

Telangana Today- 11- September-2023

Plans to increase Mallanna Sagar storage to 25 tmcft

T KARNAKAR REDDY

Siddipet

The State government is planning to increase the storage in Mallanna Sagar up to 25 tmcft this year. The augmentation of storage levels is being done for the first time since its construction was completed in 2022.

The full storage capacity of the project, the biggest under the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, is 50 tmcft. The project had 10 tmcft of water when officials started pumping in water last week.

Irrigation officials said they were pumping in 3,600 cusecs of water during the day by operating three pumps. The department was pumping in 1,200 cusecs during the night, when there would be more power consumption in the State, by running just one pump.

Since Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao had in-

augurated the project in February 2022, the Irrigation Department impounded a maximum of 15 tmcft.

However, officials were preparing to increase the storage to 25 tmcft this year following the directions of the State government. They will be closely monitoring it

while pumping in water since it is a new project, officials said.

DEE of Mallanna Sagar Srinivas Chennu said they would initially pump water for 10 consecutive days while monitoring the project. The process would continue after a short break, he said, adding that when ever

LOOKING AHEAD

- Storage level to be increased for the first time since its construction in 2022
- Full storage capacity of the project, the biggest under KLIS, is 50 tmcft
- The Irrigation Department impounded a maximum of **15 tmcft** in the project
- Officials preparing to increase storage to **25 tmcft** this year following government directions



there was no inflow from the Godavari at the Sriram Sagar Project (SRSP), they were forced to lift water from the Medigadda barrage. This meant water being lifted at eight spots.

As of now, they were getting water from the SRSP to Mid-Manair, from where they were lifting the water

to the Anantha Sagar reservoir and then to Ranganayaka Sagar, and from there to Mallanna Sagar, by using just three lifts. The official said this would save a lot of power.

Storage in tanks

Officials are also planning to impound water in 91 tanks located along the Mallanna Sagar canals in Siddipet and Sircilla districts to meet the irrigation needs of Yasangi. Once the total canal network under Mallanna Sagar is completed, more than 300 tanks would be filled with Godavari water.

Since the government had started impounding Mallanna Sagar, the groundwater table in the area had improved from 76 feet to 36 feet. The water will be released into streams and canals during the Yasangi season to meet the needs of farmers in the erstwhile Medak district and Sircilla.

Telangana Today- 11- September-2023

PRLIS: KCR succeeds where others failed

Addressed needs of the Palamuru region by adopting multi-pronged strategy

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The story of Palamuru was one of parched lands and a scramble for water for decades. Before the reorganisation of revenue units following State formation, Mahabubnagar was the largest district in the State. Endowed with fertile soils, the district has more than 35 lakh acres of cultivable land. Krishna, one of the major rivers of India, is flowing by. Many of its tributaries — Tungabhadra, Bhima and Dundhudi traversing across the district added to its irrigation potential.

But the never-ending spectre of drought and scarcity conditions reduced it to one of the nine most backward districts notified in the country. The ground reality, which was quite appalling, triggered a mass exodus. More than half of the 40 lakh population deserted homes in search of fresh meadows. Successive governments in the undivided State made lavish promises to revive the fortunes of Palamuru. But the rulers were found to be low on delivery. All the assurances made by them turned out to be mere lip service.

The real transformation of Palamuru began only with self-rule. Ever since Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao took over the reins of the State administration, he focused on the water-starved southern region and started addressing the needs of the region by adopting a



A file photo of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao inspecting the Palamuru Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme works. The project is now holding out hope to transform the very economic profile of the southern region of the State.

multi-pronged strategy. The Palamuru Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme is now holding out hope to transform the very economic profile of the southern region of the State. Envious of his success, forces within the State and elsewhere remained bent upon scuttling the progress of works on the project, but the Chief Minister did not relent. Outwitting all such challenges that came in the way of implementation of the project, he moved ahead and the multi-stage lift irrigation scheme will be a reality soon.

With the drinking water component to be inaugurated by the Chief Minister on September 16 and the irrigation component of the project also to be fulfilled soon, over eight lakh acres will get irrigation. Over 84,000 acres of Achampet constituency, which will benefit from the construction of the Umamaheswara Lift Irrigation Scheme, would be part of it.

The efforts by the Chief Minister in addressing the irrigation and drinking water needs of the people in the region paid off in the

form of the Kalwakurthy project extending irrigation to 1.6 lakh acres. The Nettempadu and Bhima projects helped in giving water to 1.2 lakh acres and 1.4 lakh acres, respectively. The Koisagar project could bring another 8,000 acres under irrigation. The Chief Minister's close monitoring of the works in progress facilitated the completion of the ongoing works on the canal system and distributaries of the irrigation projects. On the whole, the erstwhile Mahabubnagar will have about 20 lakh acres with assured access to irri-

gation once PRLIS is completed. The Palamuru region is known for its highest number of ponds that meet a major part of its irrigation needs. Many of the ponds and tanks had vanished in the undivided State. But now, the picture is changing. The Ganapasamudram pond in Kalwakurthy that was built by the Kakatiyas was filled to the brim after 30 years. The ponds and tanks have an irrigation potential of over 2.7 lakh acres. Before the division of the State, hardly 50,000 acres used to get water from these.

The Tribune- 11- September-2023

Declare rain fury a national disaster, CM Sukhu urges PM

Seeks special relief package for extensive losses suffered by state

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

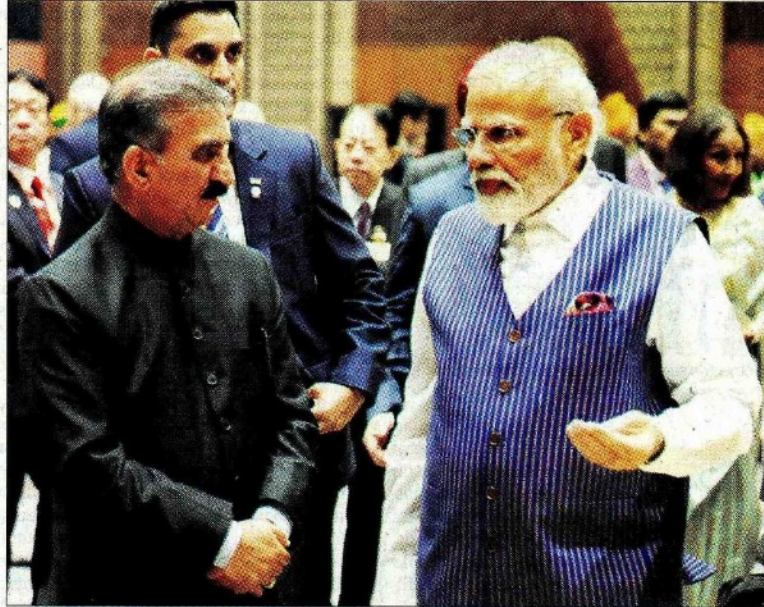
SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 10

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declare the rain disaster in the state as a national calamity and sought a special relief package.

Sukhu met the Prime Minister at the dinner hosted by President Droupadi Murmu on the occasion of the G-20 Summit in New Delhi on Saturday and apprised him of the severe damage caused to infrastructure and the loss of lives in the state due to heavy rain in July and August.

He informed the Prime Minister that over 400 people had lost their lives due to the calamity and over 13,000 houses had been damaged, leaving thousands of families homeless. "As a result of the disaster, the state has suffered a cumulative loss of over Rs 12,000 crore," he told Modi.

Sukhu said that the state needed substantial assistance from the Union Government to rebuild infrastructure and chart a path



Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the dinner hosted by President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

towards recovery. He urged the Prime Minister to release a special relief package for Himachal Pradesh, as was provided to Gujarat after the Bhuj earthquake and to Uttarakhand after the

Kedarnath tragedy.

Meanwhile, the total monetary loss suffered by the state due to the calamity is inching towards Rs 9,000 crore. On Sunday, the losses were estimated at Rs

8,677.79 crore. The Public Works Department has suffered the highest losses of Rs 8,677.79 crore, followed by the Jal Shakti Department Rs 2,118.97 crore and the HPSEBL Rs 1,740.16 crore.

Millennium Post- 11- September-2023

Rains expected to intensify in Kerala: IMD

THIRUVANANTHA-PURAM: Rains are expected to intensify in Kerala on Sunday and Monday due to the cyclonic circulations over Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The IMD said on Sunday that there was a possibility of isolated heavy rainfall in some parts of Kerala on Sunday and Monday.

It further said that moderate or medium rainfall was expected to continue in the state for the next five days in view of the cyclonic circulations which are also likely to form over the Bay of Bengal on September 12.

A yellow alert has been issued for six of the 14 districts of the state for the day. A red alert indicates heavy to extremely heavy rains of over 20 cm in 24 hours, while orange alert means heavy rains from 6 cm to 20 cm of rain. AGENCIES