



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

16<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Sir,

The important issues/developments related to the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation during the month of October 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 **26.10.2023** was **127.59** billion cubic meters (BCM), which is **71%** of the live storage of corresponding period of last year and **92%** of storage of average of last ten years.

**(ii) North Koel Reservoir Project:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in its meeting held on 04.10.2023 approved the proposal to complete the balance works of *North Koel Reservoir Project* at a revised cost of Rs. 2430.76 crores (Central Share: Rs 1836.41 crores) as against the balance cost of Rs. 1622.27 crores (Central Share: Rs 1378.60 crores) approved earlier in August 2017. The balance works of the project is targeted to be completed within 30 months. The decision would pave the way for smooth implementation of the balance works. The project comprises a Dam on North Koel River in district Latehar (Jharkhand), a barrage 96 km downstream of the dam (at Mohammadganj, District Palamu, Jharkhand) and Right Main Canal (RMC) and Left Main Canal (LMC) taking off from the barrage. The complete lining of Main Canals would not only improve their structural longevity, but would also reduce seepage loss in transit and ensure that water reaches the tail end. The project will provide drinking water and additional annual irrigation to 42,301 Ha. in the four drought prone districts of Jharkhand & Bihar.

**(iii) Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal-II:** The Union Cabinet approved the cabinet note regarding issuing further terms of reference (ToR) to the existing KWDT-II on 04.10.2023 to adjudicate on the amount of the water to be drawn by Telangana from Krishna Basin. A gazette notification to issue the further ToR to KWDT-II is subsequently published on 06.10.2023.

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(iv) **Sikkim Glacial Lake Outburst Flood:** A Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) was reported on October 4, 2023 at South Lhonak Lake in North Sikkim which is a glacial moraine dammed lake situated at about 5200 m above MSL. Due to this GLOF, a significant portion of Concrete Faced Rockfill Dam (CFRD) of Teesta-III Project located at Chungthang in North Sikkim got washed away in 10 minutes just after 12 midnight before the spillway gates could be opened. The Main Access Tunnel (MAT) to the Power house was also flooded. CWC reported a rise of water level of about 18m at Sangkalang H.O. site which is about 35 km from Chungthang. Alerts were issued by the CWC based on their hydrological observations for the likely rise in water levels in river Teesta on various locations in downstream on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October. A team comprising members from NDSA, CWC and NHPC Ltd. inspected various dams on river Teesta on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The spillway piers of Teesta-V Dam which is located just downstream of Teesta-III dam, got damaged at different locations due to the impact of floating boulders, tree trunks and other objects. All five radial gates, including their hydraulic cylinders and power packs, of Teesta-V Dam have been washed away in the GLOF. Debris flow deposited silt in various portion of the river including dam site, tunnels, Tail Race Channel etc. NDSA issued an advisory to all State Dam Safety Organization (SDSO) for installing EWS, Flood Forecasting network and preparing Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the specified dams in their jurisdiction.

(v) **Medigadda Barrage (Lakshmi), Telangana:** - The six pillars of the "Medigadda (Lakshmi) Barrage" of the Kaleswaram Project sunken down in the night of 21.10.2023. A six member NDSA Committee visited the project from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to examine the possible cause for the failure and latter deflection & cracks were observed in the piers. The NDSA Committee carried out inspection of the barrage on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023 & held discussions with stakeholders. The Committee, based on the site inspection & discussions and examination of the documents made available by I&CAD, Department, found that *Piers had sunk due to a combination of issues involving planning, design, quality control and operation & maintenance. The possible reasons for the failure are the settlement of the barrage raft due to piping, failure of secant piles, inadequate bearing capacity of foundation material etc;*

**B. National Mission for Clean Ganga: -**

- In the **51<sup>st</sup> Executive Committee Meeting**, seven projects worth Rs. 285 crores, including 13.8 MLD Sewage Treatment Plan (STP) with co-treatment for 18.52 KLD septage in Krishnanagar Municipal Town, an integrated Septage Management project for a 15 KLD capacity Faecal Sludge Treatment Plan (FSTP) in Bansberia Municipality, West Bengal and a 50 KLD FSTP in Bahadrabad, Haridwar Uttarakhand were approved on 12.10.2023.



- **River Health – Assessment to Restoration (RHAR) 2023:** DG (NMCG) along with officials of NMCG participated in 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on River Health Assessment to Restoration 2023 organized by Department of Civil Engineering, IIT (BHU) from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023. During the event, DG (NMCG) delivered the keynote speech on pivotal role played by NMCG in national water resource management, which included a special session on Indo-Danish Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SCLR).
- **Diving Deep with Dolphins:** During the event called "*Diving Deep with Dolphins*" organized by the Mobius Foundation on 13.10.2023, DG (NMCG) delivered a keynote address and elaborated on the initiatives under Namami Gange to deal with certain challenges. NMCG officials also participated in a panel discussion to delve into innovative ideas for dolphin conservation and emphasized the critical need for such solutions.
- **Women & Water Dialogue Series:** On 11.10.2023, NMCG in association with GIZ India organized the finale event of the "*Women and Water dialogue series*" at Boat Club in Prayagraj (UP). This dialogue series emerged as a prominent platform, not only to acknowledge but also to celebrate the invaluable contributions of women working in various capacities within the water sector.
- **2023 Going Digital Awards:** The 318 MLD STP at Coronation Pillar in North Delhi achieved global recognition at the '*2023 Going Digital Awards*' in Infrastructure. The pioneering project was jointly financed by NMCG and Delhi Jal Board at a cost of Rs 515 crores. With a staggering capacity to treat 318 million liters of sewage daily, the project could also contribute to reduction in annual carbon emissions by approximately 14,450 tonnes. The remarkable facility manages 10% of Delhi's daily wastewater and featured state-of-the-art phosphate and nitrogen removal technology.
- **JALAJ Awareness & Marketing (JAM):** From 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023, NMCG set up an outlet of Jalaj Awareness and Marketing (JAM) Center at 'TV9 Festival of India' New Delhi for the sale of local products from the Ganga basin. The event was organized on the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja 2023 by TV9 Bharatvarsh broadcasting channel.
- On 30.10.2023, DG (NMCG) launched a book titled "*Guidelines for Constructed Wetland Systems for Treatment of Sewage in India*" prepared by NMCG in association with Department of Hydro & Renewable Energy, IIT Roorkee. The book is an outcome of NMCG's continuing commitment to support scaling up technology driven nature based solutions for rivers rejuvenation.
- **Signing of Contract:** On 03.10.2023, a tripartite supplementary agreement was signed between NMCG, Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority and M/s Khilari Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd and quadripartite Escrow Agreement was signed among NMCG, Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority, M/s. Khilari Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., and The Union Bank of India to develop Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) with a total capacity of



38 MLD, along with associated works such as the development of Interception & Diversion (I&D) structures, I&D network laying, Sewage Pumping Stations, and the operation and maintenance of these facilities for 15 years in North Barrackpore, under the Hybrid Annuity PPP mode.

- **Project Site Visit:** On 20.10.2023, DG (NMCG) along with senior officials from NMCG and Delhi Jal Board carried out a project site inspection to thoroughly assess the status & to ensure that the project is proceeding as per plan and guidelines set by the organizations.
- C. Atal Bhujal Yojana:** - The 5<sup>th</sup> National Level Steering Committee meeting of Atal Bhujal Yojana and the Wrap up meeting of World Bank Mission was held under the chairpersonship of Secretary (WR) on 26.10.2023. The Committee reviewed the overall progress of the scheme and directed States to expedite all activities including procurement as well as convergence for implementation of interventions proposed under water security plans.
- D. Important meetings/conferences held at the level of Secretary (WR) during the month of October 2023: -**
  - Secretary (WR) chaired 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of Investment Clearance Committee in respect of Major and Medium Irrigation Flood Control and Multipurpose Projects on 02.10.2023.
  - Secretary (WR) attended Cabinet meeting on Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal and meeting of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs regarding the balance works of North Koel on 04.10.2023.
  - Secretary (WR) held a meeting of Search-cum-Selection Committee for the post of ACTEO (Canal) and ACEO (Electrical & Mechanical) in Ken-Betwa Link Project on 04.10.2023.
  - Secretary (WR) attended a meeting on National Crisis Management Committee regarding Sikkim Flood Management held under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary on 04.10.2023.
  - Secretary (WR) attended a meeting on MEA projects especially in neighboring countries, held by Principal Secretary to Hon'ble PM on 05.10.2023.
  - Secretary (WR) reviewed projects of Jharkhand and Odisha related to Subarnarekha multipurpose in the meeting held on 06.10.2023.
  - A meeting to review the progress of WARIMS project with the implementing agency i.e. BISAG-N held on 11.10.2023 under the chairpersonship of Secretary (WR).
  - Secretary (WR) held a meeting to review the various components of PMKSY and way forward on 13.10.2023.
  - On 17.10.2023, Secretary (WR) reviewed the ongoing projects under National River Conservation Plan.

- Projects under National Mission for Clean Ganga was reviewed by Secretary (WR) on 18.10.2023.
- Secretary (WR) held a meeting to discuss the matter related to the action plan for completion of North Koel Project and to review Lakhwar Multipurpose Project with officials of the Department, CWC, CSMRS and other organizations on 20.10.2023.
- Secretary (WR) held a meeting on 23.10.2023, to discuss the key preparations being undertaken, including preparation of the draft agenda, discussion with partner countries, institutions and further coordination with MEA for the event to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> December at CoP 28, Dubai UAE.
- DG (NMCG) chaired a meeting with 13 Embassy Representatives from Ethiopia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Egypt, South Korea, Britain, Indonesia, Germany, Bhutan, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, and Denmark, including financial institutes such as AIIB and World Bank on 26.10.2023.
- A meeting related to costing of big projects like Dams, attended by Secretary (WR), held under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary on 27.10.2023.
- 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of Monitoring Committee to strengthen monitoring mechanism on R&R in respect of Polavaram Irrigation Project, AP was held on 30.10.2023 under the chairpersonship of Secretary (WR).
- Secretary (WR) attended meeting held under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary on (i) Implementation of USOF Funded Mobile Projects and (ii) Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra through video conference on 31.10.2023.

**E. Other important Meetings/Conferences held during the month of October 2023: -**

- The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of Joint Technical Team (JTT) on Flood Management between Government of India (GoI) and Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) was held during 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Phuentsholing Bhutan. The JTT is headed by Chief Engineer, Brahmaputra Basin Organization (BBO), CWC from Indian Side and by Chief of Meteorological Services Division (MSD), National Centre of Hydrology & Meteorology from Bhutanese side. The issues related to flood management, erosion, landslides etc; were discussed during the meeting.
- Chairman, CWC attended the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of team of experts (ToE) regarding discussion on updated DPR of India-Nepal Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- Chairman, CWC held a meeting with Mr. Freddy Svane Ambassador of Denmark and discussed the status of Centre of Excellence on 20.10.2023.
- Joint Secretary (Admin, IC&GW) held a meeting on 20.10.2023 to discuss the modalities of conducting the examinations for Accreditation of Ground Water Professional Jointly by RGNGWTRI and NABET.



- On 25.10.2023, Chairman CGWB chaired a meeting with CGWB Officers, EU experts and GIZ team regarding Isotope Data Interpretation pertaining to the ongoing study in Ramganga Basin under Indian EU Water Partnership (IEWP). This was followed by two days field visits & discussions in Uttar Pradesh.

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

- CGWB (SWR), Bangalore participated in the "Vision Goa – Aatmanirbhar Bharat Ki Or" exhibition held from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Panjim, Goa and received the best participation award, honoured by Hon'ble Minister for State (Tourism, Ports and Shipping & Waterways).
- As a part of the NAQUIM studies, CGWB has constructed 06 high discharge wells in the States of Karnataka (1), Tamil Nadu(2), Kerala (1) and Odisha (2) in the month of October 2023.
- Two mid-term review workshops (Bengaluru-1 and Dehradun-1) were held to review the progress of ongoing NAQUIM 2.0 studies.
- Meeting of State Level Committees for Ground Water Resource Estimation for Chandigarh, Haryana was held on 12.10.2023 & 27.10.2023.

**G. National Water Mission (NWM): -**

- To assess the activities/ progress related to MoU signed with Rotary India Water Conservation Trust (RIWCT), Vyakti Vikas Kendra India (VVKI), the Art of Living, Bhartiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS), Indian Plumbing Association (IPA) and Sarkaritel.com / JalPrahari.in, a meeting was held under the chairpersonship of AS&MD (NWM) on 13.10.2023.
- AS&MD (NWM) chaired as meeting on 16.10.2023 to discuss the issue related to fund transfer from the CNA Account, presently faced by NIH, Roorkee and possibly sort out the issues.
- On 18.10.2023, AS&MD (NWM) held a meeting to review the progress of Jal Dharovar Portal developed by NWIC. This portal will facilitate easy access to geo-tagged water bodies.

**H. Ken Betwa Link Project & National River Conservation Plan: -**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Ken Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA) was held under the chairmanship of CEO, KBLPA, Bhopal on 19.10.2023, in which progress of the project was discussed.
- Grant-Aid of Rs. 27.13 crores has been released for 01 out of 11 ongoing pollution abatement and conservation of rivers projects, under National River Conservation Plan scheme.

**I. Miscellaneous Matters:**

- **Swachhta Hi Seva (SHS) Campaign 2023:** On 01.10.2023, this department and NMCG organized a cleanliness drive at Chhath Ghat, ITO

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as part of the *Swachhta Hi Seva (SHS) campaign 2023*, inspired by Hon'ble Prime Minister's "*Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath*" call for collective action. A pivotal aspect of the event was the administration of the Swachhta Pledge, emphasizing personal & collective responsibility for cleanliness. To raise awareness about the importance of clean rivers, a nukkadnataka was also conducted at the 'Ghats'. The event drew substantial support, with approximately 1000 individuals united to remove more than 6000 Kg of waste.

- **Special Campaign 3.0:** - As per guidelines received from DARPG, the implementation phase of Special Campaign 3.0 was observed in the Department and its Organizations from 01.10.2023 to 31.10.2023. During the phase, 100% targets were achieved for all parameters, except Parliament Assurances and VIP references disposal where it was 60% and 92% respectively. At the end of special campaign drive 3.0, Rs. 48,05,492 revenue has been generated through scrap disposal and approximately 16,0969 sq. ft. area has been freed. Achievement report for the month of October 2023 has been uploaded on SCDPM portal.
- As it part of Vigilance Awareness Week celebrated from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023, an awareness generation webinar was organized by National Water Academy, Pune on 27.10.2023.
- **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 7.3.4**. 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)

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