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The Morning Standard- 08- May-2024

# WRD plans to link 200 water bodies in Adyar, Kovalam basins to mitigate flood

S GURUVANMIKANATHAN @ Chennai

IN a bid to mitigate flooding in Chennai and its surrounding areas and improve the water storage capacity, the Water Resources Department (WRD) is drawing up a plan to interconnect 200 tanks in the Adyar and Kovalam basins.

According to the WRD officials, the initiative is intended to alleviate the plight faced by residents, especially those in southern regions of Chennai such as Tambaram, Mudi-chur, Mannivakkam, and adjacent areas due to floods during the northeast monsoon.

A senior WRD official told this that a significant portion, roughly about 90% of rainwater, currently flows into the sea due to inadequate storage within the city.

The official said that this project to link water bodies within the Adyar and Kovalam river basins will help address this issue. The project, which is awaiting approval from the

## 134 earmarked

Based on this survey, the official said, 134 out of 196 tanks in the Adyar basin and 66 out of 120 tanks in the Kovalam basin have been earmarked for interlinking, utilising the cut and cover method. With Chennai's current annual water requirement pegged at 22 tmcft, including both industrial and domestic needs, projections indicate a surge

State government, is aiming to get financial aid from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for its implementation, the official added. Another official said a comprehensive survey of the Adyar and Kovalam basins in Chennai, Kancheepuram, and Chengalpattu districts has been undertaken.

Based on this survey, the official said, 134 out of 196 tanks in the Adyar basin and 66 out of 120 tanks in the Kovalam basin have been earmarked for interlinking, utilising the cut

and cover method. With Chennai's current annual water requirement pegged at 22 tmcft, including both industrial and domestic needs, projections indicate a surge to 28 tmcft by 2030, owing to population growth and industrial expansion.

Thus, bolstering the water storage capabilities has become an imperative to meet future demands, the official said. Furthermore, the official noted that the combined storage capacity of the city's drinking water reservoirs presently stands at 13.222 tmc ft. By integrating these tanks across the river basins, WRD is anticipating to increase the storage capacity by another 3.5 tmcft to 4 tmcft, offering a substantial boost to tackling Chennai's water needs. While historical records indicate the presence of as many as 3,600 tanks across Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, and Chengalpattu districts, WRD maintains only fewer than 1000 tanks in districts.

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Deccan Chronicle- 08- May-2024

# BIG BLOW Impounded KLIS water not released to carry out repairs, says report

## NDSA report proves BRS govt's flaws

BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

The obsession of the past BRS government to showcase how successful the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme was could have led to the downfall and the current plight of the project, if the National Dam Safety Authority's interim report on the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages is anything to go by.

In the interim report that the NDSA submitted to the state irrigation department, the Central govern-

● THE AGENCY said that damages were observed to the downstream cement concrete blocks and apron of the Medigadda barrage after the 2019 monsoon, soon after the barrage was inaugurated in June the same year.



ment agency said that damages were observed to the downstream cement concrete blocks and apron of the Medigadda barrage after the 2019 monsoon, soon after the barrage was inaugurated in June the same year. Despite this, "the impounded water was not released for repair and rec-

tification, instead the barrage reservoir continued to be used for its stated purpose," the report said.

Though incidents of damage to the structures of the barrages at Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla were observed in the subsequent years too, no full-fledged repairs were taken up as the water storage had to be maintained as per the then government's instructions.

It may be recalled that the then BRS government and then Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, who

also held the irrigation portfolio in his second term of office, had taken great pride in turning the river Godavari into a "jeeva nadi" (perennial river).

In its report, the NDSA also made it clear that inspections of the barrage by the NDSA team, have shown that the failure in Block-7 of the barrage — which suffered failure and portions of which sank by more than 1.2 metres — "is quite extensive."

■ Page 5: Cong. govt had sought NDSA interim report

# ICAD told to deploy UAVs to map cracks

## NDSA asks ICAD to ensure works finish by monsoon sets in

BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA), in its interim report for steps to be taken at the three barrages of the Kaleshwaram project at Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla, has listed a long series of tests and steps to prepare them for monsoon floods in the Godavari river.

Among the many things that the NDSA said the irrigation and command area development department will need to deploy unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) with high resolution cameras to map the surface cracks of the entire barrage structures, river cross sections at 100-metre intervals up to 5 km on the upstream and downstream sides of the barrages along with bathymetric studies, use of optical devices to measure any shifts, including microshifts, in the structures, and use of ground penetrating radar and electrical resistivity tomography equipment.

### SERIES OF STEPS



SOME OF NDSA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEDIGADDA, ANNARAM, SUNDILLA BARRAGES

**REPAIR THE UPSTREAM** and downstream sides of the aprons whose surfaces were either washed away or damaged in previous floods.

**REPLACE THE ENTIRE FLOOD** dissipation structures on the downstream side along the entire length of the barrages.



**DRILL BOREHOLES** at specified intervals to specified depths to study the sub-surface situation and strength of the barrage structures.

**'GROUND TRIMMING'** at the barrages on both upstream and downstream sides to ensure smooth flow of water through the gates.

### SPECIFIC STEPS AT MEDIGADDA

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>MONITORING OF CRACKS</b> to the accuracy of +/- 1 mm for continuous monitoring of movement across all cracks in piers and raft floor.</p> | <p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>CONSTRUCT GIRDER/TRUSS</b> or box girders with bracing systems to prevent any further tilting of damage piers.</p> | <p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>DRIVE SHEET</b> pile immediately after the downstream plinth slabs to a depth of 9 metres after completing geophysical investigations.</p> | <p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>COMPLETELY REMOVE</b> radial gates 20, and 21 in Block 7 at Medigadda either by dismantling, and or cutting them, and remove all the dismantled portions.</p> |
|---|--|--|---|



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These are in addition to men and material like earthmoving machines, drilling equipment, construction materials such as sand of specific grades and cement, and so on.

Even though the monsoon generally sets in during the first week of June, the flows in the river begin to rise in July which gives the irrigation department just about enough time to get through what it needs to get done. That, according to sources, will depend on ensuring the companies that built the barrages fall in line.

However, the NDSA said it will be the department's responsibility to ensure works are completed in time before the monsoon sets in.

The NDSA, in its 17-page report, has devoted nearly seven pages to the worst-hit Medigadda barrage with a portion of one of its blocks suffering severe damage that included subsidence and serious cracks resulting in what the NDSA termed as "a highly distressed condition."

The report laid out a long series of steps that must be taken as the interim measures before the onset of the coming monsoon, which include steps to be taken to raise eight radial gates in Block 7

## Congress government had sought NDSA interim report

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The report further said that the portion of Block 7 of the barrage in which eight radial gates were stuck because of the sinking and tilting of the piers, "is in a highly-distressed state of condition."

To try and save Block 7, all the gates have to be lifted fully before the onset of the monsoon, the report said and added that, if need be, the steel plates of the gates should be cut.

Though the report did not say this in as many words, engineers familiar with the structure and its construction told Deccan Chronicle that four of the piers – Nos. 17, 18, 19, and 20 – in Block 7 will eventually have to be taken down

along with the rest of their associated structures and rebuilt. "But that can be done only after the monsoon season ends and the flows in the river fall to low levels," one of the engineers said.

The NDSA's interim report was sought by the Congress government which has made it clear on multiple occasions that only after the NDSA recommendations are received that steps would be initiated on the way forward at Medigadda and the other two barrages of the Kaleshwaram project.

It is expected that the report would also be studied by the Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose Commission probing alleged irregularities in the project

execution and construction. Justice Ghose, who visited the Medigadda barrage on Tuesday, during an interaction with reporters there mentioned that he would study the NDSA report.

The NDSA, with respect to the Annaram and Sundilla barrages recommended complete replacement of the flood dissipation blocks and structures as well as repairs to the aprons.

It shall be the responsibility of the Irrigation and Command Area Development department of the government to ensure "adequate resource mobilisation and timely execution of works before the onset of the coming monsoon season".

which have been stuck.

Raising of these gates is critical before Godavari flows rise with the barrage located after the confluence of Godavari with Pranahita river as, according to irrigation engineers, these gates in Block

7 lie towards the middle of the barrage and the flow of water, guided by the elevated banks of the river, could be the strongest towards the centre of the river.

The NDSA also made a slew of recommendations

— though not as exhaustive as those for the Medigadda barrage given the nature of problems — at the Annaram and Sundilla barrages where seepage and leaks were observed from under the foundations of the structures.

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Telangana Today- 08- May-2024

# Rain brings relief, but ryots hit hard

**Heavy winds coupled with hailstorms at many places**

STATE BUREAU

KARIMNAGAR

People got a respite from the scorching heat as rain lashing the erstwhile Karimnagar district on Tuesday. People, who did not dare to come out during the day as temperatures were crossing 47 degrees Celsius in a few parts of the district during the last few days, were happy as the temperatures plummeted down due to the rains.

However, even as the general public got a respite from the heat, farmers were worried as paddy stocked in paddy purchasing centers were soaked in the rain across the district. The mango crop was also damaged.

While big trees were uprooted by strong winds in a few places, power supply was also affected as heavy winds coupled with hailstorms hit many places. Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jagtial, Huzurabad, Sultanabad, Veenavanka, Vemulawada, Sircilla, and other places experienced rainfall.

The impact was such that the tents arranged for Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's Jana Jatar public meeting scheduled to be on the SRR College grounds here collapsed due to the heavy winds.

The dais and tent arranged for the BJP's public meeting also collapsed in Manthani. Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma participated in the meeting.



A farmer shows paddy produce damaged in unseasonal rains in Hajipur mandal on Tuesday.

## Gales damage paddy, mangoes

**ADILABAD:** Several parts of erstwhile Adilabad district were hit by hailstorms coupled with gales on Tuesday. The rains, however, brought relief to the public by bringing down the scorching heat.

A few villages in Utnoor, Indervelli, and other mandals of Adilabad district experienced hailstorms coupled with gales. People gathered the ice pellets in bowls. Damage to crops and houses was not reported yet in the district. Water entered commercial establishments and houses in Wankidi Mandal center in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district.

Meanwhile, paddy produce shifted to platforms and procurement centers were drenched by unseasonal rains in Hajipur, Vem-anapalli, Jaipur, Thandur, Kannepalli and Jannaram mandals of Mancherla district, causing losses to farmers. Mango orchards reaching the harvesting stage were damaged by the hailstorm. Farmers urged officials to carry out a survey to assess the damage to the mango crop.

Meanwhile, people expressed happiness over the showers that cooled down the temperatures. The district witnessed around 45 degrees Celsius.

## NPDCL to set up control rooms

**WARANGAL:** Following heavy rains accompanied by hailstorms lashing several parts of the State on Tuesday, the Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TSNPDCL) Chairman & Managing Director Karnati Varun Reddy directed officials to set up round-the-clock control rooms at the circle level to ensure immediate action to deal with emergencies.

People can contact the toll-free number 1800 425 0028 or 1912 for electricity-related issues and complaints.

While the leaders were delivering speeches, the tent started collapsing from one side. The dais arranged for leaders also collapsed. As

the dais collapsed, Peddapalli BJP candidate Gomasa Srinivas addressed the gathering from his campaign vehicle. While Srinivas was

delivering the speech, the Rajasthan CM arrived at the venue and he also addressed people from the same vehicle.



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The Telegraph- 08- May-2024

Roads across city flooded hours after rain stopped, giant scaffolding collapses

## After relief, focus on sufferings

DEBRAJ MITRA AND  
SUBHAJOY ROY

**Calcutta:** The thunder-showers on Monday evening that brought relief from the scorching conditions also bared, for the umpteenth time, the lack of civic preparedness in Calcutta.

Several pockets of the city remained waterlogged hours after it had stopped raining.

A stretch of the service road along EM Bypass, between the Ruby and VIP Bazaar, was flooded even on Tuesday afternoon, more than 16 hours after the showers had subsided.

"There is a block in the sewer line that carries the sewage and rainwater from that stretch of the service road because a culvert is being built over a canal. This is the reason why water is draining out very slowly from that stretch," said an official of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC).

The Alipore Met office recorded around 70mm of rain between 8.30pm on Monday and 8.30am on Tuesday. But the bulk of it was recorded for a couple of hours from 7pm. In Met parlance, 60mm of rain in 24 hours qualifies as heavy. The volume of rain was the maximum the city witnessed in a long time.

But the flooded roads also point to sewer lines that are not regularly desilted and clogged gully pits.

A man returning home at 10pm on Monday said stretches of the pavement along Rashbehari Avenue were flooded, forcing pedestrians to walk through the road. "The gully pits were partially blocked in some places, which was why these pockets were flooded," said the man.

Kasba's BB Chatterjee Road or Jadavpur's Ibrahimpur Road remained flooded till past Monday midnight.

"I had to wade into the

dirty water to reach home," said a Jadavpur resident who returned from her workplace in central Calcutta past 10.15pm.

The gully pits, located along the edges of roads, let water flow into the gully, from where it passes into the main underground sewer lines.

Regular cleaning of the pits can spare the trouble, more so before the forecast of rain. The Met office had issued a thunderstorm warning for south Bengal, including Calcutta, at least two days in advance.

Single-use plastic is the biggest choker of the gully pits.

"We clean gully pits through the year. Monday's rain was so heavy that some waterlogging was bound to happen," said a KMC official.

A giant billboard opposite the ITC Royal Bengal fell on an adjoining Metro Railway premises. The pole that the scaffolding stood on was uprooted.

This newspaper reported on Sunday about the threats from run-down hoardings, many of which have rusted and their tin plates keep fluttering in the wind.

About 10 electric poles fell or were damaged across the city, said a senior engineer of the KMC.

In some places, the poles broke from the middle. "We have to replace the poles," said the engineer, adding that thick bunches of cables tied to the poles brought them down in some places. In a few other places, the poles were damaged after large tree branches fell on them.

The owner of a roadside tea stall was electrocuted after he is said to have come in contact with a live wire attached to a signboard on Strand Road on Monday morning, hours before the rain.

The sky switched between being sunny and cloudy on Tuesday.



The broken scaffolding and billboard opposite ITC Royal Bengal on Tuesday. The structure fell on a Metro Railway property on EM Bypass during the thunderstorm on Monday evening. Pictures by Pradip Sanyal



A torn billboard near Mullickbazar on Tuesday



A waterlogged stretch of the service road between Ruby and VIP Bazaar, along EM Bypass, on Tuesday

"Because of the favourable synoptic conditions and strong moisture incursion from Bay of Bengal, thunderstorm with lightning along with gusty wind speed and thunder squall activity is very likely to continue over the districts of West Bengal," read a Met bulletin issued on Tuesday.

The showers dragged the Celsius down significantly. The minimum temperature on Tuesday was 21.7 degrees, five notches below normal. The city last witnessed a lower minimum temperature 45 days ago, on March 22, when the Celsius dropped to 20 degrees.

## 120 trees felled by thunderstorm

SUBHAJOY ROY

**Calcutta:** Altogether 120 trees fell across the city during Monday's storm, a number that has shocked naturalists who said too much concrete and encroachments around the surface roots of trees were making them vulnerable.

A senior official of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), the custodian of the city's public spaces, said a pre-monsoon storm rarely felled so many trees.

The average speed of Monday's storm was 45km per hour (kmph) with gusts of wind reaching 77kmph around 8.59pm, the weather department said. The peak speed sustained for less than a minute. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), there were several gusts of wind that crossed 50kmph.

At least some of the trees that fell had large canopies, of the type that provides a welcome shade to commuters during summer. Calcutta went through a long phase of extreme heat and high temperatures in the past few weeks. A good number of Krishnachura and Kadam trees were among those uprooted.

The KMC official said alerts about uprooted trees came in every few minutes till past 1am on Tuesday. Things became clearer in the morning.

"We had to deploy 14 teams across the city to clear the trees. Our primary target is to

remove the trees that blocked traffic. About 50 per cent of the fallen trees have been removed. The rest are likely to be cleared by Wednesday," said the official.

Hydraulic ladders were used to chop off broken branches.

In some places, like near Sovabazar Metro station, trees fell and blocked roads for some time. A police officer said fallen trees blocked a portion of Southern Avenue and Ballygunge Place after the storm. They were removed after some time.

Green activist Bonani Kakkar said the fall of so many trees may not be natural. Human activities might have aided their fall.

"We have placed paver blocks so close to trees that they have buried the surface roots. Besides, hawkers have set up stalls in ways that have inhibited the natural growth of trees," said Kakkar, founder member of PUBLIC, an NGO that works for environmental causes.

"I think it is time that the KMC starts undoing the damage by removing the concrete from around the trees."

Naturalists said surface roots provide strength and gripping power to trees and help them withstand strong winds. If surface roots are not able to spread, the trees become vulnerable to strong winds.

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An uprooted tree on Dhapa Road on Tuesday.

Picture by Pradip Sanyal

## Trees fall

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The fall of so many trees, especially ones with large canopies, means a loss of what has grown over many years. Even if a sapling is planted, it will take decades to provide the canopy.

Scientists told Metro recently that the loss of green cover along with the diminishing green open spaces and filling up of water bodies are making the heat more unbearable.

A green cover has a cooling effect whereas concrete and built-up areas trap and radiate heat back.