

The Hindu- 09- August-2022

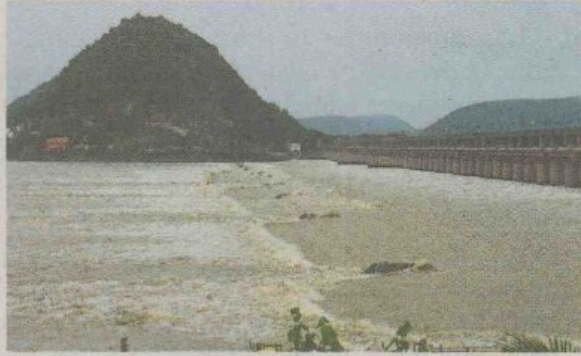
Krishna, Godavari levels on the rise

Heavy rain in catchment areas in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and A.P.

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HYDERABAD

With heavy to very heavy rain lashing most of the catchment areas of the Godavari and Krishna basins in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the water level in the main course of the two rivers in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh is on the rise.

The Central Water Commission (CWC), based on a forecast by the India Meteorological Department, has indicated that water flow in the Godavari at Kanthanapally, the point after the Indravathi joins the main river course, could be about 6.25 lakh cusecs by the early hours of Tuesday. At 6 p.m. on Monday, the water flow at the Me-



Crucial time: Excess water being released from the Prakasam Barrage at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh on Monday. ■ K.V. S GIRI

digadda Barrage, upstream of Kanthanapally, was about 5.34 lakh cusecs with a forecast of rising trend.

The Indravathi, which contributes most to the Godavari after the Pranahitha, is in spate in Chhattisgarh,

with the river flowing above the warning level of 539.5 metres at Jagdalpur and is forecast to cross the danger level of 540.8 metres by early on Tuesday.

Authorities of the Water Resources Department

(WRD) lifted all the 70 gates of the Prakasam Barrage and released 70,000 cusecs of water into the sea on Monday. This is the second time this season that the gates have been lifted. Nearly 82,161 cusecs of flood waters is reaching the barrage from the upper catchment areas.

With contribution from the Manjira, Kaddam, Peddavadu and Pranahitha, the water flow at Polavaram is forecast to be over 6.55 lakh cusecs by late on Monday. According to the Irrigation Department authorities of Telangana, the Singur and Nizamsagar projects were getting a moderate water flow of 5,735 and 8,000 cusecs at 6 p.m. on Monday.

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Sriramsagar was getting 41,000 cusecs, followed by Kaddam (21,000) and Lower Manair (10,800). As a result, the Yellampally Barrage, upstream of Medigadda was receiving water flow of more than 1.74 lakh cusecs at 8 p.m. on Monday and the discharge was more than 1.86 lakh cusecs.

The IMD has predicted very heavy to extremely heavy rains in Telangana and has alerted for water level rise in the Godavari Basin in Adilabad, Bhadrachalam, Kothagudem, Jagtial, Jayashankar-Bhupalpalle, Kumram Bheem-Asifabad, Karimnagar, Mahabubabad, Mancherial, Medak, Mulu-

gu, Nizamabad, Rajanna-Sircilla, Peddapalli, Nirmal, Siddipet and Warangal districts for the next two-three days. With increase in flood to Almati, Tungabhadra and Narayanpur following heavy rains in Maharashtra and Karnataka, the discharge at the dams has gone up to 75,000 cusecs, 1.1 lakh cusecs and 81,000 cusecs, respectively.

A steady flow of over 1.38 lakh cusecs was reaching Srisailem, having a storage of 212.92 tmc ft against its capacity of 215.81 tmc ft, with discharge of flood through one spillway gate, power houses of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

{ DESPITE MILESTONES }

Several states fall behind targets in Jal Jeevan Mission

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NEW DELHI: The Jal Jeevan Mission, the Modi government's marquee programme to provide every rural household in the country with piped water, has clocked many milestones since its launch in 2019, but some large states critical to accomplishing the mission by 2024, are lagging behind targets, necessitating special monitoring, according to a review by the Jal Shakti ministry.

Overall, 52.08% (99.7 million) of total rural households numbering 191.4 million now have a piped water connection that conforms with the standards laid down under the Bureau of Indian Standards 10500, a benchmark of clean drinking water.

At the start of the mission, a baseline survey showed that less than 17% or 32.3 million households had a connection. The mission, therefore, has covered more than twice as many households in less than three years.

Yet, despite the rapid pace of work, an internal review, government officials said on condition of anonymity, has shown that 13 states have yet to complete 95% of the residual work in reaching water to the household level from a source. These states include Jharkhand, which one senior official called an "outlier", Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Madhya Pradesh, which has connected 43% of households so far, is "struggling with sourcing of water", the official said. Uttar Pradesh, which has focused on Bundelkhand, one of India's driest regions, has managed to connect only 15.61% of its total households. Jharkhand has connected 22% of rural families, while West Bengal has linked 28% of households with a tap-

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water connection.

Haryana, Telangana and Goa have connected 100% of their households. Following closely are Punjab (99.92%), Gujarat (96.71%) and Himachal Pradesh (94.82%).

In so-called aspirational districts, 47% households now have tap-supplied drinking water, a 40% jump in coverage since 2019. Federal think-tank Niti Aayog has identified 117 aspirational districts across the country to spur development because they have relatively poor socio-economic indicators.

Among key milestones, 84.2% of all government schools in the country numbering 865,000 now have a tap-water connection, while 80% of anganwadi centres totaling 894,000 have been covered, official data showed.

The Centre has designated the 13 lagging states as "focus states" to separately work with them to speed up their pace of work. "It's definitely a concern. We are working with them on the nitty-gritty and drilling down to what the exact problems are," the official quoted above said.

Infrastructure inflation has been a hurdle. A spike in prices of pipes has affected the project. The Jal Shakti ministry has told states that there will be no constraints in funding for the supply and manufacture of the GI (galvanised iron) and HD PVC pipes, the backbone of the mission.

Morning Standard- 09- August-2022

Mullaperiyar, Idukki water release triggers panic, Kerala on alert

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Idukki/ Kochi

THOUGH rain has subsided in coastal plains and midland the high ranges of Idukki and Wayanad are receiving copious rains and the dams are witnessing copious inflow, which has forced the KSEB and Irrigation department to release water from major dams. Panic gripped Vandiperiyar and Vallakadavu areas located downstream Mullaperiyar dam as Tamil Nadu started releasing 7354 cusecs of water from 5 pm on Monday. Subsequently, KSEB raised the spill from Idukki dam to 300 cumecs.

The situation remained grim in Pampa basin as Kakki and Pampa reservoirs started releasing water on Monday. The Idamalayar dam in Ernakulam district will start releasing water on Tuesday. The Banasuragar in Wayanad also opened two spillway shutters releasing 17 cumecs of water. With Idukki dam receiving an inflow of 7.37 MCM per 3 hour, the authorities are planning to raise the outflow to 500 cumecs from Tuesday morning.

As the water level in Idamalayar dam reached 83.57 percentage of the storage capacity, the KSEB has decided to open the spillway shutters at 10 am on Tuesday. Idamalayar will be releasing 50 to 100 cumecs of water which will flow to Bhoothathankettu dam where all the 15 shutters are kept open. The water release from Idukki and Idamalayar will be regulated after monitoring the water level in Periyar at Aluva. The water level in Periyar was 1.735 m at 6 pm on Monday, way below the danger level of 3.76 m.

Meanwhile, a 21 member

team of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) arrived in Ernakulam on Monday afternoon. District collector Renu Raj held discussions with NDRF, police and fire and rescue authorities and decided to take precautionary measures. The police and fire and rescue personnel will be patrolling the banks of Periyar from Neriamangalam to Aluva to monitor the situation.

The water level in Mullaperiyar dam reached 139.45 feet against the rule curve level of 137.5 feet at 7 pm on Monday. The dam was receiving an inflow of 11,103 cusecs and releasing 7,354 cusecs through the 10 spillway shutters, which have been raised by 90 cm. Tamil Nadu was drawing 2,144 cusecs of water through the tunnel.

The increased discharge from Mullaperiyar dam has led to inundation of low lying areas in downstream areas of Vallakadavu, Vandiperiyar and Chappath. Many families living on the banks of the river were evacuated as floodwater entered their houses.

"There has been heavy flow of water from Mullaperiyar dam since Monday evening and the flood water has entered 6 houses located on the banks of the river at Vallakadavu. The revenue authorities and panchayat have already opened relief camps. However the residents have shifted to the houses of their relatives, hoping to return when the flood water recedes," Azhutha Block Panchayat President P M Noushad told TNIE. Peermade MLA Vazhoor Soman who visited the spot also said that all necessary arrangements have been taken in the downstream areas to manage the situation.



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P M Noushad,
Azhutha Block
Panchayat President