

## Addapedia Editorial Analysis PDF 12 September 2024

### Yettinahole Project

(The Hindu, 12-09-24)

#### What is the Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project?

- Based on a report by Dr. G.S. Paramashivaiah on diverting excess water from west-flowing rivers to interior dry region of South Karnataka
- Aims to harness 24.01 tmcft of water from the Nethravathi River's catchment area in Coastal Karnataka.
- Intended to provide water to seven arid districts of southern Karnataka
- Estimated cost of ₹23,251 crore
- Intended to benefit 13 million people across 7 districts
- Involves constructing 8 dams and a 274 km pipeline network
- First stage recently inaugurated by the Congress government

#### What are the main controversies surrounding the project?

- Opposition from people in Malnad and coastal regions
  - Potential negative effects on agriculture and fishing in the source region
  - Disagreements between different regions and political parties over water allocation
- Concerns about impact on Western Ghats biodiversity and downstream communities
- Potential reduction in water flow to the Hemavathi reservoir and its impact on the Cauvery River basin
- Doubts about the actual water yield (9.55 tmcft vs. projected 24.01 tmcft)
- Allegations of implementing without proper environmental clearances
  - Activists moved the National Green Tribunal (NGT) opposing the project. NGT quashed petitions in 2019, upholding the government's argument about providing drinking water
- Doubts from beneficiary districts about assured water supply
- Land acquisition issues for gravity and feeder canals
- Landslips reported in area close to project work areas. Residents blame the project for the tragedy, while officials deny any connection
- Critics propose focusing on alternative solutions like rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge instead.

## What are the sustainable alternatives for addressing water scarcity in arid regions?

- Rainwater harvesting: Construct check dams and percolation tanks to capture surface runoff
  - Potential to increase water availability by 10-20% in semi-arid regions
- Create artificial recharge structures like injection wells and spreading basins
  - Can improve groundwater levels by 1-3 meters annually in suitable areas
- Water-efficient agriculture: Adopt drip irrigation and precision farming techniques
  - Can reduce agricultural water use by 30-70% compared to traditional methods
- Wastewater recycling and reuse: Develop advanced treatment facilities for greywater and blackwater
  - Potential to reclaim up to 70% of municipal wastewater
- Water conservation and demand management: Implement tiered pricing structures to discourage excessive use
- Education campaigns can reduce household water consumption by 15-20%
- Smart water management systems: Implement IoT-based leak detection and real-time monitoring

Can you answer the following question?

*The Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project highlights the complex challenges in balancing development needs with environmental concerns. Critically examine the issues surrounding large-scale water diversion projects in India, and suggest sustainable alternatives for addressing water scarcity in arid regions.*

## Instability and uncertainty stalk Bangladesh

(The Hindu, 11-09-24)

### What led to the recent political upheaval in Bangladesh?

- Protests against a 'quota system' reserving government jobs for descendants of 'freedom fighters'
- Government's heavy-handed suppression of student demonstrations
- Growing anger against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government
- Hasina's resignation and fleeing to India

### Who is currently in charge of Bangladesh?

- An interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus, an economist
- The interim government has the backing of the Army
- Students are functioning as 'storm-troopers'
- Several key officials, including the Chief Justice and central bank governor, were compelled to step down

### What are the potential geopolitical implications of this change?

- Possibility of increased meddling by major powers like the U.S. and China
- Concerns about the growing presence of Islamist parties in Bangladesh
- Potential shift in Bangladesh's foreign policy, possibly strengthening ties with China

- Risk of regrouping and revival of militant activities in India's northeast

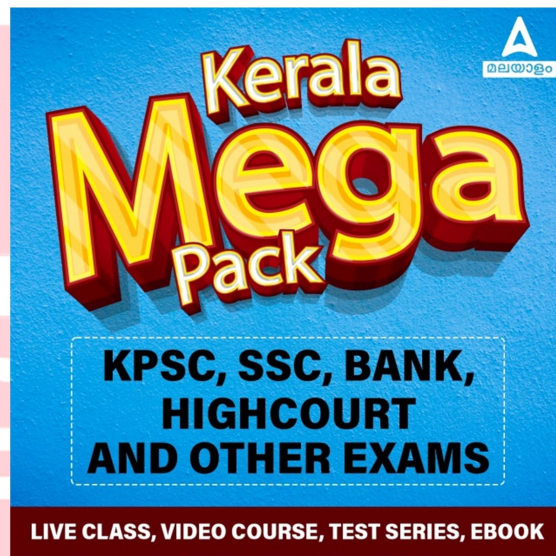
## What challenges does India face due to these developments?

- Dealing with uncertainty along much of its periphery, especially to the west and northwest
- Potential shift of Bangladesh from a friendly neighbor to a problem state
- Delay in resolving the Rohingya Muslims issue
- Possible strengthening of the China-Pakistan axis
- Threat of Islamist radicalism in the region

*Can you answer the following question?*

*Analyze the recent political developments in Bangladesh and their potential impact on India's strategic interests in South Asia.*

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