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National dam panel to examine Kaleshwaram project on March 6

B. Chandrashekhar

HYDERABAD

An expert committee set up by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) will examine the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) on March 6, Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has said.

The Minister said the State government, alarmed at the sinking of piers of the Medigadda barrage of the KLIP, had written to the NDSA to conduct a tho-

rough probe into the other barrages, including Sundilla and Annaram.

The Congress government had alleged irregularities in the KLIP, which was inaugurated by the former BRS regime. The Meddigadda barrage was shut after some of its piers sank and seepage was noticed.

In a press release issued here on Sunday, Mr. Reddy said the NDSA had constituted a five-member committee under the chairmanship of J. Chandrasekhar Iyer, form-

er chairman of the Central Water Commission (CWC).

"We welcome the visit of the expert committee, and we will cooperate with the committee," he said.

The NDSA team had already inspected the damaged Medigadda barrage as part of preliminary investigation and advised releasing water. It also suggested emptying Sundilla and Annaram barrages as well.

The committee has been asked to submit its report to the NDSA within four months.

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NDSA panel to inspect KLIS

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA), as requested by the State government, constituted a six-member committee for inspection and study of the designs and construction of Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS).

The committee, headed by J Chandrashekar Iyer, former chairman of Central Water Commission, will examine the causes leading to the sinking of Medigadda barrage pillars, along with the causes of distress, if any, observed in the two upstream barrages — Annaram and Sundilla. It will submit the report to the National Dam Safety Authority in four months.

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Patanjali institute gets second project under clean Ganga mission

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 3

THE CENTRE has awarded the Haridwar-based Patanjali Organic Research Institute (PORI) a project for conducting a study to prepare standard operating procedures for transforming sludge generated from Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) into bio-solids for natural farming.

The project proposal titled "Study for Management of Sludge and Transformation into Biosolids" has been approved by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) that comes under the Ministry of Jal Shakti and implements the Centre's ambitious Namami Gange programme. The NMCG's executive committee (EC), which met under the chairmanship of NMCG Director General G Asok Kumar, approved the proposal on February 13, shows the records of the meeting.

This is the second project the NMCG has awarded to PORI under the Namami Gange scheme. In December 2022, the NMCG had awarded a project worth Rs 4.32 crore to Haridwar-based Patanjali Research Institute (PRI) and PORI for "scientific exploration" of floral diversity near the banks of Ganga.

The latest project awarded to PORI is significant as NMCG has sanctioned 198 STPs with a targeted capacity of 6,208 million litres per day (MLD), which can

generate an estimated 1,570 metric tonnes of sludge.

"Disposal of sludge is a growing concern and MCG is making efforts to address the issue of sludge management," noted the minutes of discussion of the executive committee meeting.

As per the minutes, PORI made a detailed presentation on the proposal "Study for Management of Sludge and Transformation into Bio-solids" in the executive committee meeting on February 13.

"The proposal was conceptualised to conduct a study to prepare standard operation procedures for transforming sludge generated from sewage treatment plants into bio-solids for natural farming..." it said.

"Total cost of [Rs] 50,00,000 (fifty lakh only) for the research proposal was proposed over the 12-month duration," it said.

"After detailed discussions, the Executive Committee decided to approve the proposal for according administrative approval and expenditure sanction (AA&ES) for Study for Management of Sludge and Transformation into Bio-solids in Ganga river basin under Namami Gange Programme at an amount of Rs 50 lakh," stated the minutes.

"The project has been considered to be funded under National Ganga Plan (NGP) - Component Non-EAP Component of Namami Gange Program II," it said.