

Restoration of Soorsagar at Bikaner

The Soorsagar Lake is situated near Junagarh Fort in the heart of Bikaner city. In ancient times, Soorsagar used to be fresh water tank and water was used for drinking purpose. With the passage of time, number of residential colonies has developed in the catchment area of this tank and the waste water from these colonies started collecting in the tank. Thus a fresh water tank was slowly converted into waste water tank. In past, various committees gave recommendations on the restoration of Soorsagar in year 1971, 1983, 1987, 1991, 1993 & 1997. These recommendations could not be implemented because of constraints in the finance with local bodies.

In order to restore this tank, RUIDP carried out detailed studies in year 2001-02 and alternatives were considered to preserve and protect this place and make environment friendly. The works related to restoration of Soorsagar comprised of following activities that were started in year 2002 and completed in year 2008: After implementing these works Soorsagar became totally free from sewage entry and there was no flooding in Ginnani and Hanuman hatta areas. The pumping at Soorsagar was also be eliminated.

- Laying of sewer network in upstream and adjoining colonies of Soorsagar so that waste water contributing from these colonies into Soorsagar was bye passed.
- Construction of diversion channel from culvert no-4 to 17.
- Remodeling of Escape channel.
- Construction of new drains in adjacent areas of Soorsagar.

Following works were executed to bring Soorsagar in its original shape and heritage look:

- De silting of about 1 Lac Cub. M. sewage/garbage/muck upto the bed till the traditional waterproofing was done with clay & sodium carbonate.
- Sewer line laid in tank was diverted.
- Repair of Steps done; tread finished with dhar & risers finished with sand stone.

- Beautification and lighting of the outer and inner areas of Soorsagar with stone railing, Plaza, Seating Benches etc.
- Floating jet, mist fountains, paddle boat & jetty were provided.
- Presently tank is being filled with water through a pipe line laid from Indira Gandhi Canal.

Construction cost of all the related works pertaining to drainage and waste water sector that led to restoration of Soorsagar is Rs. 41 Crores.

