

I/73866/2021

Deccan Chronicles-13 October 2021

More rain expected in TN

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT 12

The weather in Tamil Nadu remained inclement on Tuesday with a cyclonic circulation persisting at 5.8 km above sea level and the weather department forecasting more rains.

Flood warnings have been issued to people living on the banks of some rivers that may be in spate after water is released from dams across them.

The Pillur dam in Mettupalayam has filled up and people living along Bhavani river banks have been alerted. Similarly, people living in low lying areas and on the sides of Maruthiyaru have been warned.

Water will be released through Maruthiyaru from the Maruthiyaru dam near Kottarai village in Alandur taluk of Perumbalur district as the reservoir is expected to touch its full level by Wednesday, according to an official press release.

Once the dam fills up to its capacity, water will be let out, the release said, warning farmers too.

Water release for irrigation from Theni district's Manjalaru and Sothuparai reservoirs and

Erode district's Bhavanisagar dam on October 15 was also announced by the government through official press releases.

The opening of Manjalaru would help irrigate 5,259 acres of cultivated land in Theni and Dindigul districts as 937.41 million cubic feet of water has been ordered to be released for 152 days from October 15.

Water from Sothuparai will be released for the purpose of irrigating 2865 acres of land and meet the drinking water needs of people in Periyakulam municipality at a rate of 30 cubic feet for the first 62 days from October 15, 27 cubic feet for the next 31 days and 25 cubic feet in the last 59 days.

Hindustan Times-13 October 2021

LG reviews water conservation plan

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: Lieutenant governor Anil Baijal on Tuesday reviewed the progress of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan in Delhi, a flagship programme by the Central government, and advised the chief secretary to constitute a committee to ensure that quality of water in rejuvenated water bodies and recharged groundwater is up to the mark.

“As of now, efforts such as setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras, GIS mapping of water bodies, documentation and preparation of action plan and revival of water bodies is being taken up. We are also focusing on encroachment free upkeep of catchment areas of water bodies,” said a senior official who attended the meeting.

The Jal Shakti campaign aims at conserving and enhancing water availability in Delhi with a view to meet future demands and eventually forestall any water shortage.

The officials were instructed

by the LG to put in place strict timelines and compress the existing projections with activity-wise incremental plans that could be monitored at the micro level and reviewed at least once a month, a second official said.

“The LG advised the chief secretary to constitute a committee of officers from the Delhi Jal Board, Delhi Parks and Gardens Society, environment department and experts, to ensure that the quality of water in the rejuvenated water bodies and ground water recharged through rainwater harvesting is up to the mark,” the official said.

The LG also advised exploring the use of recycled water for non-potable purposes through dual piping after installing smaller treatment plants in gated colonies.

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) was also asked to submit brief documents on identified wetlands in a time-bound manner for notification by the government.

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The Hindu-13 October 2021

Baijal reviews progress of Jal Shakti Abhiyan in Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal on Tuesday reviewed the progress of the implementation of Jal Shakti Abhiyan, which involves restoration, rejuvenation and creation of waterbodies, in the Capital. The programme also aims to conserve and enhance water availability in Delhi with a view to meet future demands.

According to sources, the L-G appreciated the efforts made so far, including setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras, GIS mapping of waterbodies, documentation and preparation of action plan, and revival of waterbodies.

He, however, stressed on

encroachment-free upkeep of watershed and catchment areas of waterbodies for sustainable and enhanced water harvesting and groundwater recharge.

While reviewing the action taken report, sources said, the officials concerned were instructed to put in place strict timelines and compress the existing projections with activity-wise incremental plans that could be monitored at the micro level and reviewed at least once a month.

Compulsory rainwater harvesting and use of recycled water for non-potable purposes and dual piping in gated colonies were also emphasised upon.

No clarity on KRMB project components

Two States want to retain hydel generation rights, AP insists on protocols

B. CHANDRASHEKHAR
HYDERABAD

The Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) has asked Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to handover all projects, canal systems, hydel stations, barrages, pump-houses and regulators listed in Schedule 2 of the gazette notification issued on the purview of the board so that their management is taken over by it from Oct. 14.

However, the two States are yet to give their official consent for the formal handover of the components. Sources stated that the two States are expected to give their consent for handing over at least some of the components, if not all, before or on the appointed day for the implementation of the Board's purview, including the management of projects



Special Chief Secretary (Irrigation) Rajat Kumar interacting with media ahead of meeting of Krishna River Management Board in Hyderabad on Tuesday • NAGARA GOPAL

and their irrigation and hydel components.

The meeting chaired by KRMB Chairman M.P. Singh and attended Special Chief (Irrigation) of Telangana Rajat Kumar, Secretary (Water Resources) of AP J. Syamala Rao, engineers-in-chief C. Muralidhar (Telangana), C. Narayana Reddy (AP) and

others discussed a report submitted by a sub-committee of the board comprising two each of Chief Engineers of Irrigation and Genco from the two States and five officials of the board on the project systems to be taken over initially. The two States have also agreed to handover the detailed project reports of all

projects in the Basin to the river board.

Officials the two States expressed their reluctance to handover their hydel stations and schemes taken for diversion of Godavari to Krishna Basin to the board. Telangana put across its view again that hydel generation holds key in its plans to meet the needs of irrigation since it was being met mostly through lift irrigation schemes unlike AP.

Telangana reiterated that there was no need to handover the hydel stations under its control at Srisailem, Nagarjunasagar and Pulichintala since the activity was incidental to the release of water for drinking and irrigation needs and release of flood. Authorities of were of the view that hydel generation be left to the States by

following the water release protocols and not resorting to generation without the board's nod from time to time. Further, the Telangana side is said to have reiterated before the board that unlike in the Godavari Basin there were many complexities in the Krishna Basin and in the absence of clarity on project and component-wise water allocation their management by the board would lead to more differences.

Besides, Telangana is also hopeful of the Centre's intervention to put-off the gazette implementation at least for a few months till some contentious issues such as hydel generation, diversion schemes were sorted out, since it has made a plea to the Prime Minister, Home Minister and Jal Shakti Minister recently.

The Indian Express-13 October 2021

Saraswati revival: Rs 215-cr dam proposed

SUKHBIRSIWACH

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER

THE HARYANA government proposes to spend Rs 215 crore on the construction of a dam for the revival of the Saraswati river.

According to the state government proposal, the dam, with a capacity of 224-hectare metre, will be constructed on Haryana's border with Himachal Pradesh. A portion of the Som river water, officials said, would be diverted to the dam from where it would flow into the stream of Saraswati

river starting from Adi Badri (Yamunanagar) to Guhla Cheeka in the Kaithal district. Adi Badri is a place in the foothills of Shivalik range, 90 km east of Kurukshetra. The proposal to construct the dam is part of a larger project worth Rs 388 crore, which also includes the construction of a barrage and reservoir.

Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board vice-chairman Dhuman Singh Kirmach believes the river existed over 5,000 years ago but disappeared underground because of geo-

graphical developments. Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had earlier said: "My idea is to maintain the belief in Saraswati so that the faith of people remains attached to it."

The Opposition has criticised the BJP for exploiting people's sentiments over matters of faith.

Kirmach told *The Indian Express*: "The Central Water Commission will design the draft for the proposed dam which will be built in Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh. An MOU with the Himachal government will be finalised soon."

The Morning Standard-13 October 2021

Baijal reviews Jal Shakti Abhiyan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ New Delhi

LT Governor Anil Baijal on Monday reviewed the progress of Jal Shakti Abhiyan and advised the chief secretary to constitute a committee to ensure that water quality in rejuvenated water bodies and recharged groundwater is to the mark.

He appreciated the efforts in setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras, GIS mapping of water bodies, documentation and preparation of action plan and revival of water bodies, and emphasised encroachment free upkeep of catchment areas of water bodies. The campaign aims at proactively conserving and enhancing water availability in Delhi with a view to fore-

stall any water shortage.

The Lt Governor advised the Chief Secretary to constitute a committee of officers from the Delhi Jal Board; Delhi Parks and Gardens Society, Environment department and experts to ensure that the quality of water in the rejuvenated water bodies and ground water recharged through rainwater harvesting is up to the mark.

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The Times of India-13 October 2021

Place strict timelines for Jal Shakti Abhiyan: LG

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor Anil Baijal on Tuesday reviewed the progress in the implementation of Jal Shakti Abhiyan in the city and directed officials to put in place strict timelines for the projects.

The LG also insisted on compulsory rainwater harvesting and the use of recycled water for non-potable purposes, with a system of incentives and disincentives and dual piping in gated colonies and housing societies.

"The Abhiyan is a comprehensive program involving resto-

ration, rejuvenation and creation of waterbodies in Delhi under the National Jal Shakti Abhiyan inspired by Prime Minister," sources from LG office said.

The meeting was attended by chief secretary, DDA vice chairman, municipal commissioners and other officials.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

No need to open Idukki dam: Official

Oct 13, 2021, 04:57 AM IST

Idukki: In line with the Central Water Commission's instructions the shutters of Idukki dam will not be opened until it reaches full reservoir level (FRL), authorities said on Tuesday.

With the water level in the Idukki reservoir nearing blue alert level of 2390.86ft authorities increased power generation at Moolamattam power plant.

The water level at the reservoir was at 2,389.52ft on Tuesday, which is 84.53% of total storage. The red alert level here is at 2397.86ft.

"The Central Water Commission has given the permission to maintain the water level till the full reservoir level in flood seasons. The FRL of the dam is 2403ft and at present the water level is 13ft below the FLR. By creating a dynamic flood cushion we can avoid flooding in downstream areas. As of now, there is no need to open the shutters of Idukki dam," said KSEB chief engineer (dam safety and DRIP) Supriya. The water level in the Mullaperiyar dam on Tuesday was at 128.69ft while the maximum storage level is 142ft.

Thodupuzha taluk reported the highest rainfall of 106.2mm in the district on Tuesday.

The district administration has banned travel on the Gap Road stretch of Kochi-Dhanuskody national highway in Munnar from 5pm-6am in the wake of the orange alert announced in the district till October 14.

A review meeting called by collector Sheeba George assessed the preparedness of the administration to deal with flood situation. Camps will be opened in areas facing the risk of landslides and floods. The collector has imposed travel curbs in the district from 7pm to 6 pm till October 14.

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Business Standard 13-Oct-2021

Centre set on aligning paddy purchase with average yield

Land records being integrated into a central database

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 12 October

The Centre is going ahead with its plan to align the procurement of paddy with the average yield of a district from this year to ensure only bona fide farmers sell paddy at the minimum support price (MSP), and middlemen and traders don't game the system.

This system, present in some states, is being extended across the country. In Punjab, the Centre has fixed a target of buying 17 million tonnes (mt) of paddy, based on yield estimates, but the state government wants it to be raised to 19 mt since yields are projected to have gone up this year.

Haryana has been following a system of procurement, based

on average yields for the past few years, as has Uttar Pradesh and Odisha.

Senior officials said the system is being put in place jointly with states to ensure procurement is done from genuine farmers. They categorically denied the move is meant to discontinue the current practice of open-ended procurement, wherein the Centre buys the entire amount of grains from farmers without checks.

Land records, too, need to be mandatorily uploaded on state procurement portals, and will now be integrated into a central database.

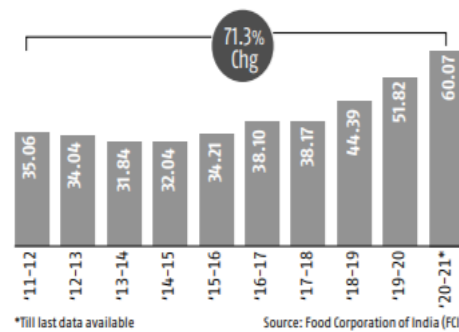
"The state agriculture department every season comes out with the average yield of foodgrain for each district. What we are saying is that

we will procure, based on that yield as provided by the state, so that round-tripping of foodgrain is avoided. This will ensure only legitimate farmers benefit from the annual procurement system and traders don't milk the arrangement," clarified a senior official.

He said although the open-ended procurement system is not being abolished by linking purchases to the average yield of a district, it does not mean traders can purchase paddy from one place and sell it at another to make a cut because the market price is lower than MSP.

Moreover, the Centre in a recent statement also laid down some minimum threshold parameters each procurement portal designed and developed by

RICE PROCUREMENT FOR CENTRAL POOL
(in mn tonnes)



state governments needs to have. Each state portal will now be integrated into a centralised system. This will enable central monitoring of the quantity of grains procured from each field and transfer of money into the bank account of farmers through MSP.

The rules also said all procurement should be done via registered portals, based on five common parameters.

"The parameters have to be common. By end-October, all such details will be integrated into a centralised database, which will help in monitoring

procurement and payment on a real-time basis with full transparency," elucidated the official.

The five mandatory requirements are full name, address, mobile number, Aadhaar details, and cultivation minutiae of each farmer wanting to

sell to government agencies.

After this, there will also be full integration of farmer details into state land records. This is to make certain that only those who have actually cultivated the produce avail of the MSP benefits and traders don't enter the system. Then there will be digitised mandi receipts. After this, the MSP will be paid into Aadhaar-linked bank accounts or through the central public financial management system. Finally, there will be auto-generation of bills and taking over of stocks.

"All this when available in an integrated centralised database will help in real-time monitoring of procurement from rightful farmers (since land records and yields are available online), along with a digitised payment system," elaborated the official. The system will also

help square off actual procurement to what states claim. This will facilitate smooth settlement of pending claims.

"Interestingly, state governments have come forward and are establishing this system since roughly 90 per cent of the grain procurement is done by them on behalf of the Food Corporation of India," he added.

He also discounted any lowering of paddy procurement estimates this year, compared to 2020-21, since the latest numbers are based on the production figure provided by each state government.

The Centre has purchased over 60 mt of rice in 2020-21 (October-September), against its plans to procure 50 mt. This year, too, the actual procurement is expected to be far more than estimated.