin has suggested adoption of micro irrigation systems and altering cropping patterns could reduce the water deficit from 24 per cent (in a business-as-usual scenario) to about 18 per cent of the water supply requirement.


REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

The Central Water Commission (CWC) has detailed the state of water storage in reservoirs, noting that live storage capacity has dwindled to just 35 per cent of the total capacity.

The reservoirs in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu are experiencing a significant drop in storage levels, currently at only 20 per cent of their total capacity.

According to the data, the east flowing rivers between Mahanadi and Pennar had zero storage this year, having a 100 per cent departure with respect to an average of ten years.

The east flowing rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari are also deficit and have just 12 per cent storage and a departure of over 50 per cent with respect to an average of ten years.

The data, issued on April 4, presents a stark comparison to the same period last year, highlighting a substantial decline in available water resources.

According to the data, the total live storage capacity of 150 monitored reservoirs in India amounts to 178.784 billion cubic metres (BCM), which accounts for about 69.35 per cent of the estimated total capacity of 257.812 BCM across the country.

However, the actual live storage available in these reservoirs stands at a mere 61.801 BCM, representing only 35 per cent of their total capacity.

Himanshu Thakkar, coordinator of South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP), highlighted multiple reasons for the decline in reservoir water levels, including reduced monsoon rainfall and changing rainfall patterns.

Thakkar also mentioned the degradation of catchment areas and groundwater depletion as contributing factors.

"Last year, monsoons were lesser compared to 2022, which is one reason why the reservoir capacity is lower than last year," he said stressing that catchment degradation leads to faster rainfall runoff into rivers and reduced non-monsoon inflows," he said.

Comparing these figures with the previous year's data, the decline is evident.

Last year, during the same period, the live storage available was significantly higher at 74.47 BCM. AGENCIES

Key Points

- The Central Water Commission (CWC) has detailed the state of water storage in reservoirs, noting that live storage capacity has dwindled to just 35 per cent of the total capacity
- The reservoirs in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu are experiencing a significant drop in storage levels, currently at only 20 per cent of their total capacity

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Milk prices to soar as water scarcity hits production

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NEW DELHI: Milk prices tend to rise in summers as production falls, but this year may be worse.

As sweeping heatwaves and drying dams leave dairy animals thirsty, milk productivity will fall and prices will rise, agriculture experts said.

While spot traders said raw milk with 6.5% fat is currently being sold at ₹47-48 a litre against last year's ₹57-58, consumer affairs department data showed all-India average retail and wholesale prices on Sunday were at ₹57.6 a litre and ₹5,420.7 per kilolitre compared to ₹56 and ₹5,233, respectively. India is estimated to have produced 240-245 million tonnes (mt) of milk in 2023-24, up 4-5% from a year earlier.

"As this summer is expected to see above-average temperatures with increased heat waves in Maharashtra, Odisha and the southern states and with falling water reservoir levels, water shortage is expected to be seen for animal consumption, which is expected to affect yields leading to lower milk production in Q1 FY25," Pushan Sharma, director-research of Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics said. "However, a healthy monsoon is expected to compensate for the fall in production in summer season."

"In the past, it has been observed that higher temperatures in summer lead to animals falling sick more often and lower water intake due to water shortage further impacts their health. This leads to a fall in yields of about one litre per day. Hence, if a greater number of animals fall sick, this would lead to a decline in milk yields in summers with above normal temperatures," Sharma added.

India is estimated to have produced 240-245 mt of milk in FY24, up 4-5% from a year earlier. GETTY IMAGES

Water levels in India's 150 major reservoirs stood at 35% as of 4 April, Central Water Commission data showed. The available water level was 61.8 billion cubic meter (BCM), 17% lower than a year ago, and 2% below the average of last 10 years. Meanwhile, the official weather forecast said most regions will witness above-normal temperature in April-June, with central and western peninsular regions witnessing the worst of heat waves. However, southwest monsoon may be normal to above normal, it said.

R.S. Sodhi, president of the Indian Dairy Association agreed that the organized sector will get less milk this year due to heat waves. Demand for paneer, curd, butter milk and ice cream during summer will be much higher than last year, he said, adding he doesn't expect their prices to rise.

"Raw milk prices will increase, but it will not have impact on fresh products because prices of these are lower compared to finished products. In contrast, fat prices in India will definitely go up because international prices of fat are around ₹150 per kg higher than in India," he said. "If summer is very harsh, on one side, production or procurement reduces, and on the other side, demand increases. The situation may be cushioned by dairies holding good stock," Sodhi added.

Queries sent to the department of animal husbandry & dairying, agriculture ministry and consumer affairs department remained unanswered.

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India cannot solve its water crisis without pricing it appropriately

Only pricing will provide the incentives necessary for efficient and sustainable use of this resource

NITIN PAI
is co-founder and director of The Takshashila Institution, an independent centre for research and education in public policy.

A few years ago, the mayor of a Karnataka town asked me how she could prevent people from wastefully washing their yards, walls and vehicles with water from the municipal water supply. She told me she had organized awareness campaigns, promoted conservation efforts and even personally remonstrated with citizens, but to little avail. When I asked her how much they paid for the water, she replied that the monthly charge was a few tens of rupees per connection, but this was not strictly enforced. She was taken aback when I told her that was why her conservation efforts had been unsuccessful.

An underpriced resource is over-consumed. That is what is happening across the country, where underpriced water and electricity are causing people to consume more than the optimum. It is not a surprise that we are going from water scarcity to water crisis. The current approach of underpricing water is no longer tenable, for water crises will only get worse in the coming years. Water can only be conserved when it is priced at marginal cost, at the most expensive litre of water produced to satisfy a given demand.

In Bengaluru, residential piped water costs between ₹7 and ₹45 per 1,000 litres. Houses that do not have access to municipal water supply purchase water from tankers at around ₹150 during normal times and up to ₹250 during shortages. Thus the marginal cost of water is 20 to 35 times what the fortunate people with access to municipal supply pay. If prices go up, people will adopt flow controllers, bucket showers, rainwater harvesting and other conservation measures with greater urgency.

So pricing water is a solution to the scarcity and sustainability problem. The question is how do we get there.

There is no doubt that water is a necessity of life and everyone should have access to a basic quantity of it for drinking and washing. The United Nations General Assembly has decreed that every human has a right to 50 to 100 litres of water per day from a source less than 1km and 30 minutes from home. In a country with many poor and low-income households, this water should be available regardless of one's ability to pay. There is a case to make available this basic quantity of water free of cost to poor households.

With the availability of a robust social welfare infrastructure in the form of the Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile (JAM) trinity, it is already possible to ensure water is properly priced and the poor are provided the money to purchase it. Indian cities must raise water prices over a period of a few years until they are close to its marginal cost, and entitle poor households to water vouchers. Vouchers can be financed through the state government's budget until municipal water corporations are able to cross-subsidize them from their own surpluses.

Today, municipal water supply is synonymous with piped water. There is no reason why this must be so. Indeed, municipal water companies should be mandated to provide at least 100 litres per person per day regardless of the means of delivery. It should be up to them to use pipes, bore wells, tankers or bottles, as long as they achieve the outcome.

Pricing can solve upstream problems as well. One reason the Kaveri water dispute has persisted for decades is that there is no reason for the claimants to moderate their claims. The more they ask, the more the tribunal is likely to eventually assign them.

My colleagues at Takshashila have shown that a more efficient and less contentious allocation system is indeed possible. States that claim more than a low basic quota must pay for the excess into a Kaveri Water Fund. States that take below their quota can receive money instead. This would allow state governments the flexibility to choose a wider set of policies, and give them the financial resources to compensate farmers and others who have to change their water-use patterns. Pricing will create incentives to economise on the use of water and lead to a more efficient allocation.

The policy design is not tremendously difficult and the projects can be made financially viable. The biggest hurdle is a political system that is addicted to populism. Indian politicians know how to make paid things free. They are unfamiliar with the idea of making free things chargeable. Yet, there are examples—national highways, for instance—where pricing has created a bigger and better road network.

Water should be priced not because it will bring new sources of revenue to governments, but because it creates incentives for conservation. Tackling scarcity requires action on multiple fronts: increasing efficiency of use, promoting reuse, governing groundwater, harvesting rainwater, rehabilitating water bodies, building new infrastructure and so on. It is hard to implement these at the scale required because there are few incentives to do so. No government has the capacity to cajole or coerce everyone into action. Pricing provides a strong incentive for people to do the right things. There is no alternative.

Disclosure: The author is on the board of Jal Seva Charitable Foundation. These are the author's personal views.

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चिंता : 13 नदियों में भीषण जल संकट

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। देश में बढ़ती तपिश के बीच आंध्र प्रदेश, तेलंगाना और ओडिशा जैसे राज्यों में बहने वाली 13 नदियों में जल संकट हो गया है।

केंद्रीय जल आयोग (सीडब्ल्यूसी) के मुताबिक, महानदी और पेन्नार बेसिन के बीच पूर्व की ओर बहने वाली नदियों में पानी नहीं है। इस बेसिन के बीच ऋषिकुल्या, बाहुडा, वंशधारा, नागवती, शारदा, वराह, तांडव, एलुरु, गुंडलकम्मा, तम्मिलेरु, मुसी, पालेरु और मन्नेरु जैसी नदियां बहती हैं,

विशेषज्ञ इस संकट के लिए कमजोर मानसून, वर्षा गतिविधियों में बदलाव, जलग्रहण क्षेत्र में गिरावट और भूजल में कमी को जिम्मेदार ठहरा रहे हैं।

> महानदी बेसिन में किए विश्लेषण में पाया गया कि जलापूर्ति आवश्यकता को बढ़ाने के लिए कृषि संबंधी प्रणालियों में बदलाव की जरूरत है, ताकि जल भंडारण क्षमता को बढ़ाया जा सके।
> – नितिन बस्सी, सीईईडब्ल्यू प्रमुख

भंडारण उपलब्ध

भारत में 150 जलाशयों की कुल भंडारण क्षमता 178.784 अरब घन मीटर (बीसीएम) है, जो देशभर में अनुमानित कुल क्षमता 257.812 बीसीएम का लगभग 69.35 प्रतिशत है। हालांकि, इन जलाशयों में उपलब्ध भंडारण मात्र 61.801 बीसीएम है, जो इनकी कुल क्षमता का 35 प्रतिशत है।

सीडब्ल्यूसी की रिपोर्ट में बताया गया कि आंध्र प्रदेश, तेलंगाना, कर्नाटक, केरल और तमिलनाडु के जलाशयों में भंडारण स्तर में खासी गिरावट आई है। यहां फिलहाल उनकी कुल क्षमता का केवल 20 प्रतिशत पानी है। वहीं पेन्नार और कन्याकुमारी के बीच पूर्व की ओर बहने वाली नदियों में उनकी क्षमता का 12% जल भंडारण है। सीडब्ल्यूसी ने चार अप्रैल को जारी आंकड़ों में बताया कि गत वर्ष की इसी अवधि की तुलना में संसाधनों में भारी गिरावट आई है।

Rajasthan Patrika- 08- April-2024

पेयजल संकट एवं सूखा के मद्देनजर विंध्याचल मंडल के कमिश्नर ने की समीक्षा बैठक

जल योजना के बावजूद विंध्य क्षेत्र में पेयजल संकट

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

मिर्जापुर. अमृत एवं घर-घर नल जल योजना के बावजूद विंध्य क्षेत्र में पेयजल संकट जस का तस बना हुआ है। गर्मी के साथ विंध्याचल के पहाड़ी एवं जंगली इलाकों में पेयजल संकट हर साल की बात है।

विशेष कर हलिया लालगंज एवं मड़िहान में संकट कुछ ज्यादा ही रहता है। यहां आदमी के साथ पशु और पक्षी भी पानी के लिए बेहाल हो जाते हैं। इन क्षेत्रों में टैंकर एवं अन्य तरीके से गांवों में पानी पहुंचाया जाता है। भले ही यह बात आश्चर्य जनक लगे, परंतु कुछ गांवों में पानी के लिए बाकायदा कार्ड वितरित किए जाते हैं। जिसमें यूनिट के अनुसार पानी का तेल के जैसे वितरण किया जाता है। इस साल मार्च-अप्रेल में ही भीषण गर्मी से जिला प्रशासन हरकत में आ गया है। चुनाव को देखते हुए सक्रियता कुछ और तेज हो गई है।

पेयजल संकट एवं सूखा के मद्देनजर विंध्याचल मंडल के कमिश्नर मुथुकुमार स्वामी ने जिलाधिकारी सहित अन्य अधिकारियों के साथ उच्चस्तरीय बैठक की है।

उन्होंने समीक्षा करके जिला स्तर पर पेय जल संकट से निपटने के लिए कंट्रोल रूम स्थापित करने के साथ ही सिंचाई, नहर, जल निगम एवं नमामि गंगे सहित अन्य संबंधित विभागों को एलर्ट मोड़ में रहने के आदेश दिए हैं।

बंधों से रिजर्व पानी को नहर द्वारा छोड़े जाने के भी आदेश

कमिश्नर मुथुकुमार स्वामी ने बताया कि बंधों से रिजर्व पानी को नहर द्वारा छोड़े जाने के भी आदेश दिए गए हैं। खराब नलकूपों की मरम्मत कार्य शुरू किए गए हैं। हैंडपंपों के रीबोर और नए हैंडपंपों का अधिष्ठापन किया जाएगा। टैंकरों द्वारा अतिसंवेदनशील गांवों में पानी पहुंचाया जाएगा। मिर्जापुर जिले के अतिसंवेदनशील 80 गांव चिन्हित किए गए हैं। कमिश्नर द्वारा खुद अधिकारियों के साथ बंधों एवं नलकूपों आदि का स्थलीय निरीक्षण गंभीरता को बयां कर रहा है। अभी अगर स्थिति यह है, तो मई जून में क्या होगा ? ऐसे में लोगों में चिंता का भाव है।