

देवश्री मुखर्जी
DEBASHREE MUKHERJEE
सचिव
SECRETARY



भारत सरकार
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
जल संसाधन, नदी विकास
और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

D.O. No. F-12011/1/2023-Coord

16th October 2023

Deare Sir,

The important issues/developments related to the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation during the month of September 2023 are as follows:-

A. (i) **Storage Position of Important Reservoirs:** Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring live storage position of **150** important reservoirs spread all over the country and issuing bulletin on every Thursday. Live storage in these reservoirs as on **29.09.2023** was **129.67** billion cubic meters (BCM), which is **82%** of the live storage of corresponding period of last year and **92%** of storage of average of last ten years.

(ii) **Storage Position in Southern region & Cauvery issue:** - There are 42 reservoirs under CWC for monitoring, having total live storage capacity of 53.33 BCM in the southern region comprising of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. As per latest bulletin dated 12.10.2023, the total live storage available is 26.02 BCM, which is 49% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. The storage during corresponding period of last year was 92% and average storage of last ten years during same period was 73%.

In the current water year 2023-24, the quantum of monthly flow to be realized at Billigundulu (the inter-state common point on the boundary of Karnataka & Tamil Nadu) is below compared to the stipulated cumulative flow, as the inflows in the designated four reservoirs of Karnataka are very less as compared to the average of last 30 years. Keeping in view of distress conditions in the Cauvery basin, deficit in the rainfall & forecast of the IMD on the monsoon and cumulative observed inflows/outflows and storage positions of the four designated reservoirs in the State of Karnataka, the necessary directions have been issued by Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) to the Member of the Karnataka State to ensure approved releases from the designated reservoirs to realize the specific quantum of flow at Billigundulu.

(iii) **International Conference on Dam Safety (ICDS):** The International Conference on Dam Safety was organized from 14th to 15th September 2023 at Jaipur. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice President of India and was attended by Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Hon'ble Minister of State (D/o Water Resources, RD & GR and Tribal Affairs), Ministers from different states, senior officials and technocrats from the Central and State Governments, Central/ State Dam owning PSUs, Academicians, officials from World Bank, International delegates from 15 countries. Various technical sessions, including experience sharing by other countries, were organized during the two-day conference to enable experts and leaders in the field to strengthen capacities for enhancing dam safety. Hon'ble Minister in his address, laid emphasis on the issue of dam

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health and safety which is likely to be significant feature of the dam management in future. He suggested key actionable points including setting up of a joint action force to take forward the Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for dams with National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM).

(iv) MoU on Minor Irrigation and Spring Census: - Two MoUs were signed by Minor Irrigation Stats Wing of DoWR, RD & GR on 29.09.2023 under the chairmanship of Secretary (WR). The first MoU was signed with Central Water Commission for conduct of 1st Census of Major & Medium Irrigation Projects and 2nd MoU was signed with National Institute of Hydrology for conduct of 1st Census of Springs.

(v) Indus Waters Treaty: - In the ongoing neutral expert proceeding under the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan regarding Kishenganga and Ratle Hydroelectric Plants (HEPs), the 2nd meeting of parties (India and Pakistan) with the neutral expert was held on 20th and 21st September 2023 at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), Vienna. The Indian delegation led by Shri Pankaj Kumar, the then Secretary (WR) along with lead counsel Shri Harish Salve, KC & Senior Advocate and officials from MEA, CWC, NHPC and DoWR, RD & GR, Technical Experts & Legal counsels, strongly conveyed that until Pakistan signs Confidentially Agreement with India at government level, site visit to KHEP and RHEP involving Pakistan will not be accepted.

B. National Mission for Clean Ganga: -

- **Launch of District Ganga Plans:-** On 27.09.2023, the Model District Ganga plans was launched for Udham Singh Nagar, Shahjahanpur, Moradabad and Bareilly prepared by DGC under the guidance of GIZ (*Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*) and WWF.
- **Women and Water Dialogue Series:** - On 22.09.2023, NMCG in collaboration with GIZ, and support of SMCG UP, Kanpur Nagar Nigam and Kanpur District Administration organized 4th Women and Water Dialogue Series at Kanpur Boat Club near Atal Ghat, Kanpur. The panel discussions were held under Indo-German Bilateral Cooperation to support Ganga River Rejuvenation.
- **A JALAJ Awareness and Marketing (JAM) Center** started functioning at Dilli-Haat on 17.09.2023. This is a very unique information dissemination and livelihood opportunities initiative under Arth-Ganga. Products made by Women SHG under JALAJ and the other NGOs of Ganga Basin are being sold by an Apex Jalaj SHG (JALAJ-NAULA) in a stall leased out by NMCG.
- **Signing of Contract:** On 05.09.2023, a concession agreement was signed between Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam (Rural), National Mission for Clean Ganga, and M/s Meerut STP Private Limited for the development of a 220 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant at a cost of 369.74 crore under the Hybrid Annuity Mode of Public-Private Partnership in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Project Site Visit:**
 - **Visit to Ganga Aqua-Life Conservation Monitoring Centre:** On 16.09.2023, DG, NMCG along with NMCG officials visited the Ganga Aqua-life Conservation Monitoring Centre at Wildlife Institute of India discussed the progress of the NMCG biodiversity project and the JALAJ project.

- **Site visit to STPs & CETPs at Kanpur Uttar Pradesh:** On 30.09.2023, DG, NMCG, along with officials from Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam and NMCG inspected Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in Kanpur to review the project's progress and to address any bottlenecks in its implementation.

C. Important meetings/conferences held at the level of Secretary (WR) during the month of September 2023: -

- A meeting was held on the Global River City Alliance (GRCA) for the High-Level event proposed to be launched during COP-28 in Dubai under the chairmanship of Secretary (WR) on 04.09.2023.
- Secretary (WR) held meetings on 04.09.2023 on Kosi-Mechi Interlinking projects and reviewed the status of construction of UYRB building at Noida.
- A review meeting on Lakhwar Multipurpose Project and Renukaji Multipurpose Project and status updation of Kishau multipurpose project with Secretaries of WRD/ Irrigation of States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and officers of the organizations was chaired by Secretary (WR) on 06.09.2023.
- Secretary (WR) held a meeting to discuss the issues of modified PKC link with the officers of Government of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and DG (NWDA) on 06.09.2023.
- On 12.09.2023, Secretary (WR) chaired 17th meeting of Central Monitoring Committee in the NGT matter.
- Secretary (WR) attended meeting of sub-committee of NEC held under the chairmanship of Home Secretary on 12.09.2023 to consider PDNA proposal for special assistance to Uttarakhand to undertake recovery & reconstruction activities of Joshimath.
- On 12.09.2023, the 17th meeting of the Central Monitoring Committee on the matter regarding OA No. 673 of 2018 was held under the chairmanship of Secretary (WR). During the meeting, status of execution of State Action Plans, STP & CETP projects, Solid Waste Management interventions, e-Flow were discussed.
- A meeting was held under the chairpersonship of Special Secretary (WR) on 26.09.2023 to discuss the target set by Aquakraft Foundation and National Water Mission for the proposed MoU.
- Secretary (WR) held a meeting with the State Government officers of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to finalize the draft agreement/MoU on ERCP-PKC on 27.09.2023.
- Secretary (WR) attended the Aspirational Block Programme: Launch of "Sankalp Saptaah" launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 30.09.2023 at Bharat Mandapam.

D. Other important Meetings/Conferences held during the month of September 2023: -

- On 05.09.2023, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of the DG, NMCG with the World Bank officials. During the meeting, presentation was made on the topics regarding Life Cycle Cost (LCC) in HAM-PPP (Hybrid Annuity Mode – Public Private Partnership) and RTWQM (Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring) stations.

- On 15.09.2023, a review meeting was held under the chairmanship of DG, NMCG with the members of Jalaj to deliberate on the establishment of the Jalaj Center.
- On 20.09.2023 and 28.09.2023, meetings on Swachhta Hi Sewa (SHS) campaign were held under the chairmanship of DG (NMCG) with members of SPMG/ SMCG from the 5th Ganga main stem states.
- JS(A, IC&GW), project coordinator of Atal Bhujal Yojana, held a review meeting with Project Directors of States to discuss the progress under Atal Bhujal Yojana on 20.09.2023.
- 5th meeting of the working group of reorientations of PMKSY-AIBP and CADWM scheme was held on 21.09.2023 under the chairmanship of Member (WP&P), Central Water Commission.
- 1st meeting of the NMCG Urban Task Force (UTF) constituted to coordinate and complement the initiatives taken by NMCG, was held under the chairmanship of DG (NMCG) on 26.09.2023.
- AS&MD (NWM) held a meeting on 27.09.2023 to discuss the preparation of detailed concept note of side event at COP-28.
- 20th Joint meeting of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) and the Budget Review Committee (BRC) of NMCG was held under the chairmanship of DG (NMCG) on 29.09.2023 to assess internal control system, financial reporting, compliance & external audits while ensuring transparency and accountability.

E. National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) Programme: -

- Aquifer maps and Management Plans for Bihar (2 districts), Madhya Pradesh (2) Jharkhand (1) and Andhra Pradesh (1) have been shared with concerned district authorities (DM/DC) in the month of September, 2023.
- As a part of the NAQUIM studies, during the month of September 2023, CGWB has constructed 08 High discharge wells in the States of West Bengal (1), Maharashtra (1), Andhra Pradesh (2), Gujarat (2), Tamil Nadu (1) and Himachal Pradesh (1).
- NAQUIM 2.0 Midterm review workshop on urban agglomerates was organized at CGWB, CHQ, Faridabad on 25.09.2023 and the progress of 19 ongoing studies on urban areas was reviewed during the workshop.

F. National Water Mission (NWM): -

- 50th Water Talk entitled "Lake as a collective responsibility: the Puttenahalli Puttakere Story" was delivered by Smt. Usha Rajagopalan, Writer, Translator and Lake Conservationist on 22.09.2023.
- To discuss the findings & recommendations of the report of the Task Force of Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE), a meeting was held on 06.09.2023 under the chairpersonship of SS(WR).
- On the occasion of International Conference on Dam Safety (ICDS) 2023, Hon'ble Vice President of India flagged off (virtually) the Vinyl wrapped trains – "Kamakhya Express and Himsagar Express" showcasing Ministry of Jal Shakti's flagship schemes/programmes on 14.09.2023 at Jaipur.

G. Ken Betwa Link Project & National River Conservation Plan –

- 8th meeting of Consultancy Evaluation Committee (CEC) for the Engagement of Project Management Consultancy (PMC) Services for Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA) held on 20.09.2023 and 22.09.2023 and list of eligible firms for issuing the RFP finalised.
- Grant-Aid of Rs.78.27 crore has been released for 05 out of 11 ongoing pollution abatement and conservation of river projects, under National River Conservation Plan scheme.

H. Miscellaneous Matters:

- **Swachhta Hi Sewa:-** *Swachhta Hi Sewa (SHS) 2023* campaign was undertaken in the Department from 15th to 30th September 2023. A total of 161 cleanliness activities have been undertaken, wherein about 7232 people participated. Taking inspiration from Hon'ble PM's clarion call for 'Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghata Ek Saath', the Department and National Mission for Clean Ganga organized a cleanliness drive at Chhath Ghat, ITO on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti. Around 1000 people joined the drive & collected more than 6000 kg waste.
- **Special Campaign 3.0:-** As per guidelines circulated through Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)'s OM dated 01.09.2023, the preparatory phase of Special Campaign 3.0 was conducted in DoWR, RD & GR and its attached/ subordinate offices/ autonomous bodies/ PSUs from 15.09.2023 to 30.09.2023. The overall targets related to pendency in VIP/PMO References, Parliament Assurances, Public Grievances, PG Appeals, Cleanliness Campaigns/Sites and Record Management etc; of the Department for the Campaign were identified and uploaded DARPG's SCDPM Portal.
- **Increasing efficiency in decision making:-** As per the latest edition of Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure (CSMOP), the channel of submission has been reduced to four levels by issuing departmental instructions. It has been observed that the Desk Officer System is not suitable for adoption in this Department, considering its allocation of work.
- The department has adopted e-Office from February 2017 and is presently using the **version 7.2.5**. The Central Registry Unit has been digitized.
- The incumbency details of the posts in the Department and its organizations under the purview of the ACC have been updated on AVMS portal.

With Regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Debashree Mukherjee)

Shri Rajiv Gauba,
Cabinet Secretary,
Cabinet Secretariat,
Rashtrapati Bhavan,
New Delhi – 110004.
Email: cabinetsec@nic.in