



# WATER IN NEWS

*A daily compilation of media coverage of water issues*

for 13.05.2014, Tuesday

Dear readers,

Regional Centre for Development Cooperation (RCDC) is extremely happy to present you 'Water in News' bulletin for May 13, 2014. Today's media coverage of water issues have been captured in the following heads: (a) Rural Drinking Water, (b) Urban Drinking Water, (c) Industrial Use, (d) Policy/Programme Watch, (e) Irrigation, (f) Water Management, (h) Sanitation, (i) Dam/River/ Reservoir infrastructures, (j) Disaster, and (k) What to Say .

RCDC hopes that the readers will find the bulletin useful. Earlier issues of WIN can be accessed at [www.rcdcindia.org](http://www.rcdcindia.org). Your inputs, comments, feedbacks and critics will help us improve the bulletin. Kindly write to [rcdcbbsr@gmail.com](mailto:rcdcbbsr@gmail.com), [bimal@rcdcindia.org](mailto:bimal@rcdcindia.org).

*Today's bulletin covers water news and issues featured in newspapers and web portals published on 13.05.2014. We have covered print or e-paper editions of the following newspapers: (a) Sambad (all Samaj (Bhubaneswar), (b) Dharitri, (c) Prameya (all edition), (d) Samay (Bhubaneswar and Sambalpur), (e) Pragativadi, (f) Times of India (Bhubaneswar), (g) Pioneer (Bhubaneswar), and (h) New Indian Express (Bhubaneswar). Besides we have covered web portals of (a) The Hindu, (b) The Telegraph, (c) Orissadiary, and (d) Odisha Sun Times.*

## Contents

Rural Drinking Water.....	2
Urban Drinking Water.....	3
Industrial use.....	3
Dispute.....	3
Policy / Programme Watch.....	3
Irrigation.....	4
Water Management.....	4
Sanitation.....	4
Dam/Reservoir/River Infrastructure.....	5
Disaster.....	5
What to Say?.....	5

## Rural Drinking Water

### **Rs 26 lakh Pipe Water Supply project didn't last 26 days, people collect water from 'chua':**

Sambapur edition of Prameya has published a report of Kapani village of Belpada block in Balangir district. The report says that a Rs 26 lakh pipe water supply project which was completed in 2013 did not even function for 26 days. Substandard work is the main reason behind failure, says the report. People are collecting their drinking water from 'bali chuas' dug in Sautenjore rivulet. Engineer of RWSS informs that pipe water is damaged at some places and will be repaired soon.

### **PWS projects in Kishorenagar block defunct:**

Angul edition of Samad informs that many pipe water supply projects in Kishorenagar block of Angul district are not functioning since long. The report mentions that the PWS projects of Badadangi, Himtira and Jurate villages are not functioning. Badadangi PWS has been completed since two years but power supply has not been made. Same is the situation with Himtira. Jaraet PWS was not functioning as the village transformer was burnt. The RWSS Junior informs that the transformer has been replaced but the pump is not working now.

### **28 deaths to Kidney disease in Balangir, fluoride contamination blamed, NHRC summons report from government:**

A report in Berhampur edition of Prameya informs that kidney disease has already taken 28 lives in Rampur, Dharadadar and Jharnipali Panchayat of Agalpur block in Balangir district. On a petition of human rights activist the National Human Rights Commission has summoned Chief Secretary of Odisha to submit a report. High fluoride content in drinking water is blamed for the disease. The Commission has asked state government to submit report within four weeks.

### **Mahakalpada villagers depend on farm pond for drinking water as PWS project is defunct:**

Prameya as well as Dharitri report pitiable drinking water scenario from Chhedakani, Barakanda and Gualakani villages of Mahakalpada block in Kendrapada district.

People of all these villages are sourcing their drinking water from one private farm pond. The pipe water supply that was supposed to supply water to village is defunct. The area is affected by groundwater salinity. Local people demand rainwater harvesting to store fresh water.

### **PWS repaired and restored in Chandbali block village:**

Berhampur edition of Prameya reports that two pipe water supply projects which were lying defunct since long in Aradi Panchayat of Chandabali block in Bhadrak district have been repaired and restored. The two PWS projects have started water supply to Batol, Sanapaniki, Singipur, Nandapur, Koilikhan and Bankamuhan villages.

### **PWS project of Bhubanapali of Malkangiri not working since 5 years:**

Jeypore edition of Sambad reports that the Pipe Water Supply project of Bhubanpali village in Padia block of Malkangiri district is not working since five years. About 1500 people of the village are having a very difficult time. The pipe network of the project is extensively damaged. The mechanic in-charge of the project has not got salary since last four years.

### **One dead 15 ill, infected water causes diarrhoea in Khalikote block:**

The Samaj reports that one has succumbed to diarrhoea while 15 others are ill in Bania, Bhakudidihi and Longhar villages of Khalikote block of Ganjam district. Bania is the worst affected village. Infected water of an well is suspected to have caused illness. The source has been infected by government department.

### **One dead, 6 ill, tubewell water causes diarrhoea in Solabandi village of Korai block:**

Samaj reports of diarrhoea death from the village. The report alleges that water of tube well is infected. **No government officials have reached the village, Samaj says.**

### **Infected water from Brahmanijharilo PWS project alleged:**

The Samaj reports that Brahmanijharilo PWS project near Barang in Cuttack district is partially defunct and supplying polluted water. The pipeline is broken at many places. Concerned Engineer says that pipeline has been damaged at some places due to

extension of Phulnakhara-Niali road. He has assured quick repair.

**KBK Administrator asks Nabarangpur administration to speed up drinking water and toilet projects:** As per a report in Jeypore edition of Sambad, 34 of 71 Pipe Water Supply projects have been completed. Similarly only 632 of 29,400 toilets earmarked for year 2013-14 have been completed. KBK administrator Dr Tara Dutt advised the administration to focus on household tap connection. He also directed to complete all toilet project by June.

**No drinking water:** Bargarh villagers warn of agitation: The Pioneer reports that many parts of Bhatli and Bhukta are acute shortage of drinking water. The report informs that neither the Gram Panchayat (GP) nor the Block office tries to sort out the problem. The locals have threatened to resort to agitation if the administration does not solve the problem.

**Water supply in Begunia affected because of frequent power cut:** The Samay reports that people of Begunia are not getting water at the specified time because of frequent power cut. On most days water is being supplied only for 10 to 15 minutes. There is no coordination between the RWSS and power departments, locals allege.

#### Urban Drinking Water

**Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation will repair drinking water points in the city:** The Dharitri informs that Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation has taken a decision to repair the defunct water supply points and create 10 new facilities in the city. BMC Commissioner has asked the Executive Engineer to prepare the estimates by Monday.

#### Industrial use

**Jagatsinghpur district farmer association warns of massive protest if Hansua water for POSCO decision is not withdrawn:** Sambad informs that Jagatsinghpur farmer association has submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister where they have demanded withdrawal of approval to POSCO to draw water from Hansu river. The farmer body says that Hansua river remains almost dry for the majority part of the year. Hansua depends on Mahanadi river. Farmers

along the Mahanadi river are dependent on the water. The body has alleged that agriculture will be ruined if water is given to POSCO. The body has threatened massive agitation if the approval is not rolled back.

#### Dispute

**Pollavaram – Political recipe for environmental disaster:** An editorial page opinion piece in The Hindu by Avilash Roul argues that it's not the quantity of water-sharing between the riparian States that is the bone of contention but the height of the dam and submergence of areas in Odisha. The edit piece advises Odisha to revisit all inter-State agreements, drawn or not drawn, to plan for the future. He believes that such a move will certainly pave the way for settlement of water disputes and for comprehensive development of the water sector in the State.

#### Policy / Programme Watch

**Odisha readies Rs 100 Cr roof-top rainwater harvesting plan:** The Hindu reports about Odisha government's ambitious Rs 100 Cr plan for roof-top rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge. The plan includes rainwater harvesting in private building as well. The scheme has been prepared as Odisha Ground Water (Regulation, Development and Management) Bill-2011 calls for mandatory adoption of RRHS in certain types of buildings. The new scheme under which total 16,955 (550 government and 16,405 private) buildings will be covered is proposed to be completed by March 2019. The mass adoption of RRHS will target roof area up to 200 sq metre as well as large government buildings. Other newspapers have also covered this development. The Telegraphs runs the report under headline 'Harvest rain, get subsidy'.

**RD and Mass Education Secretaries issue joint letter instructing to ensure water supply arrangements in scarcity areas:** Samaj reports that RD and Mass Education department secretaries have issued letters to the District Collectors where they have advised to make all arrangements for water supply in scarcity areas, including schools. The Secretaries have advised to keep water tankers in ready condition at block levels. Besides they have asked BDOs to two to four mobile vans to take continuous

stock of the situation and ensure water supply. They have also advised to engage special teams to repair defunct sources.

### Irrigation

#### **Five farmers of Nuapada demand deep borewell for irrigation, threat suicide:**

Sambapur edition of Prameya says that five farmers of Dhumabhata and Mushapali villages of BudhiKomna Panchayat in Komna block of Nuapada have threatened to end their lives if their demand for deep borewell is not met. Their crop was damaged as Sundar canal water did not reach their fields. The District Collector heard the farmers have assured help from government.

#### **Balangir's Water Bane - Defunct LI Points, Indifferent Govt Officials:**

The New Indian Express says that while defunct lift irrigation points are not repaired, the indifferent attitude of the department concerned to utilise the sanctioned fund has enhanced the summer woes of the people of Balangir. The report further says that, Lift Irrigation department is sourcing water from eight rivers and other nullahs through 838 lifting points. Department says that 803 points are functioning which the locals deny. In Gudvela, Tusra and Deogaon, most of the pumps are not working due to low voltage of electricity. Following public outcry over water crisis, the district was sanctioned 2447 deep borewells at a budget of ` three lakhs each in 2012-13. But till date, the department has sunk 1101 borewells.

### Water Management

#### **Bargarh suffers as neglect of its water bodies cause serious water problem in town:**

Sambalpur edition of Prameya reports that Bargarh had a rich heritage of water bodies. At the time of independence the town had 27 water bodies. Now, as per government records, there are only 21 water bodies only over a total area of 201.70. Rampant encroachment and neglect has significantly reduced water storage of the water bodies. Pollution of whatever is stored is adding to the problems. People are collecting water from 'Chua' dug inside Jeera river and other sources. The report has a table

that lists the 21 bodies along with their respective area.

### Sanitation

#### **NGO rewards wife Rs one lakh for staking marriage to get a toilet at home:**

Alakh Niranjana's marriage was headed for the rocks till an NGO stepped in to provide what his wife wanted - a toilet. Not only that, Sulabh International also rewarded the wife Rs.100,000 for demanding proper sanitation facilities even at the cost of her marriage. Last month Niranjana's wife approached the women's helpline in Patna seeking help for a divorce after her husband failed to construct a toilet despite repeated assurances. Sulabh International came forward not only to construct a toilet for that lady, but also rewarded the valiant lady. (<http://www.news18.com/news/bihar/sulabh-toilet-saves-alakh-niranjans-marriage-472739.html>)

#### **Sambalpur drowned in Sanitation woes ahead of Sitalsasthi festival:**

A report in Sambalpur edition of Prameya informs that while the famed Sitalsasthi festival is only days away, Sambalpur town is drowned by tons of garbage and woeful sanitation. The municipality, with 29 has badly failed in removing solid waste as well as cleaning the drains, the report alleges.

**Shameful sanitation status:** The Pragatibati in its editorial – under title 'Parimalara lajjajanaka sthiti' - refers to a recent UN report which states that most of people defecating in open worldwide are from India and says that this is a shameful situation. The editorial hopes that the new government will take sanitation very seriously and implement time-bound programmes with enhanced funding. The edit piece says that investment in sanitation sector has more benefit.

#### **Corruption in Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan in Phulbani alleged:**

The Pragativadi reports that the toilet constructed under government's sanitation programme in Kandhamal district is very poor. The report alleges rampant corruption by the department and contractors.

**Rain reveals garbage woes of Sambalpur:** The New Indian Express informs that 24 mm of rainfall that Sambalpur got over two days has brought to fore poor drainage and sanitation status of Sambalpur. Garbage lifting and drain cleaning activity has been badly affected in Sambalpur as the civic body is yet to finalise an agency for cleaning work in the town on the plea of the model code of conduct. The Executive Officer of the municipality expressed helplessness but said cleaning work has been outsourced on a temporary basis. He feigned ignorance about the sanitation condition in the town exposing the functioning of the municipality.

#### Dam/Reservoir/River Infrastructure

**Fishing jetty platform at Chudamani not of any use because of siltation and drinking water scarcity:** Balasore edition of Sambad informs that the platform of Chadamani fishing jetty in Basudevpur block is not coming to any use. The Rs 7 lakh project was never used. Unavailability of drinking water is also leading to the problems. A tubewell at the jetty is not working and fishermen have to go miles away for drinking water.

**Kanupur project affected people to demonstrate before Rajbhaban on June 5:** Samaya informs that Kanupur project affected families in Kendujhar district have not been provided land and homestead plots. 342 affected households had demanded compensation. The District Collector reportedly has told them that land cannot be given to them. In protest the affected people have threatened agitation. They are planning demonstrate before the Rajbhaban on June 5.

**Genguti left embankment renovation work substandard, allege locals:** Samaya reports that renovation work Genguti left embankment from Raipur to Haldharpur of Badachana block is very substandard. The report says work of this Rs 7 Cr project has been far below specifications. Local villagers have demanded vigilance probe while concerned Junior Engineer has refuted any irregularities.

#### Disaster

**PIL seeking compensation for boat tragedy filed:** Sambad, Prameya and other newspapers have carried news of a PIL filed before the Odisha High Court which seeks compensation for death of five person to a recent boat tragedy in Nachhipur of Jagatsinghpur district. The PIL alleges that in spite of Hirakud tragedy administration did not take rectification measures which resulted in the tragedy. The PIL has sought 10 lakh compensation to the kins of the deceased along with strict implementation of Odisha Boat Rule, 2004.

#### What to Say?

**People in Rajasthan guard their well at night to prevent stealing:** Gadraroad, Ramsar and Chouhtan tehsil areas of Barmer district in Rajasthan are badly affected by drinking water shortage. The shortage has been so that people are now guarding their wells during night to prevent water theft.

(<http://www.news18.com/news/rajasthan/here-fear-of-water-theft-forces-villagers-to-guard-their-wells-all-night-472681.html>)

(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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