

“Break free from people and things that poison or dilute your spirit.”

NATIONAL
HERITAGE TAG FOR 2 IRRIGATION FACILITIES IN TELANGANA

The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) has accepted Telangana’s nomination of Sadarmatt anicut across river Godavari in Nirmal district and Pedda Cheruvu in Kamareddy district in the ICID Register of Heritage Irrigation Structures (HIS).

Sadarmatt anicut:

The HIS award is a deserving recognition to this irrigation facility which has provided precious water for paddy crops in its designed ayacut of 13,100 acres since its construction in 1891-92.

The left canal is 21.5 km long while the right canal is 10 km and the distributory is 12 km in length irrigating 5,700 acres, 3,400 acres and 4,000 acres respectively.

Pedda Cheruvu:

The Pedda Cheruvu (big tank in Telugu) located on the outskirts of this district headquarters town is spread over an area of 618 acres.

It was built in 1897 during the rule of Mir Mahaboob Ali Khan, the sixth Nizam of Hyderabad State.

It has a 1.8-km-long tank bund and 145-metre weir and three sluices. It’s catchment area is spread over 68.97 sq. km.

It also provides drinking water for residents of the area.

This tank was taken up under the second round of Mission Kakatiya to be developed as a mini tank bund with an estimated outlay of Rs. 6.6 crore.

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID):

The ICID is a Technical and Voluntary Not-for-profit, International NGO, dedicated to enhance the world-wide supply of food and fibre for all people by improving water and

land management, and the productivity of irrigated and drained lands.

The ICID By-laws have been enacted its International Executive Council for the due implementation of the provisions of the Constitution of the Commission. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

LIMIT FOR FILING CASES IN DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DOUBLED

The central government has raised the pecuniary limit from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh for filing application for recovery of debts in the Debts Recovery Tribunals by such banks and financial institutions.

The move is aimed at helping reduce pendency of cases in the 39 DRTs in the country.

As a result, no bank or financial institution or a consortium of banks or financial institutions can approach the DRTs if the amount due is less than Rs 20 lakh.

According to RBI data on global operations (as on March 2018), an aggregate amount of Rs 3,98,671 crore was written off by banks over the last four financial years.

Over the same period, their NPAs declined by Rs 2, 57,980 crore due to recoveries.

Banks and financial institutions recovery of dues takes place on an ongoing basis through legal mechanisms, which inter alia includes-

- Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act
- Recovery of Debts to Banks and Financial Institution (DRT) Act and Lok Adalats.

The borrowers of such loans continue to be liable for repayment even when the loans have been removed from the balance sheet of the bank(s) concerned.

To make the tribunals more effective and to facilitate disposal of debt recovery cases, the government has made several amendments in different laws, including the SARFAESI Act.

Debt Recovery Tribunals were established to facilitate the debt recovery involving banks and other financial institutions with their customers.

Appeals against orders passed by DRTs lie before Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT). Section 3 of the RDDBFI Act empowers the Central government to establish DRTs.

A DRT is presided over by a presiding officer who is appointed by the central govt. and who shall be qualified to be a District Judge; with tenure of 5 years or the age of 62, whichever is earlier.

No court in the country other than the SC and the HCs and that too, only under articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution have jurisdiction over this matter.

UN CHIEF APPEALS FOR RATIFICATION OF CTBT TO INDIA AND US

UN chief Antonio Guterres reiterated his appeal to eight nations, including India and the US, to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. More than 180 countries have signed the CTBT, and mostly ratified it.

The treaty can only enter into force after it is ratified by eight countries with nuclear technology capacity i.e. China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States.

The CTBT is a multilateral treaty that bans all nuclear explosions, for both civilian and military purposes, in all environments.

It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996 but has not entered into force as eight specific states have not ratified the treaty.

More than 20 years since its negotiation, the Treaty has yet to enter into force. The failure to bring the treaty into force prevents its full implementation and undermines its permanence in the international security architecture.

Since the turn of the century only the North Korea, has broken this norm, leading to condemnation from the Security Council and repeated imposition of sanctions.

These tests have shown that no ad hoc measure can replace a global, legally binding ban on nuclear-testing.

India did not support the treaty in 1996 — and still does not — but it had been very supportive during negotiations.

The roots of that exuberance can be traced to Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's famous initiative in 1954 for a "standstill agreement" on nuclear testing.

His intervention came at a time when the U.S. and the Soviet Union were detonating powerful nuclear weapons with increasing frequency.

Nehru played an important role in building international momentum for the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty, which India joined.

INDIA, FRANCE TO COLLABORATE ON GAGANYAAN MISSION

CNES, the French space agency, is to share the experience it has acquired from the first French human spaceflights to Thomas Pesquet's Proxima Mission for Gaganyaan in the field of crew transport.

ISRO and CNES will be combining their expertise in fields of space medicine, astronaut health monitoring, life support, radiation protection, space debris protection and personal hygiene systems.

Engineering teams have already begun discussions and it is envisioned that infrastructure such as CADMOS centre for development of microgravity applications and space operations.

The MEDES space clinic will be used for training of future Indian astronauts, as well as exchange of specialist personnel. ISRO plans to conduct experiments on microgravity through its astronauts.

French-Indian space cooperation spans in areas of climate monitoring, with a fleet of joint satellites devoted to research and operational applications, innovation, through a joint technical group tasked with inventing the launch vehicles of the future.

The two also have plans to work on Mars, Venus and asteroids.
