

Real-time monitoring of Ganga, Yamuna launched

NEW DELHI: The Union minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, on Thursday chaired the 11th meeting of the Empowered Task Force of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) where he launched a real-time monitoring system for the Yamuna, the Ganga, and their tributaries, an official statement said. The river water quality analyses systems – Ganga Tarang portal, Jajmau plant monitoring, Ganga districts perform-

ance monitoring, etc., – will provide live data and enable effective measures to tackle pollution, a senior official said, requesting anonymity. The monitoring centre, Prayag, will be based in Delhi, he said. Prayag is an acronym that stands for Platform for Real-time Analysis of Yamuna and Ganga.

Shekhawat told officials to work out a strategy to clean about 2,000 drains identified by NMCG.

HTC

● **AT 120% OF 10-YEAR AVERAGE**

Water levels comfortable in reservoirs, except in the east

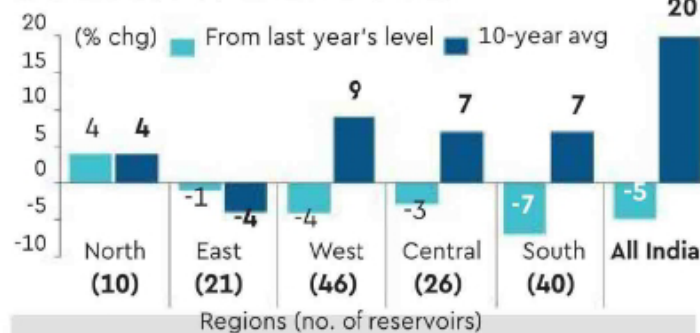
Storage at 95% of last year's record level

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, April 20

WATER LEVELS IN India's reservoirs have dropped to a level 5% below last year's record high, amid lingering concerns over heat waves in many parts of the country and monsoon rainfall being seen to be just about the normal level. However, no large impact of this on the summer crops is likely, as the stored water is still much above the 10-year average, and is seen to be sufficient to irrigate the rain-fed swathes of agriculturally important regions. However, if the monsoon turns out to be below average, as predicted by private forecaster Skymet, the eastern region could face water scarcity and crop damage.

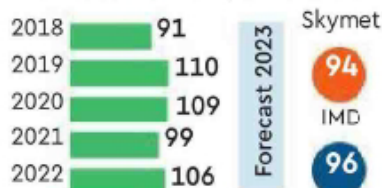
According to Central Water Commission data, the water level of the country's 143 reservoirs stood at 66.88 billion cubic metres (bcm) on Thursday,

CURRENT WATER LEVELS



Source: CWC, as on April 20, 2023

Monsoon rainfall performance



% change from normal benchmark - long period average (LPA). LPA is average annual rainfall (89 cm) recorded between 1951-2000, 96% - 104% of LPA is considered 'normal' range, <96% is 'below normal', <90% is 'deficient', >104% plus is 'above normal' & > 110% plus is 'excess'.



which is 38% of their combined capacity. A year ago, the water available in these reservoirs was 70.30 bcm, and the average of the last 10 years was 55.96 bcm.

"Current water level of reservoirs was 95% of the live storage of the corresponding period of last year and 120% of the storage of the average of the last 10

years," the CWC stated.

Of the reservoirs whose water levels are monitored by the CWC, 112 are located in the west, central and southern regions.

However, water levels in major dams in the eastern regions, especially in West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha, have dropped below last year's as well as the last 10-year-average level. In these states, a large segment of the crop area is still rain-fed.

West Bengal, the biggest rice-producing state in the country, has irrigation coverage of only 51%, which may be impacted if monsoon rains become deficient. Areas under pulses and oilseeds in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka also depend on the monsoon in a big way.

The India Meteorological Department predicted rainfall at 96% of the long period average, while precipitation between 96-104% is treated as "normal". Water reservoirs were filled to a record 87% of their capacities after the end of an 'above normal' monsoon season on September 30, 2022.

In first-ever waterbody census, Bengal tops list of states with most ponds and reservoirs

Over 24 lakh waterbodies across India, states census data released recently by Ministry of Jal Shakti

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

INDIA HAS 24.24 lakh waterbodies like ponds, tanks and lakes, with West Bengal accounting for the most (7.47 lakh) and Sikkim the least (134), according to the report of the first census of waterbodies released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti recently.

The report states, "24,24,540 waterbodies have been enumerated in the country, out of which 97.1% (23,55,055) are in rural areas and only 2.9% (69,485) in urban areas."

The census defines a waterbody as "all natural or man-made units bounded on all sides with some or no masonry work used for storing water for irrigation or other purposes (example industrial, pisciculture, domestic/drinking, recreation, religious, ground water recharge etc)"

"Waterbodies are usually of various types known by different names like tank, reservoirs, ponds and bundhies etc. A structure where water from ice-melt,

The census defines a waterbody as 'all natural or man-made units bounded on all sides with some or no masonry work used for storing water for irrigation or other purposes'

streams, springs, rain or drainage of water from residential or other areas is accumulated or water is stored by diversion from a stream, nala or river will also be treated as waterbody," state the report. The waterbodies census was conducted along with the 6th Minor Irrigation Census for 2017-18. The results of the census have been released recently.

As per the report, 59.5 percent (14,42,993) of waterbodies are ponds, followed by tanks (15.7 per cent i.e. 3,81,805), reservoirs (12.1 per cent i.e. 2,92,280), water conservation schemes/percolation tanks/check dams (9.3% i.e. 2,26,217), lakes (0.9% i.e. 22,361)

and others (2.5% i.e. 58,884)".

According to the report, "West Bengal has the highest number of ponds and reservoirs, whereas Andhra has highest number of tanks. Tamil Nadu has the highest number of lakes and Maharashtra is the leading state with water conservation schemes."

West Bengal's South 24 Parganas has been ranked as the top district having the highest (3.55 lakh) number of waterbodies across the country. In addition to West Bengal, six other states have over one lakh waterbodies, while four states and UTs account for less than 1,000 waterbodies each (see box).

The census also collected data on encroachment of waterbodies for the first time. "1.6% waterbodies out of all the enumerated waterbodies are reported to be encroached, out of which 95.4% are in rural areas and remaining 4.6% in urban areas. Out of all encroached waterbodies, 62.8% have less than 25% area under encroachment, whereas 11.8% waterbodies have over 75% area under encroachment," said the report.

WATERBODY COUNT

STATES WITH MOST WATERBODIES

State	No. of water bodies
West Bengal	7,47,480
Uttar Pradesh	2,45,087
Andhra Pradesh	1,90,777
Odisha	1,81,837
Assam	1,72,492
Jharkhand	1,07,598
Tamil Nadu	1,06,957

STATES/UTs WITH LEAST WATERBODIES

Sikkim	134
Chandigarh	188
Delhi	893
Arunachal Pradesh	993

WATERBODIES LOST TO ENCROACHMENTS

Uttar Pradesh	15,301
Tamil Nadu	8,366
Andhra Pradesh	3,920



No encroachment on waterbodies was reported from West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Chandigarh Source: Waterbody census

RS 304 CR TO BE SPENT ON DEVELOPING 'DELHI PARALLEL CANAL': CM KHATTAR

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday laid the foundation stone for the expansion and renovation work of the Parallel Delhi Canal on Thursday. An amount of Rs 304 crore will be spent by the state government on the expansion and renovation work of the Parallel Delhi Canal. Due to this thousands of farmers of Israna, Panipat Rural and Samalkha assembly constituencies will also be greatly benefited along with the people of South Haryana. This work will be started from Munak in Karnal to Khubdu head in Sonipat district. After the completion of the expansion work, the capacity of water in this canal will increase from 5528 cusecs to 7280 cusecs. The renovation will increase the width from 85 feet to 98 feet and the depth from 11.5 feet to 13.5 feet.

‘प्रयाग’ करेगा गंगा-यमुना के प्रदूषण की निगरानी

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली: गंगा-यमुना और उसकी सहायक नदियों में प्रदूषण के स्तर की निगरानी को लेकर अक्सर सवाल उठते रहे हैं। इसमें सुधार के लिए केंद्र सरकार ने प्रयाग प्लेटफार्म के जरिये इन नदियों में प्रदूषण की रियल टाइम निगरानी की पहल की है। प्रयाग का अर्थ प्लेटफार्म फार रियल टाइम एनालिसिस आफ यमुना-गंगा (पीआरएवाएजी) है।

केंद्रीय जलशक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत की अध्यक्षता में गुरुवार को स्वच्छ गंगा राष्ट्रीय मिशन के टास्क फोर्स की 11वीं बैठक में इस प्लेटफार्म को शुरू करने का निर्णय लिया गया। बैठक में नमामि गंगे कार्यक्रम के विभिन्न पहलुओं तथा प्रगति की समीक्षा की गई। प्रयाग एक रियल टाइम मॉनिटरिंग सेल की तरह कार्य करेगा। इसके तहत इन नदियों में जल की गुणवत्ता की सतत निगरानी के साथ ही नदियों को स्वच्छ बनाने के लिए योजनाएं भी बनाई जाएंगी। प्रयाग



- स्वच्छ गंगा राष्ट्रीय मिशन की बैठक में बनी रियल टाइम निगरानी की नई व्यवस्था
- केंद्रीय जलशक्ति मंत्री ने लांच की चाचा चौधरी के संग, गंगा की बात कामिक सीरीज

में कई डैशबोर्ड होंगे, जैसे गंगा तरंग पोर्टल, आनलाइन ड्रोन डाटा के माध्यम से जाजमऊ प्लांट की स्थिति, पीएमटी टूल डैशबोर्ड, गंगा डिस्ट्रिक्ट परफार्मेंस मॉनिटरिंग सिस्टम आदि। शेखावत ने गंगा को लेकर जागरूकता पैदा करने के लिए एक कामिक सीरीज भी जारी की है-चाचा चौधरी के साथ, गंगा की बात।

गंगा में 12 दिन के भीतर बहा 58 करोड़ लीटर प्रदूषित पानी

जासं, कानपुर: जाजमऊ के वाजिदपुर स्थित सीवरेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट, बुढ़ियाघाट और वाजिदपुर पंपिंग स्टेशन में लीकेज होने के कारण आठ अप्रैल से 20 अप्रैल तक करीब 58 करोड़ लीटर दूषित पानी गंगा में बहाया जा चुका है। ये हालात तब हैं, जब 35 वर्ष से गंगा को निर्मल करने को 1,536 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए जा चुके हैं।

उद्योगों में दूषित जल के शोधन पर जोर: शेखावत ने अधिकारियों को गंगा के किनारे स्थापित उद्योगों में स्वच्छ पानी के इस्तेमाल की स्थिति के अध्ययन का भी निर्देश दिया। उन्हें थर्मल पावर प्लांट रिफाइनरियों, रेलवे और दूसरे उद्योगों में ट्रीटेड पानी के इस्तेमाल को लेकर कार्य योजना तैयार करने को कहा गया है।