

Telangana Today- 25- November-2021

AP seeks Rs 1,000 cr grant for flood relief

AMARAVATI

Pegging the overall damage caused by the recent heavy rains and floods at Rs 6,054.29 crore, the Andhra Pradesh government on Wednesday requested the Centre to immediately release Rs 1,000 crore as interim relief towards flood relief and restoration works.

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy wrote an identical letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, detailing the havoc caused by heavy rains and floods between November 13 and 20, mainly in Anantapuramu, Kadapa, Chittoor and SPS Nellore districts.

"Despite arranging teams well in advance and serious efforts by the government to save the lives of people, 40, including a State Disaster Response Force constable, died and 25 others were reported missing. As many as 324 relief camps have been arranged, accommodating 69,616 persons in the affected districts and they are still continuing," CM said.

"The worst affected were the farmers as crops (like paddy, Bengal gram, cotton, black gram, groundnut and sugarcane) ready for harvesting were damaged," Jagan added. Agricultural crops in 1.42 lakh hectares suffered damage, with the estimated monetary loss being Rs 1,353.82 crore. Horticultural crops in 42,299

hectares, worth Rs 48.06 crore, were damaged.

Roads and irrigation systems were the worst hit, with the deluge causing a loss of Rs 1,756.43 crore and Rs 556.96 crore respectively, the Chief Minister pointed out in the letter.

Civic infrastructure like roads, pipelines, drains, school buildings and community centres in municipalities suffered a loss of Rs 1,252 crore. Panchayat Raj roads to a length of 2,254.32 km were battered, inflicting a loss of Rs 381.65 crore.

Assembly passes Bill for online sale of movie tickets

AMARAVATI: The Andhra Pradesh Assembly on Wednesday passed the AP Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill 2021, paving the way for an online movie ticketing system to be administered by the State government.

The government said the amendment would help the government regulate cinema ticket pricing and check exploitation of moviegoers.

Transport Minister Perni Venkataramaiah, who tabled the Bill on behalf of Jaganmohan Reddy, said that the government brought the amendment to regulate

ticket pricing and stop the exploitation of middle-class people by some exhibitors. He cited the current scenario of irregular ticket pricing, number of screenings, unauthorised shows and even large gaps between the taxes and film collections. In order to regulate these, the government has decided to introduce a transparent online ticketing system, on the lines of APSRTC and the Indian Railways online ticketing system, to keep a check on tax evasions and enhance the movie theatre experience in the state, he said. IANS

Rural Water Supply schemes worth Rs 453.33 crore were also damaged, the Chief Minister said.

Hundreds of electricity feeders, substations and distribution lines were also damaged, causing a loss of Rs 252 crore.

He requested the Centre to "come to the rescue of the State" in this hour of crisis and immediately release Rs 1,000 crore as interim relief to help the affected families and restore normalcy by undertaking repairs to infrastructure. PTI

The Statesman- 25- November-2021

YSR writes to PM to grant ₹1,000 crore as interim relief

HYDERABAD, 24 NOVEMBER

Estimating the damage caused to infrastructure and crops by floods in the four Rayalseema districts to be over Rs 6000 crore. Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to grant Rs 1000 crore as interim relief.

Mr Reddy wrote letters to the Prime Minister and Union home minister

Amit Shah and urged them to immediately depute Inter Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) to assess the damage in the affected districts. He also requested the Centre to grant financial assistance to the people liberally to affected families.

Outlining the massive damage caused by the floods to human lives, crops and infrastructure the chief minister stated that 40 people died and 25 are still missing.

SNS

Millennium Post- 25- November-2021

Low pressure area likely over Bay of Bengal in 24 hours

CHENNAI: A cyclonic circulation lies over the Bay of Bengal and a Low Pressure Area is likely to form under its influence, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday and forecast rainfall in different parts of the southern states for the next five days.

The cyclonic circulation lies over southwest and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal, an IMD press release said.

"Under its influence, a Low Pressure Area is likely to form over southwest Bay of Bengal during next 24 hours. It is likely to move westnorthwestwards towards Sri Lanka and south Tamil Nadu coast," it added.

The IMD forecast light to moderate, scattered/fairly widespread rainfall as "very likely" over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, south interior Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal during the next five days.

Squally wind with speed



reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph was likely over southwest Bay of Bengal, Gulf of Mannar along and off south Tamil Nadu coast on November 24 and 25, it said and asked fishermen not to venture into these areas. The regional weather office here said heavy to very heavy rains were likely in some areas in Ramanathapuram and Nagapattinam districts of Tamil Nadu in the next 24 hours.

It predicted heavy rains in Madurai, Theni, Sivaganga, Kanyakumari, Puthukottai, Tenkasi and Cauvery delta districts of Tamil Nadu, besides Puducherry and Karaikal during the next 24 hours.

MPOST

The Hindu- 25- November-2021

Brimming Chennai lakes filled with weeds and waste

'Nearly 25 truck loads of waste removed from Retteri lake'

K. LAKSHMI
CHENNAI

Consistent rain this season has not only filled lakes in western parts of the city with water but also with weeds and waste from upstream. The Water Resources Department is removing truckloads of vegetation that has overgrown in lakes like Retteri.

The chain of waterbodies in Ambattur, Korattur and Retteri have already reached their full capacity. However, these lakes are covered with a thick layer of water hyacinth after the intense rain-spell early this month.

An official of the WRD said: "Nearly 25 truck loads of weeds and waste were removed from Retteri lake alone over the past 10 days. We had already carried out the work as part of monsoon preparedness. But, loads of weeds had reached the lake from upstream through surplus courses and other drains."

The growth of weeds indicate sewage pollution in the waterbodies. Despite restoration efforts, Ambattur lake continues to be vulnerable to the disposal of untreated sewage from local bodies like Ayapakkam.

Many of the neighbouring local bodies still lack proper underground sewer network and hence waterbodies turned a target for sewage discharge. Polluted water too got conveyed along with floodwater to the lakes downstream and led to the growth of weeds. Such menace can be put to an end only when the surrounding localities get a sewer network, officials said.

The three lakes together have a storage capacity of 500 million cubic feet and surplus water from Retteri joins Red Hills reservoir's surplus course. "We convey the waste and weeds removed from the lakes to Kodungaiyur dumpyard as of now," the official added.

The WRD continues to release 1,000 cusecs (cubic

feet per second) of surplus water from Red Hills reservoir into the surplus course that joins the Ennore creek. Nearly 2,000 mcft of floodwater have been drained into the sea. Moreover, floodwater from Retteri too joins the channel.

Though the course has a capacity to carry 7,000 cusecs, some of the low-level areas downstream get waterlogged when the course carries half its capacity. The stormwater drains are often connected at bed level instead of the channel's maximum flood level. The SWD do not function during the rainy season as the channel is already flowing with floodwater and there is reverse flow from the SWD, waterlogging the nearby localities, officials added.



The Water Resources Department is removing truckloads of vegetation from lakes. ■ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The Hindu- 25- November-2021

'11 tonnes of liquid chlorine being added to drinking water'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI**

Nearly 11 tonnes of liquid chlorine is being added to drinking water supplied daily to the city to ensure safe water to residents.

The liquid chlorine is being added to nearly 1,000 million litres of water (mld), supplied daily to 85 lakh residents in the city, in all water treatment plants, including Kilpauk water works and 16 water distribution points.

Chennai Metrowater has also doubled the frequency of lifting water samples daily for quality checks.

On an average, nearly 600 water samples are being lifted every day from various locations to test the water quality.

Since the onset of the Northeast monsoon, nearly 8,929 water samples have been tested till Tuesday.

Pamphlets on safe drinking water and prevention of water-borne diseases were also distributed by the personnel.

Chlorine tablets

A press release said Metrowater personnel also distributed chlorine tablets to residents of low-level areas and tenements.

Of the 15 lakh tablets planned to be distributed, nearly 7.25 lakh have been provided so far.

Residents were advised to mix one chlorine tablet in 15 litres of water and use after two hours.

Besides drinking boiled water, residents were also asked not to store additional amount of water as sufficient water is being supplied now, the release added.

Business Standard- 25- November-2021

Reinvigorating Yamuna

Continuing with the existing approach will not help

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's new six-point action plan to clean the Yamuna by 2025 is essentially a rehash of strategies that have already been tried out in the past without much success. It involves stock measures like expansion of sewage treatment capacity, crackdown on industries discharging untreated wastes, provision of sewer connections in unauthorised settlements, and desilting of drains that flow into the river. It lacks some of the basic imperatives for sustaining river health.

The Yamuna, evidently, is the lifeline of several urban centres located along its 1,400-kms route spanning five states — Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Roughly, around 60 million people rely on Yamuna water for their sustenance. For the National Capital, it is of particular avail as it meets 70 per cent of its water requirement. Besides, it is the key tributary of the Ganga, which it joins at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh. Unfortunately, the quality of Yamuna water has been going from bad to worse, notwithstanding a series of moves over the past three decades to avert this degradation. The first major programme to rejuvenate this river — the 10-year Yamuna Action Plan-1 — came up way back in 1993 with Japanese collaboration. This was extended further in 2003 and also supplemented with other initiatives like the interceptor sewer project (2006), Nirmal Yamuna (Revitalisation) Project (2017), and various works carried out under the flagship Namami Gange Project. None of these has shown any positive outcome.

Unsurprisingly, the river hit the headlines recently due to the emergence of a huge mass of froth because of an influx of unprocessed wastes containing detergents and toxic chemicals. Earlier, the domestic water supply in a large part of Delhi was hit because the water purification plants could not cope with the high ammonia content of the water. The Yamuna's piteous state is attributable, indeed, to Delhi's failure to keep it in good shape. Though hardly about 2 per cent (22 kms) of the river's total course passes through Delhi, it gathers close to 80 per cent of its pollutants in this stretch. The city's sewage treatment capacity is grossly inadequate, aside from being incapable of the task due to the use of outmoded technology. The water coming out of the sewage treatment units is often wanting in quality. It is usually unfit even for bathing. Many industries in the Capital territory do not have effluent treatment plants of their own; nor are they linked with the common effluent treatment facilities set up in some, not all, industrial clusters. Unplanned habitations have also come up along the river and, more regrettably, in its flood plain and riverbed itself. Their waste goes directly into the river. All this needs to stop.

What is sorely missing in all the bids to reinvigorate the Yamuna is due emphasis on ensuring the much-needed minimum water flow, technically called ecological flow, without which no strategy, however well-planned, can succeed. This, no doubt, requires cooperation of all the riparian states. Besides, the outdated technology now in vogue in the existing water treatment plants needs to be upgraded urgently. Ideally, the treated sewage should not go back into the river but be recycled for non-domestic use. All these issues merit urgent attention to save the Yamuna from decaying.

Asian Age- 25- November-2021

Can Andhra rebuild post floods?

Rains have battered Andhra Pradesh, the second worst hit state in south India after Tamil Nadu. While the state government led by Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has toiled hard and put the right priorities on immediate relief and rehabilitation, legitimate questions now arise as to if the state is ready for reconstruction of lost infrastructure.

Even as CM Jagan Mohan Reddy sends an emergency request, seeking Rs 1,000 crore from the Centre, it is unlikely going by past precedents that it would be fully reimbursed. While the rain alerts still point to continuing immediate risks, it is clear that the YSRC government will be able to save lives, accommodate people in temporary shelters and provide them food and medicines in the immediate run.

But what about the mid-term focus? Since his term began in 2019, Mr Reddy has focused on a high expenditure laden, big-heartedly cash-sop handing welfare government, but at a cost of being skewed against focusing on development of infrastructure, drawing in private investments and a rapid creation of jobs. A heavy welfare thrust in governance is welcome, but with a rider — it must be sustainable and affordable.

It is clear that battered roads, broken homes, shattered public infrastructure from electric poles to telecom towers to schools, primary health centres and others won't be reconstructed to good standards quickly because the AP government cannot afford it. Even preventive measures like building sand dyke banks along high-risk flood zones won't be possible in the next year or so.

Directly handed-out cash for welfare to people is effective, and popular but cannot be lauded if it comes at the cost of basic infrastructure management, maintenance, preventive measures against environmental disasters and natural hazards, and rapid mid-term repairs and reconstruction. Sadly, rain battered AP will stay damaged for far longer than it should. And the government has only itself to blame.

The Pioneer- 25- November-2021

Working for the people

Rajasthan's Water and Groundwater Minister Dr Mahesh Joshi says that his focus would be on uninterrupted, regular and adequate supply to the public

Water Supply and Ground Water Minister Dr Mahesh Joshi has said that the department's full focus will be on uninterrupted, regular and adequate supply of clean drinking water to the public in the state. Along with this, vigorous efforts will be made at every level with the help of common people to prevent wastage of water.

Dr Joshi was interacting with the media persons after taking charge as the new Water Supply and Ground Water Minister of the State at the Government Secretariat on Wednesday. Appealing to the common people to save water, he said that water is priceless, people should understand its value and make maximum use of it their habit.

Work will be done according to the needs of the people

The Minister said that the time is changing rapidly and with this the priorities of the people have also changed, in such a situation, departmental projects and programs will be speeded up according to the needs of the people in daily life. He said that in the last three years, historical works of public interest have been done in all the departments including the water supply department in the state. During this, despite the circumstances arising due to Corona, the works of other drinking water projects including Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) have been taken forward in the state. Work in JJM has progressed very rapidly in the recent past. Under the department, the work of all the projects including JJM will be speeded up with the thought that the money being spent on them should be fully

benefited by the common man.

Stop wastage of drinking water

Dr Joshi said that at many places water gets wasted due to leakage in the pipeline. For this, wherever the pipelines have become obsolete in the state, they will be replaced and work will be done with a concrete strategy to prevent wastage of drinking water. He said that the entire team of the department would leave no stone unturned in the service of the public with the co-ordination of administrative officers, engineers and technical and subordinate personnel.

Dr Joshi was welcomed by senior officers under the leadership of Additional Chief Secretary, Water Supply and Ground Water Department, Sudhansh Pant by presenting a bunch of flowers. Dignitaries including Dr. Joshi's son Mr. Rohit Joshi and other well wishers, fans and supporters were also present on this occasion.

Dr Joshi's Joint Secretary of Government of Water Supply Department — First Pratap Singh, Joint Secretary, then Pushpa Satyani, Chief Engineer (Urban and NRW) CM Chouhan, Chief Engineer (Administration), Rakesh Luhadia, Chief Engineer (JJM), Dinesh Goyal, Chief Engineer (Special Projects) Dalip Kumar Gaur, Chief Engineer (Technical), Sandeep Sharma, Additional Chief Engineer (Rural) Devraj Solanki, Additional Chief Engineer (Urban), Amitabh Sharma, WSSO Director, Hukamchand Verma, Additional Chief Engineer (Jaipur-II), Manish Beniwal and Additional Chief Engineer (Jaipur-I) Arun Srivastava.