



WATER IN NEWS

A daily compilation of media coverage of water issues

for 09.05.2014, Friday

Dear readers,

Regional Centre for Development Cooperation (RCDC) is extremely happy to present you 'Water in News' bulletin for May 9, 2014. Today's media coverage of water issues have been captured in the following heads: (a) Policy/Programme Watch, (b) Industrial Use, (c) Dispute, (d) Rural Drinking Water, (e) Urban Drinking Water, (f) Irrigation, (g) Water Management, (h) Water Pollution, (i) Water Disaster, (j) Sanitation, and (k) Dam/River/ Reservoir infrastructures.

RCDC hopes that the bulletin will be found useful. Your inputs, comments, feedbacks and critics will help us improve the bulletin. Kindly write to rcdcbbsr@gmail.com, bimal@rcdcindia.org.

Regional Centre for Development Cooperation

Today's bulletin covers water news and issues featured in newspapers and web portals published on 09.05.2014. We have covered print or e-paper editions of the following newspapers: (a) Sambad (all Samaj (Bhubaneswar), (f) Samay (Bhubaneswar), (g) Times of India (Bhubaneswar), (h) Pioneer (Bhubaneswar), (i) New Indian Express (Bhubaneswar). Besides we have covered web portals of (a) The Hindu, (b) The Telegraph, (c) Orissadiary, and (d) Odisha Sun Times. Additionally we have also covered magazine 'Down To Earth'.

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Rural Drinking Water

PWS defunct since 5 days as pump breakdown not repaired: Jeypore edition of Sambad reports that Sindhiguda village in Nandahandi block is reeling under acute water scarcity since last five days because of delay in repair of pump.

19 villages of Baipariguda block facing acute scarcity: Jeypore edition of Sambad informs that 19 villages of Dandabadi Panchayat in Boipariguda block in Koraput district are facing acute water scarcity as most tubewells are not working. The villages are Futkikami, Bagbeda, Salappadar, Andrijodi, Kakadipani, Padapadar, Biriguda, Dunuripadar, Limpadar, Dandabadi-1, Dandabadi2, Chhataamba, Kaliaatala, Sheshaput, Dishariguda, jangaljodi, Mathpadiaguda and Pandripani. The PWS project of Dandabadi is also not working properly.

Water theft by powerful people alleged in from Mangalpur PWS project of Odapada: Angul edition of Sambad reports from Mangalpur village of Odapada block where villagers have alleged water theft by influential people of the village who are directly taking water to the pipeline to their houses. Many villages have said that they are not getting water because of such theft.

Villages in Korukonda block have only 'chua' to get water: Prameya has a report that Churudi, Chidipalli, titang, Nayanguda, Bandiki, Nuabandiki villages of Korukonda block in Malkangiri district have no source of drinking water except the 'chua's' which they have dug themselves. The RWSS has not been able to provide them tubewell yet. The RWSS department blames landslide problem for tubewell delay.

Begunia block facing water scarcity: A report in Dharitri mentions that Begunia in Khodha block is reeling in water scarcity. The district, having 126 villages, has 50 PWS projects, 1430

tubewells and 12 sanitary well. The PWS project of Begunia-Haripur Tangisahi is not working since last five months. Similarly, villages like Routpada, Badabarna, Gobindpur, Dingar are facing acute water scarcity.

PWS project in Kanchilo village of Balianta Panchayat is defunct since two years: Pragativadi reports that the PWS of the village, which is not very far from Bhubaneswar, is defunct since last two years as burnt pump is not being repaired. People are facing serious problem as other sources have dried. Tubewell of the village have very high concentration of iron.

Tubewell in a Mahanga block village defunct since long, locals demand for a new tubewell and PWS project: Pragatibadi informs that a tubewell in Kerkond village of Mahanga block in Cuttack district is defunct since long. Villagers have submitted a memorandum to the district administration demanding a new tubewell and a pipe water supply project for the village.

Udaypur village in Saharpada block faces acute water shortage: Prameya reports that the only tubewell of the village is discharging bad quality water. People instead are using water from a 'chua'. Villagers have demanded a tubewell and a pond. The report further informs that most pond, wells and streams of Udaypur area of Saharpada block have gone dry.

Koida in Sundargarh facing severe water stress, villagers trekking 2 kms to fetch water: A report in New Indian Express informs that people in the mining area Koida of Sundargarh district are facing huge water scarcity. Villagers of Kadaliala in Patamuda Panchayat, a village with population of 600, are trudging 2 kms to fetch water from forest stream. The village has no tubewell. The other badly hit Panchayats are Mithirda, Basarada, Kadamdihi, Kiriakuda, Ghodabudani and Patmunda. Phatanagar, Gangnaposh and Bandukdera villages under Chordhara Panchayat

are resorting to 'chua'. CPM leader allege that 85 percent of habitants of Koida block have no access to safe and potable drinking water. RWSS Junior Engineer however informed that the block has adequate infrastructure with 12 PWS projects, 915 tubewells and 182 sanitary wells. Mining companies have also taken up many drinking water project, the officer informed.

Kalahandi's water quality problem growing:

The new Indian Express has an investigative report on increasing water quality problem in Kalahandi district. Quoting RWSS and Central Ground Water Board figures the report says that water sources of the district have high level of nitrate, iron and fluoride contaminations. Citing examples, the report has alleged thoughtless water quality mitigation strategy of RWSS. High fluoride contamination was found in tubewells of Gohirapada village in Narla block. As an alternative the RWSS department arranged for PWS project. But without giving any thought they sourced water for the PWS from groundwater again. The deep borewell, too, discharged fluoride contaminated water. Executive Engineer of RWSS says that steps will be taken soon to provide pipe water from rivers to Gohiapadar and Barabakhara villages. The department is mulling to convert borewell based pipe water supply projects to river based one in phases, said the Engineer. The district has 200 PWS projects of which 131 are borewell based.

Jalachhatra yet to open in Kolanara: Berhampur edition of Sambad has reported that Jalachhatras have not been opened in Kolanara.

Urban Drinking Water

Jaundice spreading in Dhenkanal: Dharitri reports that 20 people in Hata road area of Dhenkanal are affected by jaundice. Seven of them are in critical condition. People complain that water supplied by PHED is contaminated. The pipeline passes through drain at many places. An expert team has collected water sample for test.

Purosottampur residents suffer as ready pump house waits for inauguration: Berhampur edition of Sambad has reported that Purusottampur residents are facing water scarcity as an already completed new pump house is waiting for leaders to inaugurate it. The report also mentions of unequal distribution of water in the NAC area. Ward no 12 has no stand post, the report informs.

PHED pipeline damaged at many places in Bhubaneswar, roads flooded but people thirsty: Pragartivadi reports that PHED pipeline near RCM College road close to Nalco square is damaged. Leaking water is flooding roads while residents are not getting drinking water. Local people allege negligence by the department.

Historic well inside Jagannath temple compound during: Dharitri reports that the Ganga and Jamuma, two wells inside Jagannath temple in Puri, are drying. Water level is consistently going down since 2005. PHED has got a borewell near the wells but that too is not working properly. The report alleges a lot of borewells in the vicinity of temple is causing depletion of groundwater level.

Niladribihar area of Bhubaneswar getting water supply for one hour only: Pragativadi informs that slum dwellers in Niladribihar area of Bhubaneswar are having a difficult time as PHED is supplying water to the stand posts for just one hour a day. People of other slums like Sitanathnagar, Harekrushnanagar, Rickshaw

colony, Panda park, Science park, OMFED slum also facing similar plight.

Industrial use

Left and SP oppose move for water to POSCO:

The Pioneer has informed that left parties and the Samajbadi party have threatened to launch an agitation unless state government decision to allow POSCO water from Mahanadi and Hansua is not rolled back. “We will not allow Posco to use water meant to irrigate farmers’ fields and supply drinking water to the people of the undivided Cuttack district under any circumstances”, said a joint note from the parties.

Dispute

Chattisgarh eyeing Odisha water: Sambad and Prameya have featured investigative report on Odisha-Chattisgarh river dispute. The reports inform that Chattisgarh has already prepared plans to use water of Jaunra and other rivers. The reports refer to one project by National Mineral Development Company which has planned used water of many Koraput rivers. The company will use lot of water to transport ore from the mine area to Visakhapatana through pipeline which will pass through Odisha. Jaunra Bancha Suraksha Samiti has started agitation. The Parishad has demanded cancellation of 1975 and 1995 accord between Odisha and Chhattisgarh (earlier Madhya Pradesh).

Irrigation

Farmers of Kolab command continue to pay water tax, but water not reaching:

Dharitri has an investigative report on shrinking irrigation command of Kolab project. Tail areas of Kolab command in Jaipur, Borigumma and Kotpad blocks of Jeypore division are not getting irrigation water, in some cases since 10 years. Farmers are forced to pay water tax by revenue

department. While tail end areas are not getting water since long the report further informs that even command areas in the head end is also not getting water. It informs that farmers of Kuntarkhal brach canal of Dhanpur distributary too are not getting water. Farmers allege that department is not doing anything. Pani Panchayat Apex committee President says that because of Court litigation Rs 1.90 Crore rupees returned back. Assistant Engineer however says that after repair all command areas are getting water.

Water Management

Bhubaneswar Municipality neglecting

renovation of water bodies: Bhubaneswar municipal corporation had made a plan to renovate ponds in Bhubaneswar. But only 2-3 ponds have been renovated. Many ponds are turning dump yards. Sewage water is entering many other water bodies.

Sanitation

Drain water entering houses in Sambalpur:

Sambalpur edition of Sambad reports that residents of N-Guha lane in Sambalpur town have petitioned the Additional District Magistrate regarding drainage problem in the area. The news reports that drain water is entering the houses as drains are being not renovated while improving the roads. The ADM has assured urgent cleaning and repair of the drains.

Dhenkanal drains not repaired, fund returning:

Angul edition of Sambad reports that drainage of Dhenkanal has worsened as the Municipality is failing in their repair and maintenance. The report blames policy of equally distributing funds between wards of the city. It says that while some wards have failed to spend money, other wards which require more fund are suffering.

BMC sets May 30 deadline to clean its drains:

Prameya runs a report under title 'Operation clean drain – Aarambha hoini, 30 re sariba'. The report apprehends that the BMC is already late into cleaning drains before monsoon and the BMC target to clean drain by May 30 may not be possible as it will have only about 15 days.

Rampant sand mining threaten river course change and bank erosion of Vansadhara:

Prameya reports that rampant illegal sand mining from Vansadhara river bed near Gunpur has altered river course. The report fears bank erosion.

Dam/Reservoir/River Infrastructure

Indrabati dam displaced yet to get justice:

Sambad has a report on plight of Indravati dam displaced people. It says 1871 households in 18 villages of Nabarangpur district were displaced due to the dam and reservoir. Displaced people say that they are yet to get Rs 16 Cr due. But administration says that there is no due. Many displaced people had come to meet the new District Collector on May 8. Two displaced member alleged that some officials have prepared forged certificates and have employed other people in their name. These people after being displaced are staying inside deep forest. But as some of the people belong to other category they have not got title under FRA.

Livelihoods

Chilika fishermen migrate as livelihoods shrink:

Sambad informs that 500 fishermen of Arakhakuda, Harachandisahi, Mangalajahi, Laxminarayansahi and Bhagabata sahi of Krushnaprasad block in Puri district have already migrated to areas in Bangalore, Chennai and Delhi. The report says that livelihoods of fishermen have shrunk because of Phailin and decrease in fish catch. These fishermen lost their boat, net and other resources during Phailin. The compensation was either inadequate or has not reached the people.

(RCDC seeks your inputs and ideas to make it more comprehensive and user friendly. All inputs will be appropriately credited to the contributor/author.



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