

Daily water A thousand dreams fulfilled

THE METRO WATER BOARD HAS ADDED ANOTHER FEATHER IN ITS CAP BY ENSURING DAILY WATER SUPPLY TO THE CORE AREAS OF THE TWIN CITIES. AFTER RUNNING THE SCHEME SUCCESSFULLY FOR THREE MONTHS, IT IS NOW SET TO EXTEND IT TO OTHER PARTS OF THE GHMC

THANKS to the untiring efforts of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB), daily water supply has become a reality in Greater Hyderabad. Not long ago, while struggling to meet their daily water needs with alternate day supply, people could only dream about getting daily water. While a few had a glimmer of hope, many had prepared themselves for life without enough of the lifeline. However, living up to the expectations of those who believed in its efficiency and proving the adversaries wrong, the HMWS&SB launched daily water supply in GHMC on Nov 14.

Three months after water started flowing into the houses daily in the core areas of the twin cities (erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad), now one can hardly find denizens, especially the women folk, forming long queues at public taps waiting for their turn to fill their vessels. The brawls and skirmishes, a common sight at the water filling spots, have now become a thing of past. And why not when more than four lakh households are getting two-hour water supply every day.

The staff and officials of the HMWS&SB, especially managing director G Asok Kumar, had left no stone unturned to fulfil the wish of Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy. In fact, it had been a dream of the Chief Minister to see that the fast-

developing metropolitan city in the world gets daily water, and when he subsequently inaugurated daily water supply at Marredpally on Nov 14, 2008, in the presence of Union Minister for Urban Development, Jaipal Reddy, the Chief Minister looked the happiest man in the world with his face glowing with contentment. Speaking on the occasion, he showered Asok Kumar and the staff with praises for fulfilling the tough task in a record time. He further announced that out of Rs 11,074 crore approved under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JN-NURM), Rs 376 crore had been allotted for improving water supply in the city. The water board had taken up a total of 480 pipeline works at a cost of Rs 75-100 cr to strengthen the distribution network. A few localities which have been left out will also get daily water in another few weeks as works like laying new pipelines and connecting the joints are going on at a brisk pace. Residents of surrounding municipalities too will get daily water supply once the pipeline work is completed.

With the commissioning of Ring Main-II of Krishna Phase-II, an additional supply of 25 mgd of water has now been added to the system, taking the total supply to 350 million gallons of water per day.

"It's amazing to see that we are getting daily

water for more than two hours. We are thankful to the HMWS&SB authorities for solving our decade-old woes," says a beaming Saraswati, a housewife residing at Sanjeeva Reddy Nagar. "For some years we suffered water shortage in our apartment complex and had to depend on tankers to meet our needs. Thanks to the new system, we are able to get daily water without any impediment and have bid adieu to water tankers," says Surya Kumar, who stays in a flat at Banjara Hills.

"Daily water supply has checked wastage to a large extent. Earlier, we used to throw away stored water to fill fresh water every alternate day. Now there is neither over-storing nor wastage," feels Anuradha, a housewife in Ameerpet.

After successfully running the scheme for three months, the water board exudes confidence that daily water supply will continue unhindered in future also. In the core areas of Hyderabad, out of 4.08 lakh water connections, the board is providing daily water to about 3.75 lakh connections. In the surrounding municipalities, there are about 1.90 lakh connections.

Even in this summer, we are well-prepared to supply adequate quantities of water, as Singur, Manjira and Akkampally (Krishna) reservoirs have enough reserves, says the water board managing director.

