

FROM THE EDITOR.....



Time does not stop for us to think and neither does fresh water, if we allow it to escape unutilized, to the sea. Though inseparably interwoven with the histories of all significant civilisations, many rivers today are relatively neglected, inadequately utilized or improperly harnessed and polluted by our own short sighted activities. From the statements above, it would have dawned on you that there is only a thin line between utilizing and exploiting natural waterways such as rivers, since even harnessing the irrigation and hydro power potential can have far reaching social and environmental implications.

What we thought one time as uneconomical or insignificant potentials might prove later to be viable with time changed background factors, which is a theory applicable to hydrological resources too. Based on this concept we were fortunate in the recent times to witness more than a few irrigation and hydropower projects being initiated. With technically sound and realistic appraisals of socio-environmental impacts coupled with new technologies and adequate funding many of the unviable prospects of yesterday have become and also are becoming viable today and tomorrow.

As Engineers we should be awake and sensitive to changing times to appraise anew, the prospects we thought impractical or impossible earlier, but could well become brilliant possibilities in the backdrop of today or perceivable tomorrow. In fact, it is part and parcel of the many responsibilities of the profession of Engineering too.

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