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Indian Nation

Nai Durīya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

TELANGANA

Disappearing water sources

S. HARPAL SINGH

PIPRI/SHYAMLALTANDA

It has been over four decades since the government initiated tribal development through the Integrated Tribal Development Agency but the wait for water has not ended for the Adivasis of Pipri, Kundi and Sungapur villages in Gadiguda and Narnoor mandals of Adilabad district, Telangana. Summer is a testing time for the 1,500 population.

The anxiety of the aboriginal Gond, Kolam and Andh people living in these parts for centuries can be gauged from the fact that they are unhappy with the road being laid to Pipri. "Priority should have been given to water," points out Pipri village head man or Patel, Sidam Jangu.

The problem of Narnoor and Gadiguda mandals lies in their geology, which comprises the vast deccan trap rock underneath the top soil. Neither open wells nor tube wells, therefore, hold water for long.

Dry borewells

Pipri, a village of 80 households has two other habitations - Kolamguda with 60 households and Andhguda with 15 hamlets. The main source of water for these hamlets is a borewell close to their villages, another located 2 km away from Pipri, and a couple of dilapidated open wells.

"All these dry up in March," discloses Sidam Sangeetha who was collecting water from one of the wells which was recharged to an extent following a recent spell of heavy unseasonal rainfall. "This will not last beyond three days and we have to go to the well near Andhguda," she laments.

Scarce supply

Ravindra Naik of Shyamnaik tanda in interior Nagalgidda mandal of Sangareddy district carries four pots on his bicycle to the nearest water source about 1 km away. A pipeline was laid from an open well but the water supply lasts for less than 30 minutes. The hamlet of 55 houses with 300 residents has merely one tank to meet the needs of the locals.

"People are sleeping near the water supply point in the night for water. Unable to feed the cattle the residents already sold about 10," Najibai, a woman in her fifties stating that they have to make the animals walk 3 km to get drinking water".

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SYL hearing now on July 11

Results of Punjab-Haryana talks not known: Centre

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

Terming it a question of dignity of a decree passed by it, the Supreme Court today reiterated that its order for construction of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal must be implemented.

"The dignity of the decree passed by this court must be maintained.... Whether the matter is settled or not settled, we are not bothered about it... we are bothered about implementation of our order," a Bench headed by Justice PC Ghose said.

The court's comments came after Solicitor General

Ranjit Kumar told the Bench that there have been talks between Punjab and Haryana in the capital on April 20 but the outcome was not known. There has also been a meeting of the two chief ministers with the Prime Minister, Kumar told the Bench.

On behalf of Haryana, senior counsel Shyam Divan said the state had to wait for several years for the decree. He expressed the apprehension that people would lose faith in the judicial system if there was further delay in execution of the decree passed in 2002.

Senior counsel RS Suri,

who represented Punjab, and Advocate General Atul Nanda said the decree was not executable and it would require time to argue the matter. The Bench posted the matter for hearing on July 11, after the summer vacation.

Justice Ghose, who is retiring on May 27, said, "My brother will be there," alluding to Justice Amitava Roy — the other judge on the Bench.

The Supreme Court had on April 12 asked the Centre, Punjab and Haryana to finish their talks on the construction of the SYL canal "as soon as it can be", saying it will decide the matter if negotiations remained unresolved.

April-28-4-2017 Hindu

Miles to go to slake our thirst

7/8

Faraway wells and ponds, and the occasional water tanker, are the only hope for the residents of some districts in Andhra Pradesh. When even these fail, as they often do in the searing heat, it becomes a struggle to continue normal life

S.MURALI
ONGOLE

Unmindful of the blazing sun, people in remote, fluoride-affected Puchakayalapalle village, Markapur constituency in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh, set aside all their work and wait patiently for the arrival of a water tanker.

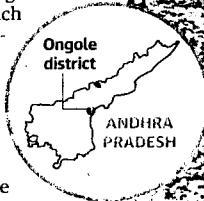
Disappointment was writ large on their faces seeing a team from *The Hindu* entering their village instead of the tanker, which usually brings unprocessed water from borewells sunk to a depth of 700 to 800 feet on agriculture fields. They do so because all water sources in most of the villages, particularly in the western parts have dried up, and Prakasam district is facing its third consecutive drought year.

This village, like half of the over 2,000 habitations in 56 mandals of the district, has no option but to depend on a supply of fluoride-affected groundwater.

Presenting a grim picture, the village sarpanch, M. Malla Reddy, explains: "It is almost a decade now that the Sunkesulacheruvu had any inflows. The two borewells sunk by the gram panchayat for drinking water purpose also dried up. So is the case with many of the farm borewells in and around the village. Much against odds, we are able to provide only three to four pots of water per household."

How can we meet all our water needs, including cooking and washing, and quench the thirst of cattle, our only source of meagre earnings given the lack of returns from agriculture, asks a local woman, Sarada.

She has skipped work to join other family members, travelling whenever the need arises during the day, utilising a variety of different transportation to reach the unloading point for water tankers, all



THE LONG WALK HOME: Villagers from Pipri in Adilabad district, Telangana returning with water collected from the only source near their village. ■ S. HARPAL SINGH

for a few pots of water.

For the residents of Donakonda, a pot of Krishna water requires a 45-minute train journey to Gajalakonda during the peak of summer every year as the storage tank constructed in the village dries up sooner or later.

"This year, we are fortunate to have Krishna water in the village till March. We may have to travel by train to bring Krishna water this year also

from Gajalakonda if the once-in-a-week water supply is not introduced from April till we get replenishment from Nagarjunasagar after the onset of the southwest monsoon," explains villager Ramakrishna Reddy.

"Bathing is a luxury," confides Srinivasulu from Jammanapalle village in Markapur mandal, with a population of around 1,000. The flagship Swachh Bharat scheme has

suffered a setback here because sanitary latrines constructed in many of the houses fell into disuse due to insufficient water for flushing.

"How many more years will the State government take to complete the Veligonda project, our only hope for a permanent solution to our water woes?" ask people in Sunkesula, disappointed over the project for which Chief Minister N. Chan-

drababu Naidu laid the foundation stone in 1996.

The project, which aimed to provide drinking water to 15.25 lakh people and irrigate 4.50 lakh acres, progresses at a snail's pace, and has suffered cost and time overruns in the last 20 years.

This is the second of a seven-part series
Tomorrow: Wildlife impact

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Himalayan rocks may up flood risk, finds study

Earthquakes and landslides can potentially affect millions in India and neighbouring countries

INDIAN TRUST OF INDIA

ON

Earthquakes and landslides in the Himalayas – that lead to a large volume of hard rocks being dumped into rivers – can increase flood risk up to hundreds of kilometres downstream, potentially affecting millions of people in India and neighbouring countries, a new study finds.

The findings could help researchers improve flood risk maps for the Ganga basin, a low-lying region covering parts of India, Nepal and Pakistan – one of Earth's most densely populated regions.

The study, conducted by researchers at the University of Edinburgh in the U.K., could also provide fresh insight into the long-term impacts of earthquakes and storms in the region.

Little known yet

Until now, little was known about how landslides in the Himalayas may affect flood risk downstream on the Ganga plain.

For the first time, scientists have traced the path of rocks washed down from the Himalayan mountains onto the Ganga plain.

They found that large landslides in the southern,



Downstream danger: The findings could help researchers improve flood risk maps for the Ganga plain. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

lower elevation ranges of the Himalayas are more likely to increase flood risk than those in the high mountains further north.

Rocks in the south are extremely hard and travel only a short distance – less than 20 km – to reach the plain.

This means much of this

rock – such as quartzite – reaches the Ganga plain as gravel or pebbles, which can build up in rivers, altering the natural path of the water, the research team said.

Broken down into sand

Rocks from more northerly regions of the Himalayas tend to be softer, and the team found they often travel at least 100 km to reach the plain.

These types of rock, including limestone and gneiss, are gradually broken down into sand which, unlike gravel and pebbles, is dispersed widely as it travels downstream.