

Hindustan Times- 03- February-2023

What the Indus impasse entails

Any update in the treaty will be difficult at a time of intense economic instability in Pakistan

Finalised in 1960, the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) survived three wars and was hailed as a shining example of a working arrangement that successfully negotiated hostility between India and Pakistan for over half a century, becoming a template for talks between upper-riparian and lower-riparian States the world over. But in recent years, it has come under increasing strain. On January 25, India formally informed Pakistan of its intent to renegotiate the treaty, largely because of Islamabad's "intransigence" in handling differences over the Kishanganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects. At the heart of this matter is India's contention that disputes must be settled through a three-step mechanism, involving the Indus waters commissioners, a neutral expert, and a court of arbitration. In other words, a dispute cannot be taken to a court of arbitration until it has been adjudicated by a neutral expert. The World Bank, which negotiated the original deal, said the treaty did not empower it to decide whether one procedure should take precedence over the other, and Pakistan says it prefers an arbitration process.

The current impasse began in 2016, when Pakistan retracted its request for a neutral expert to study its objections to the designs of the two hydroelectric projects and sought a court of arbitration. The World Bank put a "pause" on the matter, which was lifted in 2022, and the issue is now being taken up by both a neutral expert and a court of arbitration, though India has kept away from the latter. The World Bank, which attempted unsuccessfully to nudge the two countries towards an amicable solution, has expressed concern that the simultaneous proceedings "may pose practical and legal risks", including to the treaty itself.

The IWT stood the test of time because it conferred benefits to both sides. The implications of any problems with the arrangement will be significant. At the same time, experts contend that there is a need to update the treaty, specifically to remove ambiguities of the sort witnessed in the handling of disputes. But the current instability in Pakistan — the economy appears in freefall, and the Pakistani rupee is losing ground, precipitating a political crisis — may make any renegotiation difficult. It may also encourage sabre-rattling and unpredictable hardline moves to cater to domestic audiences in Pakistan. Indian policymakers will hope to shield hard-fought gains from this churn. It is worth remembering that water is a scarce commodity of great importance to agriculture-dependent countries such as India and Pakistan, especially as the climate crisis pummels South Asia. The sooner the matter is resolved, the better.

The Hindu- 03- February-2023

Anguish in A.P. over Budget aid to Upper Bhadra project

Union government to provide ₹5,300 crore to the project that will help Karnataka; activists say that despite assured allocation, Andhra Pradesh may not get enough water in a lean rainfall year

Ramesh Susarla
ANANTAPUR

The decision of the Union government to provide a ₹5,300-crore assistance for Karnataka's Upper Bhadra Lift Irrigation Project, which will divert 29.9 tmcft of water from the Tunga and the Bhadra rivers to irrigate central Karnataka areas, has created a sense of anguish among the people of Kurnool and Anantapur districts of Andhra Pradesh. They feel it could deprive them or delay getting their share of allocated water from the Tungabhadra dam.

The Anantapur Municipal Corporation areas and



Water woes: People in Andhra Pradesh feel that the Centre's aid for Karnataka's Upper Bhadra project may delay their share of allocated water from the Tungabhadra dam. FILE PHOTO

160 villages in the undivided Anantapur district get their drinking water from the Tungabhadra dam through the Tungabhadra high-level main canal, in addition to irrigation needs

of Kurnool, Anantapur and Kadapa districts.

The lifting of 17.4 tmcft from the Tunga river upstream of the dam will delay the filling of the dam in the beginning of the mon-

soon and the current average water intake starting time of July 20 to 30 could get pushed to August if there is no sufficient early rain, say Anantapur Urban MLA Anantha Venkatarami Reddy and Public Accounts Committee Chairman Payyavula Keshav.

The Rayalseema activists, including Makireddy Purushottama Reddy, coordinator of Rayalaseema Intellectuals Forum, said the State government should have pitched for the Rayalaseema Irrigation projects, as during lean years if 30 tmcft is diverted in Upper Bhadra, there will be no water for Rayalaseema districts despite assured allocation.

Millennium Post- 03- February-2023

‘7.81 cr rural houses given tap water in last 3 yrs under JJM’

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: More than 7.81 crore rural households have been provided tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission over last three years, Minister of State for Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

In a written reply to a question, the minister said as on January 31, 2023, out of 19.36 crore rural households in the country, around 11.06 crore (57.12 per cent) are reported to have tap water supply.

At the time of the announcement of JJM, 3.23 crore (17 per cent) rural households were reported to have tap water connections.

Goa, Telangana, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Gujarat and Haryana are among the states and Union Territories which have provided tap water to every rural household.

The central government, in partnership with the states, is implementing the JJM since August 2019 to make tap water supply available to every rural household in the country.

The estimated outlay of the mission is Rs 3.60 lakh crore out of which the central share is Rs 2.08 lakh crore.



Millennium Post- 03- February-2023

Conduct 'specific' study on Mussoorie, says NGT in view of Joshimath disaster

Holistic study of carrying capacity of eco-sensitive areas in Himalayan regions imperative for protection of the environment, says bench

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal has issued directions to conduct a specific study of the hill station of Mussoorie and formed a nine-member committee to suggest remedial measures for preventing environmental damage.

The tribunal was hearing a matter where it had initiated suo motu proceedings in view of a media report that the recent Joshimath disaster was a warning for Mussoorie where unplanned constructions continued.

A bench comprising Chairperson Justice AK Goel said a holistic study of the carrying capacity of eco-sensitive areas



SDRF personnel demolish the Hotel Mount View, which has been marked unsafe, in Joshimath

PIC/FILE

in the Himalayan regions was imperative for protection of the environment.

The bench, also comprising Judicial Member Justice Sud-

hir Agarwal and Expert Members A Senthil Vel and Afroz Ahmad, said, "Without undermining the need for study in all eco-sensitive areas... we direct

specific study for Mussoorie..."

"Such study may cover as to how much constructions can be allowed and with what safeguards, what safeguards be used for existing buildings and all other relevant and associated aspects including vehicular traffic, sanitation management, maintaining ecological integrity in terms of soil stability and flora/fauna," the bench said.

The bench also formed a nine-member joint committee headed by the Uttarakhand chief secretary. Other committee members include the Central Pollution Control Board, ACS Environment, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Govind Bal-

labh Pant National Institute of Himalaya and Environment, National Institute of Hydrology, Space Application Centre and National Institute of Rock Mechanics, the bench said.

"The committee may suggest remedial measures to prevent environmental damage in the light of carrying capacity, hydro-geology studies, geomorphological studies and also covering other allied and incidental issues," it added. The committee can seek assistance from any other experts or institutions and has to meet within two weeks. The green panel has also directed the committee to complete its study within two months and furnish a report by April 30.

Millennium Post- 03- February-2023

39 hydro projects under implementation; 9 stalled: Power Min

NEW DELHI: As many as 39 hydro projects totalling 14,623.5 MW capacity are under implementation in the country while nine out of these are stalled, Parliament was informed on Thursday. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Power Minister R K Singh said steps are being taken by developers/government for revival of the stalled projects.

"39 Hydro Electric Projects (above 25 MW) aggregating to 14,623.5 MW are under implementation in the country. Out of these, 30 projects aggregating to 13,387.5 MW are under

active construction and likely to be commissioned by 2026-27 and 9 projects aggregating to 1,236 MW are presently stalled (as on December 31, 2022)," Singh said. In order to fast-track the development of HEPs in northeastern region, a basin-wise indication of projects has been undertaken by CPSUs, he said.

As on December 31, 2022, total 211 HEPs aggregating to an installed capacity of 46,850.15 MW were in operation in the country, he added.

In another reply to the House, Singh said that at pres-



ent, there are 30 large HEPs with aggregate installed capacity of 11,137.50 MW which are being developed in the Himalayan belt across different states in the country. Out of these, 23

projects totalling 10,381.5 MW are under active construction and seven HEPs totalling 756 MW are held up, Singh said adding that besides, there are 87 operational HEPs with an

aggregate installed capacity of 22,982 MW in the Himalayan belt across different states. He told the House that the land subsidence in Joshimath is a very old issue.

It was observed way back in 1976, when M C Mishra committee appointed by the UP government submitted its report examining reasons for the instability of the land.

Out of 30 under-construction projects, only two, namely Phata Byung (76MW) and Tapovan Vishnugad (520 MW) located in Uttarakhand were impacted due to natural

events such as floods/avalanche in the last 10 years, Singh stated.

No large hydro power project lies in the close proximity of Joshimath town, he informed the House adding that the nearest power project, Tapovan Vishnugad HEP is also far away from the site where subsidence took place in recent past.

Tapovan Vishnugad HEP remains unaffected from the subsidence in Joshimath. However, the district administration issued an order on January 5, 2023 to stop the construction activities at the project site until further orders, he stated. PTI

The Pioneer- 03- February-2023

Almora's 100-yr-old water reservoir gets monument national tag

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Famous for its masterpiece architectural features, "Syunrakot ka Naula", a 100-year-old water reservoir at Syunrakot village in Uttarakhand's Almora has been declared as a monument of national importance.

This is for the first time that such an aquifer that is primarily used for drinking purposes has been brought by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) under its ambit.

A senior official from the ASI said naulas are part of the surface-water harvesting method typical to the hilly areas and they are small wells or ponds in which water is collected by making a stone wall across a stream.

Intricately designed pillars and carved steps around the

water pond makes the Syunrakot ka Naula one of the most beautiful naulas dotting the region.

This most unique and elaborate water storage system with a roof and a porous floor which houses an aquifer was constructed in the 14th century during the Katyuri kingdom.

The locals had been demanding its conservation with experts asserting that the structure and design of naulas is the evidence of great ancient scientific knowledge of the ethnic people of Himalaya.

Structurally naula has a roof sloping on all four sides like a temple, and not on two sides like a house.

This was considered a sacred site as on the top of the roof, a round stone is always placed which is considered to be the idol of lord Vishnu,



according to reports.

Naula consists of a tank that is closed on three sides and covered. The fourth side, which is open, has steps that lead down to the tank. There is a pillared verandah around them with engravings.

As the construction of naulas was considered prestigious, these structures can be found in ancient towns, in and outside villages and on important roads. Some naulas are emblazoned with intricate architectural designs. At times they are massive in size with a raised platform for both bathing and washing.

For example the interior of the naulas was always designed like a series of layered steps which were built to narrow and deepen the naula which helped in minimising the water loss due to evaporation.

"Such traditional naulas are now dying due to lack of forest and tree cover, irregular and unpredicted rainfall pattern, loss of traditional knowledge, modernisation and uncontrolled development. These naulas become the target of popular attention only when modern water pipelines stop working.

"Among the important reasons behind the negligence of these important naulas is modernisation, which has caused a loss of traditional knowledge systems among rural communities along with a lack of maintenance due to out-migration of villagers to nearby towns and cities for better job opportunities," said Suman Joshi Suman Joshi, research scholar from Kumaun University, Nainital, in her article published in Researchgate.

Amar Ujala- 03- February-2023

तीन साल में 7.81 करोड़ ग्रामीण परिवारों को नल कनेक्शन

नई दिल्ली। पिछले तीन साल में जल जीवन मिशन के जरिए गांवों में रहने वाले 7.81 करोड़ परिवारों को नल कनेक्शन के जरिए पेयजल मुहैया करवाया गया है।

केंद्रीय जल शक्ति राज्य मंत्री प्रहलाद सिंह पटेल ने लोकसभा में बृहस्पतिवार को यह जानकारी दी। गांवों में 19.36 करोड़ परिवार रहते हैं, इनमें से 11.06 करोड़ परिवारों को 31 जनवरी 2023 तक नल से पेयजल मिलने लगा है। यह कुल परिवारों का 57.12% है। एजेंसी

Amar Ujala- 03- February-2023

नमामि गंगे में सफाई के 232 प्रोजेक्ट पूरे

नई दिल्ली। गंगा नदी को स्वच्छ रखने के लिए बनी परियोजना नमामि गंगे का अनुपालन उत्तराखंड, बिहार और पश्चिम बंगाल में बेहद प्रभावी है। केंद्रीय जलशक्ति राज्यमंत्री प्रहलाद सिंह पटेल ने लोकसभा में कहा कि हाल में परियोजना तेजी से आगे भी बढ़ी है। कुल 409 प्रोजेक्ट नेशनल मिशन क्लीन गंगा मिशन में शुरू हुए, जिनमें से 232 पूरे हो चुके हैं। उत्तराखंड से जितना गंदा पानी निकल रहा है, उससे ज्यादा सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट क्षमता राज्य ने हासिल की है। बिहार ने भी यह क्षमता 10 गुना बढ़ाई है। ब्यूरो

Dainik Jagran- 03- February-2023

सिंधु जल समझौते पर विश्व बैंक के रुख पर भारत ने उठाया सवाल

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस : सिंधु जल समझौते को लेकर पैदा हुए मतभेदों को दूर करने के लिए विश्व बैंक द्वारा दोहरे प्रयासों पर भारत ने सवाल उठाया है। कहा है कि पाकिस्तान के साथ उसके पैदा हुए मतभेदों पर निर्णय के लिए विश्व बैंक ने एक तरफ तो मामले को अंतरराष्ट्रीय न्यायालय में ले जाने का निर्णय लिया है, दूसरी तरफ मतभेदों के निपटाने के लिए स्वतंत्र विशेषज्ञ की नियुक्ति भी की है। उल्लेखनीय है कि जम्मू-कश्मीर की दो पनबिजली परियोजनाओं को लेकर भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच मतभेद की स्थिति बनी हुई है। विश्व बैंक इस समझौते में तीसरा पक्ष है। पिछले हफ्ते भारत ने इस मामले पर पाकिस्तान को नोटिस दिया है और 62 वर्ष पुराने जल प्रबंधन समझौते की समीक्षा करने के लिए कहा है। आपसी मतभेदों को खत्म करने के लिए वार्ता की तिथि निश्चित करने के लिए प्रस्ताव भेजने को कहा है। विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता अरिंदम बागची ने कहा, वह नहीं समझते कि विश्व बैंक इस समझौते की व्याख्या करने में सक्षम है।