

Hindustan Times- 14- November-2022

{ **MY INDIA** } CM INSPECTS AREAS

Rain continues to batter Tamil Nadu



Rain continued to lash parts of Tamil Nadu on Sunday resulting in waterlogging and closure of schools. Amid the intense rains due to the northeast monsoon and depression in the Bay of Bengal, the Mayiladuthurai district administration ordered to close schools on Monday. Earlier in the day, chief minister MK Stalin inspected rain-affected and waterlogged areas and said that the water drainage department and public works department are working in the waterlogged areas of the state. The weather office has predicted a significant reduction in rain from Monday.

AGENCIES

Hindustan Times- 14- November-2022

Inland waterways will reshape transportation

The proposal to push inland waterways as a preferred mode of transportation ties in with India's vision of promoting sustainable growth, especially in the peripheral regions, and reducing India's carbon footprint. The inland waterways will play a crucial role in realising Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's vision of making India a zero-carbon emission country by 2070.

The inland waterways sector comprises river systems, canals, backwaters, creeks and tidal inlets. This allows the scope of transportation to expand and provide movement solutions at a 30% lower cost than railways and a 60% lower cost than roadways. The neglect of this mode of transportation has been reversed since 2014, when the government made it a mission to reinvigorate the inland waterways system. In FY 2021-22, cargo movement reached an all-time high of 108.79 million tonnes vis-a-vis 83.61 million tonnes during the previous FY, registering a 30.12% year-on-year growth. We intend to build on this success. Varanasi, one of the oldest living cities, provides the perfect platform.

Under the leadership of PM Modi, India is working hard to transform the economy through this environment-friendly and economical mode of transportation as India moves towards becoming *atmanirbhar* (self-reliant) during *Amrit Kaal*. Many crucial steps such as the enhancement and development on a priority basis of 23 national waterways, boosting regional connectivity with Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Bhutan; the development of terminal infrastructure for RO-RO and ferry services and policy interventions to incentivise the development of the inland waterways sector are underway.

The visionary PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan shows how to bring about the Transformation through Transportation spirit in India. With spending to the tune of \$1.5 trillion on infrastructure development, including rail, road and waterways connectivity, the efficiency and cost of logistics are poised to be optimised and ensure last-mile connectivity, paving the way for the seamless movement of people and cargo. It's driven by seven engines of growth, namely railways, roads, ports, waterways, airports, mass transport and logistics infrastructure. This also means breaking down departmental silos. This will translate into economic gains for consumers, farmers, youth, and those

engaged in businesses. It will improve supply chains and will make local goods globally competitive. The government is considering a rebate on land leases for industrial clusters near the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) terminals, offering multi-modal transport options and logistics zones within industrial clusters.

Priority development of National Waterway-1 was undertaken through the Jal Vikas Marg Project (JVMP), which includes Arth Ganga, and they will give an economic boost of ₹1,000 crore over the next five years. Besides trade benefits, the local community's enhancement and passenger facilitation will also ensure large-scale skills development and boost public/private sector capability.

A World Bank study shows that one litre of fuel can move 105 tonne-km by inland water transport, against 85 tonne-km by rail and 24 tonne-km by road. Similarly, the carbon emission per tonne-km is 32-36 gm in the case of container vessels, against 51-91 gm for road transport vehicles. This also means we must use renewable energy in inland waterways.

With India's burgeoning population and increasing traffic, the development of inland waterways will not only reduce travel time and ensure a seamless journey for people and goods, be cost-effective, and bring down pollution levels, we can holistically design a policy that factors in safety, infrastructure support, inter-state coordination and integrate with other transportation modes.

The government is committed to creating solutions appropriate for the demands of the future. The development of inland waterways is a step in this direction to take development into the heartland of the country and ensure an environmentally responsible and economically sustainable mode of transportation that can bear the load of the economic growth, which will make India become an *atmanirbhar* country by 2047. With the spirit of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas*, the government is committed to working with the people to develop inland waterways as the preferred mode of transportation to adapt to future challenges and enable the transformation of India.



Sarbananda Sonowal

Sarbananda Sonowal is minister for ports, shipping and inland waterways
The views expressed are personal

Millennium Post- 14- November-2022

Tamil Nadu: Rains to recede, CM Stalin to inspect delta region

Sirkazhi in the Cauvery delta region witnessed extremely heavy rainfall affecting standing crops and normal life

OUR CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Sunday said he would soon be inspecting rain-affected areas in the Cauvery delta region.

After inspecting areas in north Chennai, Stalin said he would be visiting Sirkazhi in Mayiladuthurai district on November 14. "People said there is no rain water stagnation in most (North Chennai) areas," the Chief Minister said on his visit to city areas. From

Monday, the India Meteorological Department has forecast a significant decrease in rainfall activity in Tamil Nadu and nearby Puducherry.

Sirkazhi in Cauvery delta district of Mayiladuthurai witnessed extremely heavy rainfall affecting standing crops and normal life. Electricity distribution infrastructure was hit. Sirkazhi saw a record 44 cm, all-time high for this specific region and highest in Tamil Nadu during the 24-hour period that ended on the morn-

ing of November 12. Several other areas in the delta zone has recorded heavy rainfall.

Electricity Minister Senthil Balaji inspected repair and restoration work in Sirkazhi and lauded the state-run electricity corporation workers for their dedication to restore uninterrupted power supply.

The IMD has already predicted the likelihood of a fresh low pressure area forming over southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Andaman sea by November 16 or after.

The Hindu- 14- November-2022

Saving the precious

Wasteful consumption of groundwater
must be disincentivised

The Ministry of Water Resources recently made public a report that gives a snapshot of India's groundwater situation. On the surface, there is good news: the total annual groundwater recharge – defined as the groundwater stored – for the entire country is 437.60 billion cubic metres (bcm) out of which the quantity extracted was 239.16 bcm. A similar assessment in 2020 found that the annual groundwater recharge was 436 bcm and extraction 245 bcm. In 2017, recharge was 432 bcm and extraction 249 bcm. The 2022 assessment suggests that groundwater extraction is the lowest since 2004, when it was 231 bcm. A decrease in groundwater extraction may indicate better water management; however, the report – called the National Compilation on Dynamic Ground water Resources of India – itself says that the improvement is only “marginal” and may be explained by natural conditions and changes in methodology that the Central Ground Water Board and States, which conduct the survey, adopt. In fact, the number of groundwater blocks, or wells, used for estimation were more than those in previous years and it turns out that the percentage of blocks where groundwater was ‘critically’ low was around 14%, or roughly similar to that in previous years.

Regions with the most blocks with critical groundwater levels are in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh, where, despite replenishable systems, indiscriminate groundwater withdrawal has depressed the water table. Other endangered blocks are in Rajasthan and Gujarat, where due to an arid climate, groundwater recharge itself is limited, and finally, parts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, where due to inherent characteristics of crystalline water-storing aquifers, groundwater availability is low. That much more needs to be done to conserve groundwater is a foregone conclusion. There is no central law governing the use of groundwater and various States have their own laws on regulating its extraction that are deployed in a perfunctory manner. A draft National Water Policy has recommended a shift in usage from water-guzzling crops and prioritising recycled over freshwater for industrial purposes. Water ought not to be considered a free, private resource but one whose costs must be measured and borne equitably. While water remains a politically contentious subject in India, the climate crisis should inspire consensus across the political spectrum on disincentivising wasteful consumption of this precious resource.

The Tribune- 14- November-2022

Officials told to prepare water account data

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has directed officers of the Irrigation and Water Resources Department to prepare water account data regarding water sources and its use, so that the availability and use of water per acre can be analysed and a plan for proper water management for the coming years can be prepared.

Focus should be on meticulous implementation of the Treated Waste Water (TWW) Policy so that proper water management can be ensured in colonies developed by the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran and the industrial estates developed by the HSIIDC.

The same could also be ensured in colonies developed by private developers, directed Khattar while chairing a meeting here recently.

Amar Ujala- 14- November-2022

उद्योगों, सीवेज के गंदे पानी से प्रदूषित हो रहीं नदियां : एनजीटी प्रमुख

सुल्तानपुर लोधी। नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल
(एनजीटी) के चेयरमैन जस्टिस एके गोयल ने



रविवार को कहा कि देशभर
में उद्योगों के गंदे पानी और
शहरों व कस्बों के सीवेज से
निकलने वाली गंदगी से
नदियां प्रदूषित हो रही हैं। वह
यहां पर्यावरण सुरक्षा पर एक
सेमिनार में शामिल होने के
बाद मीडिया से बात कर रहे

थे। जस्टिस गोयल ने ठोस कचरे और शहरों व
कस्बों के नालों से निकलने वाली गंदगी की
समस्या से निपटने में विफल रहने के लिए राज्य
सरकारों की आलोचना की। एजेंसी