Sand mining, a requiem for Arkavathi

The river links 484 tanks and 3 reservoirs before merging with Cauvery

BANGALORE: Rampant sand mining and unbridled encroachment have threatened the very existence of the River Arkavathi. The wanton acts may reduce the inflow into Thippagondanahalli reservoir, a major source of water to the burgeoning City.

According to the studies on Arkavathi basin conducted by government agencies, non-governmental organisations and environmentalists, failure to clear encroachment would lead to a 20 per cent decline in inflow to Thippagondanahalli reservoir in the coming days. All these reports refer to the shrinkag of the river basin. They note the inflow into Arkavathi basin has come down due to encroachment of inlet canals.

Arkavathi takes birth at Nanjir hills in Chikkaballapur district and traverses 130 km before merging with the Cauvery at Kanakapura.

The river course, spread over 1,482 square meter, comprises as many as 375 storage tanks. Arkavathi links 484 tanks and three reservoirs on its way. However, the canals carrying the river water have been encroached in several villages of Doddabalapur taluk.

The river has virtually disappeared in the 15-km stretch through Hegadiland, Seeghalili, Melikeri and other villages. The canals have been conveniently converted into farmland in these villages and there isn't any trace of the river.

Streams and canals constitute an important source of water for Arkavathi. Plush apartments have cropped up over these precious sources of water. Several buildings and industrial estates have come up on the river's embankment. The canals in several villages adjoining National Highway 4 remain dry for the whole part of the year.

The Survey department has conducted a study of the encroachment and the details would be soon out, said Sridhar, a land surveyor in Doddaballapur.

A satellite-based survey conducted by the Cauvery Neevavari Nigama Limited 2010 found that 27 tanks in Hosaraghatta mini watershed area have been encroached.

Sand mining Sand mining too has its role in drying up the water source. The activity is more rampant in the vicinity of Manchanabele reservoir in Ramanagara district. While the task force constituted by the government seized lorries transporting illegally mined sand, the mafia continues its operation unabated. So much so, that sand mining has depleting the ground water table compelling farmers to look at other avenues to eke out their livelihood.

Sand mining has led to creation of huge trenches on the river basin in some villages near Neralangala and Magadi. De-nied of water to continue farming, a few farmers have allowed sand mining in their farm land in some villages.

Sand acts like a bed for river. The flow of river is impeded with the removal of sand. A river, while following its course horizontally, also follows vertically due to gravitational pull. Sand bed beneath the river augments the percolation of water into the crust of the earth, says Dr Y. L. Ranganath, Professor, Global Academy of Technology, Bangalore.

Presence of sand on river bed facilitates free water flow and recharging of ground water. Flow of water in the river has been affected as sand is being extracted from a depth of 50 feet. The rocks beneath the river course do not allow percolation of water and hence water table has hit a nadir in the vicinity of Manchanabele village. One won't get water even at a depth of 800 feet.

The depletion of water table triggered by sand mining has cast an adverse affect on agriculture.

The coconut yield has come down drastically. A tree which earlier used to yield 100 coconuts now gives around ten. At least 30 per cent of the arable land has been left fallow for want of water to take up farming. And some determined farmers are drawing water from the semblance of Arkavathi river using pump sets.

DH News Service
Coal rates revision set to impact cement, steel, aluminium sectors

Govt notifies new formula for cess, royalty; CIL to get Rs 6,000-cr revenue boost

Pratim Ranjan Bose
Kolkata, Dec. 31

Contrary to Coal India’s initial commitment, the gross calorific value (GCV)-based prices are expected to boost the Rs 50,000-crore consolidated balance-sheet of the coal major by an estimated 12.5 per cent, or a little over Rs 6,000 crore annually, according to sources. The company previously said that the switchover to the new system should be “revenue-neutral”.

Meanwhile, the Union Government has reportedly notified the new GCV-based cess and royalty formula to be applicable to States. While details of the same are not available, consumer groups indicate that this may further impact the landed cost of coal to all consumers.

CONSUMERS HIT
While the price-rationalisation may have minimal impact on the regulated sectors, largely power, non-regulated sectors such as cement, iron and steel, aluminium, paper and many others should feel the pinch.

Official confirmation on the same is not available. Though officially notified, the new prices — scheduled to come into effect from midnight on Saturday — have yet to be released at the CIL Web site. Major consumer associations were, however, given access to new price formula on Saturday evening.

Initial estimates suggest that prices of C and D grade coal will experience a sharp rise under the new formula, expectedly boosting revenues of Central and Northern Coalfields.

On a rupee per calorie basis, Eastern Coalfields — which suffers from one of the lowest man-to-coal ratios — is offered a 6 per cent mark-up over other miners to ensure its revenues are not impacted.

The prices of low-ash A and B grade coal which were already linked to international prices will be least affected. The E and F grades, mostly consumed by power stations, will experience some upward movement.

DUAL PRICING
According to sources, the new pricing formula continued with the practice of dual pricing for regulated and non-regulated sectors so as to ensure that the power sector is least affected. While CIL sources expect that the dual pricing, coupled with minimum movement in the E and F sectors, to have minimum impact on cost of coal for power sector, there are concerns that the old-generation power stations linked to good quality coal may witness a rise in fuel cost.
Goa : अवैध ख़तना होगा मुदा?

गोवा की ख़ुदसूरती उसके रामपुर तलों, फहांग, जंगलों और नदी जों पर आस्था है, लेकिन गोवा में इस दर्दनगरी हस्तियों से इस छोटे राज्य को तबाह करने में जुटी हुई है। बड़े और छोटे विदेशी तथा अंतरराष्ट्रीय कर्मचारियों ने गोवा में भी अवैध ख़तना का बढ़ावा दिया है। बनामोर होते गोवाली संख्या और मृत्यू पर लगाया बढ़ रहा सामाजिक दबाव ने गोवा के दृढ़स्त नीति के लिए खाता खेल कर दिया है।

मुख्य तत्व से गोवा में लीथ अवसर का ख़तना समाप्त होता है। इस में गोवा की एक समकक्षी कार्यक्रम रूप में सामाजिक अंदाज में अवैध ख़तना को अवैध खाता बनाने के लिए निर्देशों की फिल्टरिंग की है, ताकि इस प्रस्ताव के सुंदर का सबूत नहीं बना सके।

वामेचल मराठवाड़ा की अनुशासन कार्यक्रम के अनुसार गोवा की गोल्ड जुलीसे आयामी कार्यक्रम के ध्यान में सामाजिक और सामाजिक विषयों का ध्यान किया जाएगा। इसके पीछे ही सामाजिक अंदाज के लिए अवैध ख़तना को अवैध खाता बनाने की रेट्रीवर्ट फिल्टरिंग की जा सकती है।

दूसरी तरफ, पारंपरिक तत्त्व का बता से वर्तमान कार्यक्रमों के एक पैनल का काम है कि गोवा में रामपुर की हस्तियों ने इस छोटे राज्य में सामाजिक और सामाजिक संबंधों सही तरीक़े से बनाए है। केंद्र का दावा है कि पारंपरिक तत्त्व के दिशाएं से ही संबंधों के संबंधों को ख़तना की सत्यि से आगे बढ़ाना चाहिए।

पैनल का कहना है कि गोवा के शहर में गोवा पैनल के 2,500 हेक्टर क्षेत्र तक खाता है। यह 1988 से 1997 के दौरान इसके लिए गोवा का बनना है कि इस दौरान इन क्षेत्रों के साथ खाता के कोई नहीं बना सकता है।

45 ख़तनों पर अवैध ख़तना का मंदिर रहा?

गोवा राज्य प्रस्ताव निर्माण बोर्ड ने इस संबंध में 45 ख़तनों को अवैध खाता करने का निहित निर्देश दिया है। इस ख़तनों पर सामाजिक और सामाजिक विषयों का किया जाएगा।

केंद्र ने गोवा की ख़तना रोकने का एक नया अंदरूनी निर्देश दिया है। इस एक नया अंदरूनी निर्देश पर गोवा की ख़तना के लिए एक नया अंदरूनी निर्देश दिया है। इस एक नया अंदरूनी निर्देश पर गोवा की ख़तना के लिए एक नया अंदरूनी निर्देश दिया है।
लौह अवस्था निर्यात घट

नई दिल्ली : नौजवान नियन्त्रण की अनुशंसा से लौह अवस्था (अयान और) के निर्यात 28 प्रतिशत घटकर 4 करोड़ टन बढ़ गया।

लौह में कम अवयव और कार्बन से निर्मित पर पत्ती के चलते यह कमी आई। बीसे जहां की समग्र अवस्था में तेल से 5.5 टन लौह अवस्था का निर्यात हुआ था।