

# River Hemavathi: An Overview

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**Abstract:** *The Hemavathi River is an main tributary of the River Kaveri. Hemavathi borns at Melbangudi in Javali village, Mudigere Taluk, Chikkamagalore District. From here Hemavathi flows towards south, covering Somavathi stream it moves through Acchanahalli near sakaleshpura and reach Hassan District. Again it continues to how towards border regions of Aigur and Vatahalli in Kodagu. From here it flows few Miles towards Kodagu and covering yagachi river near Gorur village in Hassan District it moves towards Holenarasipur Taluk.*

**Key words:** *Hemavathi, Dakshayini'. Dakshayini, Bagur-Navile etc.*

The Hemavathi River is an main tributary of the River Kaveri. Hemavathi borns at Melbangudi in Javali village, Mudigere Taluk, Chikkamagalore District. From here Hemavathi flows towards south, covering Somavathi stream it moves through Acchanahalli near sakaleshpura and reach Hassan District. Again it continues to how towards border regions of Aigur and Vatahalli in Kodagu. From here it flows few Miles towards Kodagu and covering yagachi river near Gorur village in Hassan District it moves towards Holenarasipur Taluk. Again Hemavathi flows towards the direction of K.R Pet Taluk, Mandya District and finally unites with river Kaveri at a place called Nagarthi.

'Hema' means gold, 'Hemavathi' means golden stream. It is also popularly called 'Yenne hole' (oil stream). Another meaning for Hemavathi is 'Dakshayini'. Dakshayini was the daughter of Daksha and wife of Shiva. Daksha once organizes a Yajna for which Shiva was not invited. Dakshayini in anger offered herself to lord Agni, She was rescue from the fire but her entire body turned into golden colour. Dakshayini realized her mistake and prayed Shiva, Shiva appeared and blessed Dakshayini to born as a river in future for the welfare of the world. According to another story, Ponna, a palegar of Ponnathapura village in Alur Taluk had two wives 'Hema' and 'Honni' but he was not blessed with a child. After some years ponna sacrificed his house, property and left to forest. He surrendered himself to Agastya Maharshi. This incident made first wife Hema to change into a river Hemavathi and for the welfare of the people she is flowing approximately 113 miles long in Hassan District. Dam has been constructed across the river Hemavathi near Gorur village. In 1968, this Dam was inaugurated by then chief Minister Veerendra Patil to construct this Dam 46 Villages were sub merged. Totally 8508 Hectares of land immersed in water, about 2283 families became victims.<sup>1</sup>

This Dam was constructed with an idea to supply water for 1 lakh acres of land in Hassan Taluks but it has benefitted only for 500 villages. It has 2 canals one named after Goruru Rama swamy Iyenger and other named after A.G Rama Chandra Rao, because of politicians influence there 2 canals runs from Holenarasipura Taluk to Chennarayapatna and through Tumkur and Mandya by supplying enough water to the agricultural fields.

Hemavathi Dam is a beautiful place to view. This is one among the tourist places. There is a place nearly 300 acres of land in front of the dam for a beautiful garden now with the support of central government the planting of a garden is under process. The Sandur manganese and iron ore company Ltd aimed at generating 30 mega watts electric power by utilizing left side bank canal water. At present 4 mega watts electric power is generating.<sup>2</sup>

Hemavathi reservoir is providing adequate drinking water to the residents of Hassan town. Huge tanks were also constructed near industries to supply sufficient water, during rainy season water level increases and gives a stunning look. Towards the left side bank reservoir an Aqueduct has been constructed near Mavinakere which is a biggest Aqueduct in Asia. Its total length is 1050 mt and nearly 2000 cusec water flows out.<sup>3</sup>

Shri Ramadevara Anekatte, a dam was built during the British period at Kattahalli village, Holenarasipura Taluk, Its total length is 258 meter. Its southern channel with other two small channels measures 156 km in its length. Its supplying water for 1294 Hectare land area, out of 490 cusec water.

River Yagachi is a tributary of the river Hemavathi in Chikkamagalur. It arises in Kumbhadhrona Mountain and flows through Belur Taluk, Hassan District, then it reaches Shiragatta Village from here it flows towards Southwards through Gorur it reaches River Hemavathi. Yagachi is also known as Badari. In Sanskrit Yagachi is having a name called Badari. This river flows 41 miles in Hassan District and it has three Dams near Bommanahalli, Changaravalli and Haluvagilu, Earlier drinking water was supplied from Haluvagilu Canal to the Hassan District. To construct a reservoir, a Project was planned at Chikka byadagere near Belur. It was inaugurated on 10/10/1984 by then minister of public works Shri. H. D. Devegowda. This project completed recently. This Reservoir provides irrigation facilities to Belur, thus and other Hassan Taluk Covering 21450 Hectare of Land area. This River Measures 680sq. km.<sup>4</sup>

### **Struggle of Bagur-Navile Tunnel victims**

In 1998, Kisan Sabha (CPI Party peasant Unit) attracted large no of People in the state by Participating in Bagur Navile Peasant Movement, in 1976, a project was started based on the decision to construct a dam across the River Hemavathi near Gorur village in Hassan District and to supply water to the regions of Tumkur, Mandya and Tiptur. A canal was constructed from Gorur to Bagur village in Chennarayapattana Taluk but to continue, the ground level was not Supportive as it was in Upper level, Water would not flow further. To solve this problem it was planned to dug 10 km tunnel till Naville. The people of that region felt happy to get River water. According to the plan, tunnel was dug 150 to 300ft deeper. This tunnel was large enough to pass 2 Lorries at a time in opposite direction. This project was completed in 1991 after 20years of work, A journalist write in this news paper "Janavimukthi" dated Aug1998 the contrition of the peasants within 10km became Pathetic.<sup>5</sup>

Earlier up to 10km coconut trees were existed. Bagur-Navile region's soil was also very much moist and best suited for coconut trees. During tunnel construction the coconut trees were dried. A tree which was Yielding 120 coconuts per year decreased in its growth and became impossible to get all most 10 coconuts per year from a tree. In the beginning the farmers through that their coconut trees were affected from diseases and used various kinds of pesticides. The farmers also dug wells to get sufficient water for coconut trees but there wells dried, later the farmers get to know that ground water is depleting because of the tunnel constructions. Along with River Hemavathi water the ground water of Bagur-Navile started flowing towards Tumakur, Gradually 15 small and big Lakes, many well were dried. Farmers not only lost their crops but also suffered to get drinking water which created serious tension among the people.<sup>6</sup>

The peasants of Bagur- Naville region revolted against the government and they fought for their rights and justices for past 10years. During that time chief minister J. H. Patel visited Hassan, thousands of Peasants demanded for compensation. A committee was appointed to study the condition of Bagur-Naville village. The committee submitted its report abounding to the report the study shows from part 10years, 3lakh, 18 thousands coconut trees have suffered loss, 2575 peasants families are in miserable condition. The committee suggested that government should sanction 25 crors, 51lakh rupees as compensation for all the victims. It suggested granting compensation for the loss of mango and jackfruit production. Government should provide drip irrigation facility to get the moister back as their lands had been dried from the underground level. But it was just included in the governments. To inside this report 5 thousand peasants gathered in front of the chief minister's House on 13<sup>th</sup> march 1998 the peasant's dispersed after getting assurance from the chief minister, but the assurance remained only as assurance. The annoyed peasants gathered near Bagur and closed the tunnel by filling soil to the entrance they stopped water flow. The peasants stationed at Bagur from several days by building their huts, cooking etc... on may 11, about 20,000 peasant formed 10km Human chain from Bagur to Navile and continued their moment, On July 16 they gave a call for Hassan hand but the government not responded properly. The peasants again started read blacking movement on July 20 but this moment was successfully crushed by the government police used lathicharge to disperse the mob but the revolutionary peasants set a fire to a police jeep and a bus, To control the situation police started physical torture they harassed women, children, old people without any consideration. "Jana mukthi" (Aug1998) mentions women were treated very rudely their cloths were torn, Many shops were looted and things were thrown but three mature girls of the village get missed. Because of this brutal harassment many villagers held away and took shelter in different regions. Including women 103 people were imprisoned.<sup>7</sup>

This movement which was started voluntarily in an inevitable situation is supporting by all India kisan sabha of communist leadership. There is a blame that its leader Gopal under gone hunger strike to fulfill the demands but before getting any clue for solution the left the movement. None of the political parties coming forward to suppress the atrocities on the farmers which shows that they are disrespecting the democracy. The peasants condemned KPTCL for insufficient electric supply and they surrendered meter box in large number. It becomes one of the major movement in the state.

The movement which was started in rural level for the benefits of localities gradually turned against multinational BT companies against cotton oppression, against online lottery etc and became even more powerful movement over all whole peasants and it has created the atmosphere of questioning officers and police. Peasant movement has contributed much to the society.

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