

IN HOT WATER

Telugu States just lost control over Krishna, Godavari waters

Instead of resolving issues, both CMs stuck to their guns, which cost dearly

KONDA NALIKAKU MANDU PEDITE, UNNA NALIKA UDIAPAYE
It was great opportunity for GoI, and it used it well. Remember that Telugu saying – pittal panchayati pilli parskarinchindi. Andhra and Telangana are not the first states to fight over water, but probably, they are the first ones to lose control over not just on what they are fighting, but on other river basins too. Whether the GoI notification will resolve the water dispute between Telangana and Andhra remains to be seen

DR BIKSHAM GUJJA & DR K SHIVA KUMAR



AS expected, the Government of India issued a notification on 16th July 2021. This is a sledgehammer on the heads of both the CMs of Telangana and Andhra. Both may sulk, but they have to realise that now they lost both Krishna and Godavari basin to Government of India and its appointed boards under its direct supervision. Not a single Telugu person from both the States will be part of it.

It was great opportunity for GoI, and it used it well. Remember that Telugu saying – pittal panchayati pilli parskarinchindi. Not only pilli came out with the solution but asking to deposit money for what it (pilli) thinks is the solution not only for what they are fighting (Krishna water) but what they might fight in future (Godavari water).

What is this dispute anyway? Chief Ministers of two Telugu states, out of lockdown boredom, wanted to do something adventurous. They wanted to get more water – which is not there – by fighting. Andhra and Telangana are not the first states to fight over water, but probably, they are the first ones to lose control over not just on what they are fighting, but on other river basins too.

Nature of the dispute
What is this dispute anyway?

Water-sharing disputes are neither new to India nor unique to Telangana and AP. There are root causes for these fights, which are outside of these two states purview: a) Outdated concepts: water allocations are being made with outdated and unscientific concept called 75% or 65% dependability; b) Climate variability: Such allocations do not factor in variability of the water from year to year and within a

year; c) No independent enforcement: even if such allocations are to be believed, there is no independent mechanism to enforce; d) No guidelines on inter-basin transfers within the state: Once a state gets water from one basin, it can deny to the region within that particular river basin and divert to other areas causing disputes within the state; e) No incentives to use less water: currently there are no incentives for using less water while meeting the same economic goals; f) No mechanism to share the benefits rather than water itself; All these factors are underlying reasons for this current conflict between AP and Telangana which emanate from our national policy and legal framework.

Specific situation

The Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal, KWDT-II, just before AP state was divided into two, allocated water to three riparian states – Maharashtra, Karnataka and combined state of AP. Out of that allocation, the combined AP state got 1,005 tmcft of water. This has to be shared between Telangana and AP. Telangana state has 68% of Krishna basin area and AP has 32% basin area. A process was initiated by GoI to allocate the water to Telangana and AP from the combined allocation but could not produce any consensus due to various historical and complex procedural wrangling. This is now the source of conflict. Today after seven years, Telangana and AP do not have clarity on their share of Krishna water. So, Telangana wants equal share of this 1,005 tmcft, and Andhra Pradesh wants to divert more water to other basins through Srisaillam, which was a reservoir to produce electricity. Both the CMs told their people that they are fighting for their rights.

The escalation

One side Telangana is demanding equal share over Krishna water and on the other side, AP issued a Government Order (GO) No. 203 on 5th May 2020 to further increase the water diversion to another basin from Srisaillam reservoir. This is to increase already the existing diversion from Pothireddypadu regulator from 3 tmcft per day to almost 9 tmcft per day. According to Telangana state, the existing 3 tmcft itself 'illegal' since Srisaillam dam was meant for hydro power generation.

Alarmed by the GO. 203 of AP, Telangana, after the Cabinet meeting on 19th June 2021, announced a series of projects upstream of Srisaillam, which according to AP might reduce flows into Srisaillam. That did not stop there, in July first week, Telangana started producing electricity emptying the water from reservoirs, with view to putting pressure on AP. Both states instead of sitting and discussing went wild, giving an opportunity to Government of India to intervene.

The conflict can be easily resolved. For that both the state CMs or their representatives could have quietly sat and worked out a framework. The authors of this article made a detailed study using daily inflows, outflows, water used for power generation, water diverted to other basins and came out with very interesting findings. For that, there is a need for scientific understanding of flows, variability based on actual data. It is not a zero-sum game; it is not that one state gain is loss to other state. But such fights are not about water, well that is different debate altogether.

Can GoI move resolve row?

The answer is yes and no. Before we get into that, let us look what the 16th July notification The salient points are as follows:

- ◆ From 31st October onwards, both the State governments have no role in any of the water resource infrastructure on Krishna, Godavari river basins about "Administration, regulation, maintenance, operation." These activities will be under the direct control of the Board, which means, Government of India
 - ◆ Both the Governments have to take approval of ongoing projects, which are not "approved" and the new projects which they want construct in future.
 - ◆ Even if some projects which are completed but not approved, will not be in operation if the board thinks that they are not proper projects
 - ◆ Even if the old projects such as Nagarjunasagar, it is up to the board to release water as part of their regulation, maintenance and operation
- In one sentence, both Telangana and Andhra CMs and their irrigation and hydropower generation will be under direct control of the Board, which is GoI. Not a single Telugu person from both the states will not there in decision-making on two vital sectors of the states. The irony is that both the CMs were fighting over greater control, but they not only lost on Krishna river basin infrastructure, but on Godavari basin too.

Is it good or bad thing?

It depends whom we are asking. For farmers who are main stakeholders there may not be much difference. For them, at

least they may have some certainty about water releases etc. There used to be always some tamasha before releasing of water, now that will be out of State governments and their machinery. However, the operational details are being worked out by GoI and they will be known in the next 30 days

What can both States do?

Well both the State governments are responsible for getting into this situation. It is highly unlikely that both CMs and their government operates will do anything except complaining. Their petty fight and their perception of the fair share of water got them into this situation. GoI couldn't have asked for better opportunity to push their bigger and broader agenda of bringing water into the Central list.

Next week most likely the electricity bill will be approved by Parliament giving total control over electricity distribution, pricing and to companies and giving choice to consumers. Basically, state governments will have no role whatsoever in electricity in coming years. Telangana and Andhra states through their fight opened another area, water, for Government India to take over. This notification will have far-reaching implications to the water sector not just in these states but in entire country in coming years. Soon, water will be in the Centre list. For now, from 31st October in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, water is effectively central subject.

But what can both the governments do? First, they need to come together and agree on how they are going to resolve and better manage the water infrastructure. Both need to come together and agree for a mutually respectable framework and present it to Supreme court jointly to get out of this situation.

Will two states do this quickly before 31st October and go to Supreme Court challenging the notification on 16th July 2021? That is the question the civil society of both the states should be asking. Obviously, they will not do it. So, it is better both the state governments and the civil society better prepare for the new reality.

Only old Telugu saying can sum it up – konda nalikaku mandu pedite, unna nalika udiapaye.

(Dr Biksham Gujja is international expert on water policy. He earlier worked with WWF, UN, ICRISAT and edited a book on "Water Conflicts in India" among many articles and books. Dr Shiva Kumar is scientist and analyst who earlier worked with Department of Atomic Energy)

Managing stress & staying positive



JYOTHI GOSALA

IS your glass half empty or half full? Our perspective reflects our thought process, our energies whether positive or negative impacting our personality, habits, and the overall well-being. With positivity we emanate positive energy, and with negativity we attract negative energy. Stress management is a key which sets right the chasms of energy with a balancing act. By being positive, we can handle any negativity in a better way. Negativity emanates from assumptions, negative thinking & people. Having a positive outlook enables one to deal better with stressful situations.

Staying positive in a negative situation is maturity; while reacting in a negative situation is being naive. Personality shapes us – we are the creation of our own thoughts. Stress, we either make it or consume it with our own thoughtful behaviour which attributes through positive vibes or negative vibes. Let's understand stress and what are the most viable practices to reduce stress components in the younger generation and employees. Positive change comes with a good environment.

Stress management is an art. It takes a lot of effort to keep stress at bay. In a professional realm, how do we address this fearsome factor? How does one cope with stress which literally consumes one and the energy? Good positive thinking drives away stress. Managing stress consistently keeps one in good balance. By overcoming negative self-talk, people with negative mindset, chaotic environments there would be a drop in the stress levels. Exercising and walking does wonders. By being mindful we are more aware of situations and people. As the awareness quotient expands with practice, we feel more connected to positive energy. Reflecting on things can improve one's potential on the important vs the unimportant. One can get more organised with a journal by penning thoughts. De-stressing is equally an important component to minimize negativity.

It's essential to shed all negative pent up emotions which increase the level of stress. Good music, pleasing atmospheres, positive people, mentors who can uplift one's mood with good vibes all the way makes a lot of difference to one's well being.

Do we understand stress in a better way? Is it a boon or bane? How do we go about assessing stress? Do we reflect on our actions and re-

actions, positives and negatives, and what are the responses we generate in the brain. And what are the probable reactions? It's essential to do a walk-through often internally to generate pleasant external vibes. Focusing on the issue is crucial, to create an affirmative action or thought. Good environment, people and a sense of bonhomie would do wonders.

Positive Thinking
Good Longevity
Less stressful
Resistant
Better well-being
Can handle hardships/stress

Negative Thinking
Causes Stress
Inbuilt Phobias
Insecurity
Personal attacking

Converging negative to positive is a good practice. With effort and time, one can fine tune situations to be more positive. Self introspection does wonders. It makes us think optimistically and be more mature. We need to identify factors that need attention and change to incorporate that. Having a good holistic approach to life will be more preferred to avoid any eventualities. Good outlook and healthy lifestyle does wonders. We need to do a lot of pep talk, stay positive in our approach to generate positive results. Being with highly charged people will do wonders. Practicing positive thinking every day will do wonders. Often, changing the way we communicate and operate in daily life to be more assertive. Let's change ourselves first rather than the stressful situation. And we get the perspective of a problem by looking at different perspectives. By focusing on the positive we get a better clarity.

Good breaks from stress would rejuvenate the system. Right breathing is essential. Solitude is good every now and then. Positive affirmations can uplift the mind, body and soul. Learning to let go is good for the overall well being which reduces the stress levels. Enjoying the momentary phase is a great booster. Being in the present & enjoying the moment, rather than reflecting on the past and anticipating the future will increase the stress levels. In times of stress, the best thing we can do is to listen with our ears and our hearts and to be assured that our questions are just as important as our answers. Lets choose a life devoid of stress & spread positivity for the well being of one & all.

Reform initiatives in TS governance

- Liberal sops for oil palm cultivation in about 20 lakh acres
- Big thrust to food processing; 10 exclusive zones planned
- To encourage logistics in view of rapid industrial growth

VANAM JWALA NARASIMHA RAO

The Telangana State Cabinet meeting that was held for two consecutive days initiated a series of reforms in the agriculture, marketing and employment sectors creating additional employment opportunities in the state. These are bound to have a positive impact on the targeted sectors.

At a time when the country is importing Palm oil in a big way and with ban imposed on palm oil being imported from Malaysia, CM KCR understood the urgent need to find alternative solutions. Accordingly, he decided that Telangana should encourage oil palm cultivation in the State. Cabinet has decided that during the coming 2022-23 crop year, farmers are to be inspired to take up oil palm cultivation in about 20 lakh acres. It was also decided to give Rs 2,600 per acre in the first year, Rs 5,000 per acre in the second year and third years as an investment subsidy for oil palm cultivation. The Cabinet has also instructed the

forest department, Forest Development Corporation to grow oil palm nurseries with the help from the Panchayat Raj and Rural development departments. The Cabinet has also instructed group of Ministers and public representatives concerned to visit Costa Rica, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia to study the oil palm cultivation methods. The Cabinet also suggested that incentives should be given to the oil palm process units in accordance with the guidelines of the Telangana State Industrial Development and Entrepreneurship Advancement (TEDEA) and Telangana Special Food Processing Zones (TSFPZ).

Another major reform was that the State cabinet has decided to set up food processing units in a big way in the State. It was also decided in the first phase to set up 10 food processing zones. The Special Food Processing Zones will be set up in 500 to 1000 acres and by 2024-25, statewide Food Processing Zones will be set up in 10,000 acres. It was also decided to give incentives for the entrepreneurs who come forward to invest in the sector through the food processing policy guidelines. The government would procure and develop all the basic infrastructure facilities and allocate lands to those eligible among the applicants. Through this, it is estimated to attract Rs 25,000 crore investments, provide direct employment to 70,000 and indirect employments to

3 lakh people.

To encourage SC, ST and Minorities, the government would construct sheds for them under the plug-and-play model. The cabinet has decided to implement Food Processing Zone policy, technology and skills in the agriculture sector. Rice Mills, industries, pulses; oilseeds, fruits, flowers, vegetables, meat, chicken, fish, milk and dairy products' food processing units would be set up under the policy.

The Cabinet is of the opinion that the state has the capacity to process the surplus produce of the agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, milk and fisheries, which was achieved due to marked increase in the irrigation facilities in the state. Financial incentives to the producers, farmers' organizations, and self-help groups and for the progress of the value chain through the setting up of the food processing units would be provided.

With the development of the processing zones, there would be increase in the economic activity, creation of more employment and finally it would lead to development of the remote areas. The government will encourage rural SC, ST women to get institutional opportunities in the zones. As part of the encouragement, the cabinet has decided to give several subsidies for the units established in the Processing Zones such as Power subsidy of Rs 2 per unit for 5 years, to reimburse 75 percent of the interest

on term loan (Below Rs 2 Crore) taken for investment, to reimburse market Committee fee 100 per cent for seven years and to shift food products to the storage and for other logistics. It was decided to provide land in these Zones and support the commercial development.

Along with these, it was also decided to give additional incentives to the SC, ST and minorities such as, to sanction up to Rs 20 Lakh as the 15 per cent of seed money, to reimburse 10 per cent of the seed money interest and 33 per cent subsidy on the purchase price of the land allocated for the eligible in the zones. The Cabinet has also decided to give additional incentives to the Self-Help Groups and Farmers' organizations, to release 15 per cent of the seed money (Up to Rs 1 Crore), 10 per cent reimbursement on the interests of the seed money (Up to Rs 2 crore interest, 80 per cent) and 33 per cent subsidy on the land value not exceeding Rs 20 Lakh.

It was further decided to encourage logistics sector in the backdrop of industries, e-commerce and services sector developing by leaps and bounds in the state. As part of this, the Cabinet has approved the Telangana Logistics Policy. Due to the Corona Pandemic, logistics sector played a very useful role in extending commodity service to the people. Worldwide the e-commerce organizations are utilizing the logistics sector and extend-



ing their services. Against this backdrop, to send products and produce from the state to the international consumers, the logistics sector should be given the required support and help. The logistics development is nothing but additional revenue to the food processing units.

As part of the policy, it was decided to develop basic infrastructure facilities in Godowns, Cold storages, Dry Ports, Track dak parking and other in the logistic sector. Setting-up Dry Port in a big way in 1400 acres in the State (Multi Model Logistic Park) under the PPA Mode; two new Integrated Container depots like the one Concur ICD at Sanathnagar in coordination with the Customs department to encourage more exports from the State; another 10 Integrated Parks all over the State are some more decisions.

Cabinet also decided to establish centre for excellence for skill development in this sector with international standards and with the help from TASK (Telangana Academy of Skill Development and Knowledge). It was also decided to set up Logistic Parks in all the districts in the state. It was also decided to give incentives to the entrepreneurs who will set up Multi Model Logistic parks, Warehouses. Through this, all over the state in the logistics sector, directly 1 lakh and indirectly 2 Lakh people would get employment.

After obtaining reports from all the secretaries of all the departments and vacant position, sanctioned posts, vacancies in different sections and also about the contract and outsourcing employees working in those sections recruitment will be taken up. The cabi-

net has instructed the officials to divide employees based on the new zonal system and new districts and to identify vacant posts district and zone-wise and also to take up measures to fill the vacant posts created due to the promotions. The cabinet felt that due to the changes that are taking place in the society and employment sector, there is a need to create new and modern jobs. At the same time, the cabinet also felt that there is a need to remove certain non-relevant posts and these changes should be brought in the employment sector. Rationalising and filling up of the vacancies in the government sector, state Public Undertakings, the new Food Process and Logistics policy is going to create employment opportunities both directly and indirectly in lakhs. (with VJM Divakar)