

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

16th September, 2024

Dear Sir,

The important issues / developments related to the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation during the month of August 2024 are as follows: -

A. Storage Position of Important Reservoirs: Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring the live storage position of 155 important reservoirs spread all over the country and issuing bulletins every Thursday. The overall storage position in 155 reservoirs as on **29.08.2024** was **144.333 BCM** which is **126%** of the live storage of corresponding period of last year and **119%** of average storage of last ten years. Out of the 155 Reservoirs being monitored, **20** reservoirs are of Hydro-Electric projects having total live storage capacity of **35.299 BCM** and **16** Reservoirs of these had Storage more than the average of last 10 years.

B. Launch of "Flood Watch India" Mobile Application by Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti: On 13.08.2024, Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti launched version 2.0 of the "Flood Watch India" Mobile Application developed by CWC, DoWR, RD & GR in the presence of other officials of the Department to provide additional information of 392 flood monitoring stations, taking up the total number of stations to 592, thus imparting users with an extensive and detailed overview of flood conditions across the country. Further, this version also provides additional information regarding the storage positions of 150 major reservoirs in the country. 'Flood Watch India', developed in-house by the Central Water Commission, utilizes advanced technologies such as satellite data analysis, mathematical modelling and real-time monitoring to deliver accurate and timely flood forecasts. The app also provides flood forecast at nearest location where users can check the flood situation at the station nearest to them on the home page itself.

C. Participation by DoWR, RD & GR in National Space Day 2024 Celebration: The maiden National Space Day was celebrated on the 23rd August, 2024 across the country. As one of the prime stakeholder organizations in satellite data utilization, the Department along with 11 state

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Governments (*Implementing agencies under National Hydrology Project*) namely Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Mizoram, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Bihar organized events (conferences/workshops) focusing on space technology applications in water sector to celebrate the National Space Day 2024. During the event, officers from various organizations of the Department viz. CWC, CGWB, National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), NHP along with officers from ISRO and other organizations under DoS, officers from various State Govt. Depts., Academic institutions, private entities, participated and shared their expertise on applications of space technology in water sector.

In the main event organized at Bharat Mandapam on 23rd August, 2024 by Department of Space, DoWR, RD &GR showcased various applications of space technologies in water sector and also displayed a physical model representing the integration of space technology in real time water data acquisition system for efficient monitoring of water resources in India in the Exhibition. The officials of the Department also participated in the panel discussions held as a part of the event.

D. Signing of MoU between Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority (FMDA): To address the anticipated water supply gap for Faridabad Smart City by 2031, a MoU was signed on 17.08.2024 between the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), DoWR, RD & GR and the Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority (FMDA). This agreement aims to enhance water supply through sustainable groundwater development in the Yamuna floodplains. It includes a study to assess groundwater potential and quality, leading to a management plan with strategies for artificial recharge and resource development. The MoU is valid until March 31, 2025, by which time the study is expected to be completed, reflecting the Central Government's commitment to scientific water management and cooperative federalism.

E. 15th meeting of Expert Level Mechanism (ELM): The 15th meeting of ELM set up between India and China for cooperation in sharing of hydrological data during the flood season, emergency management and other issues related to trans-border rivers between the two countries was held in Beijing, China from

13th-14th August, 2024. The discussions focused on reviewing the flood season hydrological data provided by China to India for 2023, assessing the utilization of this information by India and deliberating on the draft text for renewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning the provision of flood season hydrological information for the Yalu Zangbu/Brahmaputra River and LangqenZangbo/Sutlej River.

F. Approving of projects for Ganga Rejuvenation: During the 56th Executive Committee Meeting of NMCG, 9 (nine) projects worth Rs. 265 crore were approved to enhance river Ganga's ecosystem. Key projects include (i) Additional allocation of Rs. 110 crore as NMCG share for Munger sewerage network project (ii) Rs. 50.98 crore sewerage system in Bulandsahar (iii) Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary management (Rs. 25.89 crore) (iv) Rs. 4.40 crore faecal sludge treatment plant in Raibarell, Uttar Pradesh, and a (v) Rs. 1.80 crore Arth Ganga Centre in Prayagraj for Maha Kumbh Mela 2025.

G. Compendium on Sedimentation of Reservoirs in India 2024: The Central Water Commission released a "Compendium on Sedimentation of Reservoirs in India 2024" on 08.08.2024. The Compendium presents a detailed analysis of sedimentation across 548 reservoirs using both Hydrographic and remote sensing techniques. As per the study *average loss of gross storage and live storage is 0.74% and 0.49% respectively*. This research is instrumental in refining the accuracy of sedimentation rate estimates and assessing storage losses at the planning stage of reservoir projects. Additionally, it evaluates the effectiveness of soil conservation measures in the catchment areas of River Valley Projects, contributing to improved reservoir management and the sustainability of water resources.

H. District Water Body Atlas 2024: Enhancing Water Management and Conservation Efforts

The National Water Mission and National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) have developed a comprehensive District Water Body Atlas for all water bodies (*with area of 1 hectare or more*), including time series data over five years that tracks the extent of these water bodies. This initiative, which covers 151 water-stressed districts included under Jal Shakti Abhiyan 2024, has been shared with district collectors, state nodal officers, and other relevant authorities. Hosted on the India-WRIS web portal (*water data disseminating platform of the Department managed by NWIC*), the Atlas serves as a crucial tool for district administrations to identify and monitor water bodies, assess water

conservation efforts, and support the Jal Shakti Abhiyan's goals. The Atlas is expected to significantly enhance water resource management and conservation strategies across districts.

I. Release of "Report on Flood Damage Statistics" by Central Water Commission

CWC released a "Report on Flood Damage Statistics" on 01.8.2024. This report aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of long-term flood damage data to support informed decision-making for Flood Management Schemes. The report compiles an extensive databank of flood damage statistics across 36 States and Union Territories in India, covering the period from 1953 to 2022. It offers a detailed analysis of trends in flood damage and monetary losses over time. The PDF version of the report is available on the CWC's official website.

J. Roundtable on "Water Resources Regulatory Authority": The Department (NWM) organized a roundtable on "Water Resources Regulatory Authority" under the chairpersonship of Secretary DoWR, RD & GR on 21.08.2024, at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi. The roundtable featured senior officials from the Department, representatives from over 30 States and Union Territories and multilateral partners. The discussions focused on the significance and potential establishment of Water Resources Regulatory Authorities across States and Union Territories.

K. Important meetings / conference held at the level of Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti and Hon'ble Minister of State of Jal Shakti during the month of August -2024

1. A meeting to discuss the National Framework on Safe Reuse of Treated Water, focusing on evaluating current policies, assessing the effectiveness of existing guidelines, and identifying strategies to enhance the safe and sustainable reuse of treated water across various sectors was held on 13.08.2024 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti.
2. A meeting to review report of committee on issue of flood and siltation in Ganga due to Farakka Barrage in Bihar was held on 13.08.2024 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti.
3. A meeting to review the progress of project sanctioned under the Namami Gange Programme was held on 14.08.2024 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti.
4. A meeting to discuss the Polavaram Project with CM, Andhra Pradesh was held on 16.08.2024 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti.

5. A meeting to review of water related activities in Shillong, Meghalaya was held on 21.08.2024 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State Jal Shakti.
6. A meeting was held on 27.08.2024 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti to review and assess the preparations being made for the Ganga Utsav 2024, focusing on ensuring effective management and planning.

L. Important meetings / conference held at the level of Secretary DoWR, RD & GR during the month of August -2024

1. A meeting was held on 01.08.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary DoWR, RD & GR with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to discuss new priorities of the Department for continued collaboration with ADB.
2. A meeting was held on 05.08.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary DoWR, RD & GR to review and assesses the preparations being made for the Maha Kumbh 2025 event at Prayagraj, focusing on ensuring effective management and planning.
3. On 06.08.2024, Secretary DoWR, RD & GR participated as a Keynote Speaker in the Plenary panel discussion on Institutional Mechanisms Enabling NbS for Resilient Cities.
4. A meeting was held on 08.08.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary DoWR, RD & GR to discuss the "(Draft) National Water Data Policy, 2024".
5. The 4th meeting of the Core Group of 8th India Water Week – 2024 was held on 14.08.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary DoWR, RD & GR.
6. A meeting to review the progress of DPR and draft MoA of Modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project was held on 16.08.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary DoWR, RD & GR.
7. A hybrid meeting of Advisory Board of the ICED on Centre of Excellence for Dam Safety with IIT, Roorkee and IISc, Bangalore was held on 21.08.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary DoWR, RD & GR.
8. On 22nd-23rd August, 2024, the Secretary DoWR, RD & GR chaired the 10th Executive Council meeting of NERIWALM and also conducted a review of the Brahamaputra Board.
9. A meeting to review the draft Policy for "Riverine Inlands in the Ganga Basin – 2024" was held on 27.08.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary DoWR, RD & GR with the officers of the Department.
10. Secretary (WR) attended the 44th PRAGATI meeting held on 28.08.2024 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister to review Gosikhurd Project of Maharashtra.

11. A meeting to review the "Indus Water Treaty (IWT)" was held on 29.08.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary DoWR, RD & GR with the officers of the Department.

M. Other important meetings/conference held in the month of August-2024

1. On 01.08.2024, Additional Secretary (A, IC&GW) DoWR, RD & GR visited Dharwad district, Karnataka to inspect activities taken under Jal Shakti Abhiyan. He also visited WALMI Dharwad for assessment of facilities available there for conduct of capacity building programs of the DoWR, RD & GR officials.
2. A meeting was held on 20.08.2024 under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR to review utilization of satellite data for upcoming 2nd Census of water bodies.
3. Chairman CWC, DoWR, RD & GR participated in the Panel Discussion held on 23.08.2024 at Bharat Mandapam Pragati Maidan, New Delhi to celebrate National Space Day 2024.
4. The 7th meeting of the Negotiation Committee on Pennaiyar River Water Disputes was held on 29.08.2024 under the chairmanship of Chairman, CWC, DoWR, RD & GR.
5. On 30.08.2024, AS (A, IC &GW) DoWR, RD & GR deliberated upon issues related to Atal Jal with Additional Chief Secretary (GW& MI), UP Govt and team during his visit to Lucknow.

N. National Mission for Clean Ganga: Major Activities

1. **1st meeting of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on Smart Laboratory for Clean Rivers (SLCR):** The "Smart Lab on Clean River" in Varanasi is an initiative under Indo-Danish collaboration aimed at establishing a Lab for monitoring water quality and tracking river health by using modern tools. In this connection, the 1st JSC Meeting was held on 20.08.2024 under the chairmanship of DG, NMCG, DoWR, RD & GR. The SLCR will provide a platform for governments, institutions, and communities to share insights and develop clean water solutions. The project includes a hybrid lab at IIT-BHU and a field lab on the Varuna River for real-time testing and scaling.

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2. **Meeting on 9th India Water Impact Summit** : A meeting was held on 09.08.2024 under the chairmanship of the DG, NMCG, DoWR, RD & GR with officials from c-Ganga to discuss and plan for the 9th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) and the 2nd Climate Investments and Technology Impact Summit (CITIS) aiming to address a wide range of scientific, technological, socio-cultural, legal, policy, and governance issues related to river basin management in India, considering the diverse and divergent stakeholder interests, perceptions, and understanding of river processes.
3. **7th Steering Committee Meeting**: On 29th August 2024, the 7th Steering Committee meeting was co-chaired by the DG, NMCG and Member (Thermal), Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to review the progress of reusing treated STP water in 20 thermal power plants across Ganga Basin states, focusing on implementation and effectiveness.
4. **Student Thesis Competition on "Re-imagining Urban Rivers"**: On 7th August 2024, NMCG, DoWR, RD & GR organized the season finale of the "4th Student Thesis Competition on "Re-imagining Urban Rivers". This competition was organized by NMCG, DoWR, RD & GR in collaboration with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) to engage young minds in developing innovative ideas for revitalizing urban rivers while promoting sustainable practices and enhancing community engagement reflecting the broader vision of rejuvenating rivers across the country.

O. Miscellaneous

1. The Union Minister for Jal Shakti commemorated the *Har Ghar Tiranga campaign* with the Department's officers and staff and distributed national Flags to the officials on 14.08.2024.
2. On 12th August, 2024, the Department (NWM) organized the 54th seminar series of '**Water Talk**', under the theme "**Involving Communities and ensuring women's participation for aquifer management**". This platform has been established to foster dialogue and knowledge exchange among participants on various water-related subjects. The primary objective of 'Water Talk' is to raise awareness, enhance stakeholder capacities and inspire active engagement in water conservation and preservation efforts.

3. On 8th August 2024, NMCG, in collaboration with the Wadhvani Foundation, organized a workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Block chain, and Deep Learning. The workshop focused on digital transformation, emphasizing analytics, data science, natural language processing, and generative AI/large language models, aiming to enhance participants' understanding and application of these advanced technologies.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,



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