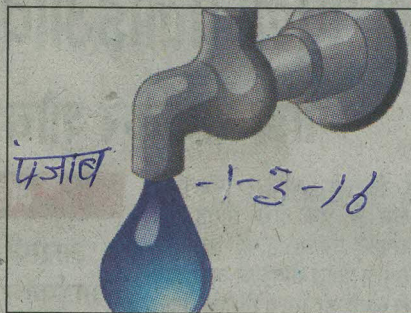


वजीराबाद व चंद्रावल प्लांट चालू, मगर कई इलाके में अभी भी पेयजल संकट

नई दिल्ली, (ब्यूरो): पिछले दो दिनों से यमुना में अमोनिया के कारण ठप्प ठप्प पड़े वजीराबाद व चंद्रावल वजीराबाद जल उपचार सोमवार को चालू हो गए। दिल्ली जल बोर्ड (डीजेबी) ने कहा है कि पानी का उत्पादन शुरू होने के साथ ही सप्लाई भी शुरू कर दी गई है। इधर पेयजल उत्पादन सामान्य होने के बाद भी कुछ इलाके में आज भी पेयजल संकट गहराया रहा। आज पानी उत्पादन होने के साथ ही पुरानी दिल्ली, मध्य दिल्ली करोलबाग क्षेत्र में शाम के समय पानी की आपूर्ति हुई, लेकिन उत्तरी-पश्चिमी दिल्ली, पश्चिमी तथा बाहरी दिल्ली के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में आज भी पेयजल संकट गहराया रहा। इधर द्वारका क्षेत्र में पानी की किल्लत अभी भी बनी हुई है। द्वारका प्लांट बंद होने से पेयजल व्यवस्था चरमराई हुई है। यहां

किसी तरह द्वारका कमांड टैंक से राटे शानल आधार पर पानी की आपूर्ति की जा रही है, लेकिन वह नाकाफी है। डीजेबी का कहन है कि स्थिति सामान्य होने में अभी



समस्या बरकरार

पेयजल संकट पर दिल्ली सरकार गंभीर नहीं

कुछ दिन और लगेगा। दूसरी ओर डीजेबी ने आज कहा कि नांगलोई जल संप्रदाय से जुड़े 1200 एमएम की पाइप लाइन हस्तसाल एलआईजी फ्लैट के पास क्षतिग्रस्त होने के कारण द्वारका कमांड टैंक-2 में पानी की आपूर्ति बाधित हो गई है। डीजेबी के अनुसार प्रभावित होने वाले क्षेत्रों में द्वारका सेक्टर-1 से 22 एवं सीटी-1, 2 व 3, नसीरपुर, मधु विहार, राजापुरी, चाणक्य प्लेस-2, महावीर एन्कलेव, पोचनपुर, अंबर आई गांव, विजय एन्कलेव, बिंदापुर व आसपास के क्षेत्र, रणहोला, उत्तम नगर, विकास नगर, हस्तसाल, फिश मार्केट, किरण गार्डन तथा आसपास के क्षेत्र शामिल है।

बूंद-बूंद पानी के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे लोग

■ जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

पांच लीटर वाली पानी की बोतल लेकर चल रहा शौकत दाएं हाथ की उंगलियों में निशान बनने पर बोतल दूसरे हाथ में ले लेता है। मदरसा जाने का समय गुजरता जा रहा है। इसलिए कुछ जल्दबाजी में है। वह कभी दौड़ता तो कभी थक कर रुक जाता। शौकत ही नहीं कई और भी मासूम अपने परिजनों के साथ बूंद-बूंद पानी के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे हैं। पहले जाट आरक्षण आंदोलन के दौरान मूनक नहर से पानी

अमोनिया की मात्रा बढ़ने से दो प्लांट ठप

नहीं आने के कारण मध्य और उत्तरी दिल्लीवासियों ने पानी की किल्लत झेली। अब यमुना में अमोनिया की मात्रा बढ़ने से चंद्रावल और वजीराबाद प्लांट ठप होने से परेशानी बढ़ गई है। पानी नहीं आने से लोगों के दैनिक क्रियाकलाप प्रभावित हो रहे हैं। साथ ही पानी माफिया लोगों की मजबूरी का फायदा उठाकर अधिक पैसे वसूल

रहा है। जल बोर्ड के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि अमोनिया की बढ़ी मात्रा के चलते दो प्लांट बंद हैं। इसलिए मध्य दिल्ली और उत्तरी दिल्ली में लोगों को परेशानी उठानी पड़ रही है। दरियागंज, आजाद मार्केट, जामा मस्जिद, चावड़ी बाजार, चांदनी चौक, सब्जी मंडी, कश्मीरी गेट, नबी करीम, आजाद मार्केट, मजनुं का टीला, पीली कोठी, पुल मिठाई, सदर बाजार, भगीरथ पैलेस, दरीबा कलां, सुई वालान, चूड़ी वालान जैसे इलाकों में पानी आपूर्ति नहीं हो पा रही है।

नबी करीम निवासी अशफाक कहते हैं कि जल बोर्ड का टैंकर सुबह आता है। इसलिए सुबह चार बजे जागना पड़ता है और लाइन लगानी पड़ती है।

पानी माफिया काट रहा चांदी : मध्य और उत्तरी दिल्ली में पानी माफिया चांदी काट रहा है। डिब्बाबंद पानी की मांग बढ़ने के साथ ही दाम भी बढ़ा दिए गए हैं। लोगों ने बताया कि पहले 20 लीटर डिब्बा बंद पानी 25 से 35 रुपये में आसानी से मिल जाता था। अब यह 70 से 100 रुपये में मिल रहा है।



Thirsting for long-term solutions

Rasheed Kappan, February 28, 2016, Bengaluru, DHNS



edge.

A deadly double trouble stares Bengaluru City straight in the face this summer. Drying up fast, the Cauvery reservoirs might barely meet the city's rising water demand. But an acute power crisis threatens to derail BWSSB's contingency plans till June, pushing Bengalureans to the

Pumping water from Cauvery in three stages over 110 km takes a whopping 120 MW of power, every day. Distributing this through 70 pumping stations within the City adds to that huge consumption. Load-shedding, scheduled and unscheduled, could play havoc with the system. Is Bengaluru ready, is BWSSB prepared?

The signs are ominous. Water levels have dipped 25 per cent in the four Cauvery river basin reservoirs of Harangi, Hemavathi, KRS and Kabini. BWSSB says reserving 1.5 tmcft of water every month till end of June might just help tide over the summer demand. But they aren't so sure.

Power shortage could trigger a water crisis by May-end. Bengaluru's voracious water demand in the summer heat could advance that crisis to even April.

Here's why: Like every summer, borewells have dried up in thousands, groundwater table has dipped dangerously, rain-water harvesting and other water conservation efforts are still in their infancy.

BWSSB banks on the Irrigation Department's assurance that priority will be for drinking water and not irrigation. But will this go well with farmers in the Cauvery river water basin? Lack of a long-term strategy to address the city's recurring summer crisis makes this tricky balancing act inevitable.

No exclusive reservoir

The problem, as articulated by former BWSSB chief engineer M N Thippeswamy, is this: None of the four reservoirs upstream has water exclusively earmarked for water supply to Bengaluru.

Not a drop! Every year, demand from the city dictates the flow. This need-based system just does not suit a city of 10 million and rising.

Based on Bengaluru's water demand over the next 25 years, the Australian International Development Agency (AusAID) had prepared a master plan that clearly indicated the need for an exclusive reservoir.

"Two locations were identified in the downstream of Shiva Anicut and upstream of Mekedaatu for a 2 tmcft balancing reservoir. But nothing materialised," notes Thippeswamy.

Depleted reservoir levels inevitably lower the velocity of water flow into the City. High evaporation losses further reduces the water volumes. Pilferage both in the river basin and inner city areas is another cause for concern.

Unaccounted water

Eventually, as the Water Board's Chief Engineer (Maintenance) Kemparamaiah informs, only 600-700 MLD of the 1,370-1,380 MLD that is pumped from Cauvery is accounted for. That's a staggering 50 per cent lost due to factors that could have been controlled with better technology and management.

Bengaluru's growth has largely been on its periphery, vast swathes of which comes under the erstwhile 110 villages brought under the BBMP limits. There is no BWSSB pipeline infrastructure here. The water tanker mafia reigns supreme here, their rates and water quality totally unregulated.

As a contingency measure, BWSSB too has proposed to engage all its 63 tankers and hire another 60 private tankers to cater to any shortage.



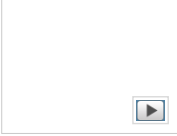
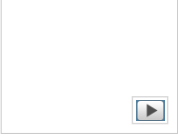
These would distribute water supplied by about 8,000 borewells owned by the Board. But many of these and a big proportion of the estimated 3 lakh private borewells could dry up as summer advances.

Depleting sources

Consider this: Barely 200 metres from Bellandur lake, a borewell dug in December could find no water even at 1,000 ft.

This story finds its echo in Marathahalli, Whitefield, Yelahanka, Sarjapur road and beyond. If groundwater table depletion is one issue, heavy chemical contamination of the precious liquid at such levels is another dangerous trend.

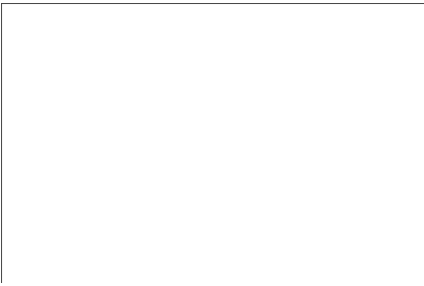
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Traditionally, the city's water distribution network in residential areas has been designed for houses with one or two floors. But the city's vertical growth, propelled by hundreds of multi-storeyed apartment blocks particularly in the 110 villages, has put a severe strain on the old network. A top BWSSB official admits that the Board can do nothing in areas that fall under the old villages. If the borewells dry up, lakhs of apartment residents here will have no place to go.

In the ultimate analysis, the crisis management clearly shows a gaping hole in planning, policy formulation and poor vision. The stress is always on contingency plans, much less on long-term solutions. As one Water Board insider says with biting sarcasm, even the water conservation awareness starts only by the end of January and lasts till June. This way, the last drop won't last long.

Based on City's water demand over the next 25 years, an Australian International Development Agency master plan had indicated the need for an exclusive reservoir.

Two locations were identified in downstream of Shiva Anicut and upstream of Mekedaatu for a 2 TMCft balancing reservoir. But nothing materialised.

Only 700 MLD of 1,380 MLD pumped from Cauvery is accounted for. A staggering 50% is lost due to factors that could be controlled with better technology, management.

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In the grip of the tanker mafia

Naveen Menezes, February 28, 2016, Bengaluru, DHNS



It is summer time, and residents on Bengaluru's periphery are already at the mercy of the notorious water tanker mafia. The demand for water has risen dramatically in the 110 villages, now part of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). But, since there is no BWSSB pipeline network, people here are forced to depend on borewells and private water tankers.

BWSSB's water lines could take at least another five years to reach these erstwhile village areas. The Board is still preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR). This is time enough for the tanker mafia to make a killing. Residents of the apartments that have mushroomed all across these areas have no choice but to pay up. As the summer advances, the crisis is bound to deepen.

Tanker operators continues to exploit the residents' desperation by charging Rs. 500 to Rs. 2,000 per load. In the absence of a regulatory mechanism to control this mafia, the rates are likely to go way beyond Rs. 3,000 as the temperature rises. Borewells within apartment complexes are drying up fast, leaving no choice whatsoever for the dwellers.

High-rise apartment blocks have sprung up in big numbers on either side of the Outer Ring Road. Most of these depend on either their own borewells or private water tankers. Sun City apartment on Sarjapur road seems to have learnt from its previous harsh experiences. "This time, we made an annual agreement with multiple private tanker owners to provide water for Rs 500 (6,000 kilo litres). We need at least 160 tankers of water each day. Each apartment spends an average of Rs 3,000 every month," says a resident here.

Sudarshan R, a small-time tanker operator from Varthur claims he charges around Rs 500 for each load. But, Janardhan Rao, a resident of Marathahalli, contests this saying he usually pays Rs 2,000 for a tanker of water. "The borewell went dry and I had no other option but shell out this heavy price last year. This time, I saved a lot of water thanks to rain water harvesting," he says.

Is there any plan to regulate the water tanker prices? S Krishnappa, Engineer in Chief, BWSSB, says the Board has no authority to monitor private suppliers. "We can act against individuals who were allowed to drill borewells for domestic purpose, but were selling water. Unless there is a specific complaint, it is not possible to keep an eye on all the domestic borewells," he reasons.

All that the Board can do is to address a crisis situation. In case of any severe water shortage in the new areas, the Board will supply water from its 8,000 borewells and take the help of private borewells, he assures.

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'Reusing, recycling water must to deal with crisis'

Srividya Ramesh, February 28, 2016, Bengaluru, DHNS



Water woes are back to haunt Bengalureans again this summer, and the worst hit by this impending crisis are sure to be the apartment dwellers.

"People living in apartments usually experience water problems during summer. The situation is particularly grim for those on the City's outskirts. They just don't have any access to Cauvery water," reminds T Rajamani, 46, a bank manager and resident of Electronics City.

Rajamani, who is also secretary of his apartment association, says the inaccessibility of Cauvery connection has forced residents there to depend solely on borewells and the water tankers. Reuse of water has been another option. He informs, "We have started recycling water from the last two years through an in-house mechanism. The recycled water is used for washing and gardening."

Only a few neighbourhoods in the City's core areas have been lucky so far. For instance, some old independent houses in the City, are fortunate enough to access even well water. Says, Mythili S of Halasuru, "We have our own well and I have been living in this house for more than 60 years. In all these years, we have not suffered any water problems."

But experts warn that with groundwater levels depleting and being contaminated with sewage, the City will soon have a major water crisis. "Even those with wells are likely to suffer because the depletion rate is very fast," says Preeti Jain, who works with a City-based environmental organisation.

She suggests long-term solutions to address the problem. "We have to be cautious when we use water and adopt a 'reduce, reuse and recycle' policy. Recycling and reusing water at homes can help us. These measures can be adopted other than rainwater harvesting." Priyadarshini M, a student pursuing research in 'urban cities and water woes', says that it is not just Bengaluru, most urban settlements and cities are now facing water problems. She blames this on the thriving real estate growth and population explosion. "We have constructed buildings mindlessly without keeping in the mind the basic needs such as water. Many people with homes on the outskirts are forced to shell out huge amounts of money to purchase water. Even borewell water has become contaminated and is rendered unusable," she points out.

The real estate boom has sparked a multitude of problems, one of which is the encroachment and drying up of lakes, she says. The lakes could have addressed the city's acute water crisis during summer if they had been left alone and rejuvenated. But now, it is too late, she rues.

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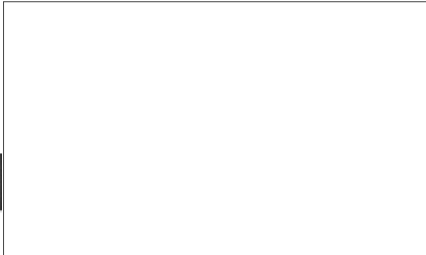
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