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Water released from three major reservoirs in Chennai

Water Resources Department decided to open the floodgates of Poondi, Chembarambakkam and Red Hills reservoirs; 100 cusecs of water released from Porur lake to prevent flooding in the area

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

For the second time this Northeast monsoon, the Water Resources Department on Friday opened the floodgates of the three major reservoirs on the outskirts of Chennai even as heavy rain lashed the catchment areas.

The department, in coordination with the Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram administrations, opened the floodgates around Friday noon to allow a minimal amount of water to flow out from Chembarambakkam, Red Hills and Poondi reservoirs.

About 100 cusecs of water was discharged from each reservoir as a precautionary measure and in expectation of more inflow.

No significant inflow

Officials said the same quantum of discharge was being maintained and there was no significant in-



Precautionary measure: Water being released from the Chembarambakkam reservoir on Friday.

B. VELANKANNI RAJ

flow till evening.

The reservoirs in Red Hills and Chembarambakkam received inflow of nearly 730 cusecs. "We will decide on increasing the water release depending on the inflow. There is enough space in the major reservoirs to store heavy inflow," said an official.

The areas around the reservoirs had received only

light rain till the evening.

The five reservoirs, catering to the needs of Chennai, have a storage of 8.68 tmcft. as against their capacity of 11.75 tmcft. Supply of water from Poondi reservoir to the one in Chembarambakkam has been temporarily suspended.

However, Poondi reservoir continues to receive

525 cusecs of Krishna water.

Moreover, the department has started releasing 100 cusecs of water from the Porur lake through the new regulator constructed recently. "Flooding in the downstream areas will be reduced as discharge of surplus water can now be regulated," the official added.

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Karnal faces water shortage of 1,205 MCM annually

PARVEEN ARORA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

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Indiscriminate withdrawal of groundwater leads to a significant alteration in water availability for different water-consuming sectors such as agriculture, industrial and domestic.

On an average, the district has recorded an alarming downfall of the water table by 12.86 m between 2000 and 2021. The water table of the district was at 8.57 m in 2000 and reached 21.43 m in 2021.

As per data of the Irrigation Department, there is an annual requirement of 2,205 million cubic metre (MCM) of water in the district, while the availability from all resources like canals, groundwater, rainfall, ponds and others is only 1,000 MCM, so the district is facing an annual deficit of 1,205 MCM.

From the annual water demand, 86 per cent is required only for the agriculture sector, while the remaining sectors such as domestic, livestock, poultry, industrial, fisheries, forestry, establish-



From the annual water demand, 86% is required only for the farm sector.

PLAN TO REDUCE DEPENDENCY ON GROUNDWATER

“I have reviewed the status of the availability and demand. I have asked the authorities to chalk out a plan to reduce the dependency on groundwater. People should stop wasting water. Anish Yadav, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

ments and others have a requirement of 14 per cent.

Assandh block is facing an annual shortage of 191.95 MCM, Gharaunda 173.47 MCM, Indri 79.81 MCM, Karnal block 167.34 MCM, Kunjpura block 154 MCM, Munak block 127.6 MCM, Nilokheri block 161.39 MCM, and Nissing block 150.29 MCM, said

Navtej Singh, XEN, Irrigation Department. “The non-availability of canal water across the district, over-dependency on groundwater, cultivation of water guzzler paddy crop in Kharif season and wastage of water are major challenges,” said Sanjay Rahar, Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Department.

