



भारत 2023 INDIA

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

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देवश्री मुखर्जी

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सचिव

SECRETARY



सत्यमेव जयते



आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

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

10th October, 2024

Dear Sir,

The important issues / developments related to the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation during the month of September 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 **26.09.2024** was **156.639 BCM** which is **121%** of the live storage of corresponding period of last year and **113%** 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 Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: A Collaborative Initiative for Water Sustainability launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister: The "Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari" initiative under Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR), commenced at Surat, Gujarat which was virtually launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 06.09.2024. The initiative aims to enhance water conservation and recharge through aquifer and borewell recharge, recharge shafts, and rainwater harvesting, with active community participation and support from various stakeholders. Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that "an important campaign is beginning from the land of Gujarat, led by the Ministry of Jal Shakti" under which approximately 24,800 rainwater harvesting structures will be constructed across Surat and neighboring districts to ensure long-term water sustainability. Chief Minister of Gujarat and Union Minister of Jal Shakti were also virtually present at the event. This initiative promotes a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach, mobilizing citizens and local industries to foster community ownership in water conservation, ultimately contributing to a water-secure future. The Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari aims to overall construct a million recharge structures, including check dams, percolation tanks and recharge wells to enhance groundwater replenishment across the country.

C. 8th India Water Week 2024: The 8th edition of India Water Week (IWW) 2024, inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India, in the presence of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti and Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti, was held from 17th-20th September, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, on the theme "Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management."

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This prestigious event is a key platform for collaboration in water resource management. The event brought together global water experts, policymakers-both at central and state level and private sector leaders to address critical water resource management challenges. IWW 2024 highlighted the importance of cross-sector collaboration to ensure sustainable and equitable access to water resources, addressing the growing water scarcity issues of the 21st century. The event featured a variety of key sessions, including the Global Water Leaders' Plenary, Water Leaders' Forum and Country Forum where nations like Israel, Australia, Singapore and Denmark presented their water management innovations. More than 4000 delegates participated in the Water Week, including participants from over 40 countries.

A parallel exhibition spanning 4,800 square meters showcased cutting-edge technologies from across the globe, while the Startup Forum provided a platform for entrepreneurs to pitch innovative water solutions. Additionally, the International WASH Conference, focusing on rural water supply, discussed water quality, sanitation and climate change adaptation, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 6.

IWW 2024 successfully paved the way for a more sustainable and inclusive water management approach, calling for partnerships and technological solutions to ensure global water security. It also showcased India's capacities in various areas of water management, both in the private and public sector.

D. Release of key Publications by the Hon'ble Union Ministers: On the sidelines of IWW, 2024, the Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti and the Hon'ble Minister of State (DoWR, RD & GR) released following significant publications by the Central Water Commission (CWC) and the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB): -

1. Assessment of Water Resources of India
2. Assessment of Area Affected Due to Floods in India
3. Status Report on Coastal Area Management
4. Criteria for Risk Indexing of Glacial Lakes in the Indian Himalayan Region
5. Basin-Wise Assessment of Water Resources
6. Compendium of Major and Medium Irrigation Projects in India
7. Compendium on Sedimentation of Reservoirs in India 2024
8. Coffee Table Book prepared by CGWB on Heli-Borne Studies, summarizing findings from high-resolution aquifer mapping studies.

The Hon'ble Ministers also launched the Bhu-Neer portal developed by CGWA for processing No Objection Certificate (NOC) applications under GW regulation.

E. Nari Shakti Leads the Way: PM Modi Praises Jal Sahelis for Reviving Water Sources in Jhansi: In the 114th episode of his Mann Ki Baat radio programme aired on Sunday, Hon'ble Prime Minister praised the outstanding efforts of the Jal Saheli group, a collective of rural women volunteers from Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. The Prime Minister highlighted their pivotal role in rejuvenating the Gurari river in Babina block, a region long known for water scarcity, under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain initiative. Their efforts have set an inspiring example of community-driven water conservation.

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In his message, the Prime Minister emphasized the interdependence between Nari Shakti (women's power) and Jal Shakti (waterpower). He underscored how women's empowerment can lead to effective water conservation, and, in turn, how ensuring water security can further strengthen women's roles in society. The efforts of the Jal Saheli group are a testament to this vision, transforming not only their local environment but also their own communities by addressing critical water issues.

F. India-EU cooperation in water sector: 6th EU-India Water Forum: The 6th EU-India Water Forum meeting was held during the 8th India Water Week in New Delhi. The meeting focused on enhancing cooperation in sustainable water management. Both sides committed to advancing river basin management, fostering innovation & technology transfer and promoting sustainable investments. The forum also explored trilateral collaboration between East Africa, India and the EU to address water challenges in regions like Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika. Established in 2016, the India-EU Water Partnership (IEWP) is currently in Phase III, targeting areas such as climate resilience and urban flooding. Together, the EU and India have funded seven research projects totaling €37.4 million [EU €23.4 M + India €14 M] bringing together 743 participants from the EU and India. These projects focus on emphasizing drinking water purification and wastewater treatment.

The forum brought together key stakeholders, including Hon'ble Minister of State of Jal Shakti and EU Ambassador to India, who highlighted the partnership's significant contributions to India's water sector and expressed eagerness to deepen collaboration. The initiative aligns with India's National 2030 Agenda and the EU's Global Gateway Strategy, supporting several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Overall, the forum reaffirmed the commitment to achieving sustainable water resource management for future generations.

G. Indian Delegation's Visit to Discuss Indus Waters Treaty in Vienna: From 8th -12th September, 2024, a 19-member delegation led by the Secretary DoWR, RD & GR attended the third Meeting of the Parties with the Neutral Expert on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) issues in Vienna, Austria. The neutral expert hear arguments on the issue of his competence under the Treaty.

H. 4th Meeting of the India-Morocco Joint Working Group (JWG): The 4th Meeting of the India-Morocco JWG was held on 20.09.2024 under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR at New Delhi under the MoU signed in December-2017 for water resource cooperation. The meeting aimed to review progress and discuss future initiatives in water management. Delegates from both countries engaged in discussions about current projects, shared challenges and opportunities for joint research and capacity-building. The meeting concluded with a commitment to strengthen collaboration and implement strategies for effective water resource management, highlighting the importance of international cooperation.

I. 55th Water Talk Seminar Series: On 27th September, 2024, the Department (NWM) organized the 55th seminar series of 'Water Talk', under the theme "Maneuvering the Waterscape of Bihar and Jharkhand: Understanding Sanitation, Drinking Water Facility and Shallow Aquifers in the area". 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.

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J. The 19th Meeting of Central Monitoring Committee: National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued directions, among others, for ensuring water quality and e-flow in the rivers, vide order/judgment dated 10.12.2015 and 13.07.2017 in Original Application (OA) 200 of 2014 and vide order dated 20.09.2018 in OA No.673 of 2018. NGT, in its orders has directed all State and Union Territory (UT) Governments concerned to implement Action Plans approved by task team of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for rejuvenation/ restoration of polluted river stretches (PRS) falling in category priority I to priority IV. River Rejuvenation Committees (RRCs) have been constituted by State/UT Governments for preparation and implementation of approved action plan for PRS falling in category priority V and a Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) has been constituted at Central level to monitor progress of implementation. Pursuant to the orders of Hon'ble NGT, CMC meetings are held on a regular basis under the chairmanship of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR wherein implementation of approved action plans formulated by the concerned States/ UTs are reviewed. Accordingly, 19th meeting of the CMC was held in NMCG on 30.09.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR where the progress under these plans was reviewed.

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

1. A meeting to review the Nar-Par-Girna Intra-State link project and Par-Tapi-Narmada link project was held on 09.09.2024 and 24.09.2024 respectively, under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti.
2. A meeting to Discuss "Draft Model Bill on Integrated Water Resource Development and Management" and "Mullaperiyar Dam Safety issues" was held on 24.09.2024 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti.

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

1. A meeting to review "design issues of Lakhwar Multipurpose Project of Uttarakhand" was held on 03.09.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary DoWR, RD & GR.
2. The 156th meeting of Advisory Committee of DoWR on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Projects was held on 03.09.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR
3. The 95th meeting of the Narmada Control Authority was held on 04.09.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR.
4. On 20.09.2024 a meeting was held under the chairpersonship of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR with World Bank representatives focusing on reviewing the findings of the recently concluded Seventh Implementation Support Mission for the 2nd National Ganga River Basin Project.
5. A meeting to discuss the National Strategy for Accelerating Innovation in the Water Sector and promoting innovative approaches and technologies to address challenges in water management, enhance water conservation efforts and improve efficiency in water usage was held on 24.09.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR.

6. A meeting to discuss pending technical issues & financial matters of Polavaram irrigation project was held on 24.09.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR
7. The 2nd Meeting of NLSC for DRIP-II & III Scheme was held on 25.09.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary DoWR, RD & GR.
8. A meeting to discuss modalities regarding inter-sectoral convergence for prioritizing artificial recharge structures for Rain Water Harvesting under JSA:CTR-2024 as a follow up meeting on Surat Function was held on 26.09.2024 under the chairpersonship of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR.
9. The Joint Meeting of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR and Secretary (Power) was held on 26.09.2024 on Sankosh HEP and Punatsangchhu-I HEP along with Pong Dam Issues etc. under the chairpersonship of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR.
10. A meeting to finalize the draft Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the Modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal was held on 26.09.2024 under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR.

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

1. The Chairman, CWC participated in a meeting with officials from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on 02.09.2024 under the chairmanship of Home Secretary to review the rainfall variance across the country.
2. A meeting regarding "Periodical Review of Government employees under FR 56(j) and Rule 42 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021" was held on 03.09.2024 under the chairmanship of AS (A, IC & GW), DoWR, RD & GR.
3. A Meeting to review the performance of Aspirational District, Raichur, Karnataka with DC, CEO and district and block level officers was held on 09.09.2024 under the chairmanship of AS (A, IC & GW), DoWR, RD & GR. Subsequently, AS (A, IC & GW) DoWR, RD & GR held another meeting with Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka on 11.09.2024.
4. A meeting to review Lakhwar Multipurpose Project with the officers of Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun and Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (UJVNL) was held on 10.09.2024 under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (WR, RD & GR).
5. The 20th meeting of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers was held on 20.09.2024 under the Chairmanship of AS, DoWR, RD&GR.
6. A meeting to review procedure of techno economic clearance and investment clearance to water resources project with the officials of the Department was held on 26.09.2024 under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (WR, RD & GR).

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7. A Meeting to review the progress of construction of Artificial Ground Water Recharge structures as a part of "Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari" in all the offices of DoWR, RD & GR was held on 26.09.2024 under the chairmanship of AS (A, IC & GW), DoWR, RD & GR.

N. National Mission for Clean Ganga: Major Activities

1. **Empowered Task Force (ETF) Meeting:** On 10th September 2024, Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti chaired the 12th Meeting of the Empowered Task Force (ETF) of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). The meeting was attended by Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Director General, NMCG along with senior officials from Central Ministries, Departments and concerned State Governments. During the meeting, DG, NMCG shared the status of activities and projects undertaken under Namami Gange Mission. The other Ministries and Departments presented the status of various activities being carried out in the Ganga Basin. Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti also emphasized the need for reuse of treated water and the promotion of its usage as an important resource.
2. **Executive Committee (EC) Meeting:** The 57th Executive Committee meeting of NMCG was held on 25th September, 2024 under the chairmanship of DG, NMCG. In this meeting, the committee approved projects worth ₹1,062 crore. These projects aimed towards the conservation and cleanliness of the Ganga River and for IEC activities during Mahakumbh-2025. The important projects inter alia include 65 MLD and 48 MLD capacity Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) with Interception and Diversion (I&D) as well as a 30 KLD septage co-treatment facility in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, 35 MLD STP in Rojitpur and 20.5 MLD capacity STP in Sharifganj, Katihar, Bihar.
3. **Signing of MoU:** On 27th September, 2024, a tripartite Concession Agreement was signed between NMCG, UP Jal Nigam (Rural) and M/s. EIEL Infra Engineers Pvt. Ltd. for the development of 135 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant under the Hybrid Annuity PPP model in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh with a project cost of ₹ 343.87 crore. This World Bank-supported initiative will address sewerage issues and prevent untreated sewage from flowing into the Paondhoi and Dhamola rivers, tributaries of the Hindon River, contributing to the rejuvenation of the Yamuna and Ganga rivers.
4. **Multi-Stakeholder Consultative Meeting:** On 4th September, 2024, NMCG in association with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), organized a Multi-Stakeholder Consultative Meeting on the subject "Strategies and Synergies for Developing and Implementing the Urban River Management Plan (URMP)" focusing on engaging stakeholders in the preparation of the URMP, aligning efforts with ongoing initiatives and transitioning from planning to implementation.
5. **Meeting with State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar:** On 11th September, 2024, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of DG, NMCG with officials from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and representatives from State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to review the progress of projects sanctioned under the Namami Gange Programme. The discussions emphasized on collaboration and efficient

implementation strategies to meet the objectives of the Namami Gange Programme and ensure sustainable development in both States. Subsequently, another meeting was held on 26th September, 2024 with officials from the State Governments of West Bengal and Uttarakhand as well as representatives from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to review the same.

6. **Indo-German Annual Negotiation Meeting:** On 20th September, 2024, NMCG officials participated in the Indo-German Annual Negotiation Meeting (ANM) between the Government of India and the Federal Republic of Germany in New Delhi. During the meeting, projects which need to be implemented in India with German cooperation were discussed and negotiations took place regarding the RoD on Technical Cooperation Commitments for 2024. These commitments were focused on "Strengthening Quality Infrastructure for Water Monitoring of the River Ganga III (TC)".

O. Miscellaneous

1. **Special Campaign 4.0:** As a part of preparatory phase of the campaign targets for 'liquidating pending matters and organizing Swachhata campaigns' have been identified and uploaded on DARPG, SCDPM portal. All Wings and Organizations of the Department have been sensitized to the campaign guidelines. The progress under the campaign is being monitored at the level of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR.
2. **Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) Campaign 2024:** The Department actively participated in the "Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) Campaign 2024," jointly launched by the DDWS in collaboration with MoHUA from 17th September-1st October, 2024. This campaign served as a prelude to the Swachh Bharat Diwas celebrated on 2nd October, 2024. During the campaign, DoWR, RD & GR and its organizations organized a total of 764 'events' and undertook cleanliness campaigns at 150 Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs), In addition, a health camp for Safai Mitras was held on 27th September, 2024.
3. A two week International Training Course on "Ground and Surface Water Management – Best Practices from Asia and Africa" was inaugurated on 23.09.2024 at RGNGWTRI in association with African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO).

With Regards,

Yours sincerely,



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