

The Hindu- 03- May-2022

Emergency flood mitigation projects to be taken up in city

They would provide respite to Semmencheri, Pallikaranai from flooding

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The Water Resources Department (WRD) will take up projects worth ₹184.22 crore in southern parts of the city around Pallikaranai marshland to construct new channels and also bridge gaps between waterbodies and the marshland.

These projects would be implemented as emergency works to provide the much-needed respite to areas such as Semmencheri and Pallikaranai that face the threat of flooding every monsoon. Officials of the WRD said several areas remained under sheets of water during the Northeast monsoon.

The department has been directed to call for tenders for the projects announced in the Assembly recently as three months of work period is usually lost between government order and administrative sanction. This often led to break in works after the onset of the monsoon and spilt over to the next fiscal and issues related to escalation of project cost. This time, the tenders would be called for during the waiting period for the government order. However, bids would be opened only after receiving the order, they said.



The Water Resources Department plans to provide a network of water channels to bridge the missing links between Ottiyambakkam channel and Madurapakkam drain and up to Pallikaranai swamp. ■ FILE PHOTO

Officials noted surplus water from several groups of waterbodies drained into the Pallikaranai marshland. However, areas, including Perumbakkam and Semmencheri were flooded as there was no defined route for the surplus water to join the marshland after DLF, due to rapid urbanisation.

The department plans to provide a network of water channels to bridge the missing links between Ottiyambakkam channel and Madurapakkam drain and up to Pallikaranai swamp in Semmencheri and Perumbakkam.

For instance, a channel would be constructed from Madurapakkam Odai to the existing channel on the northern side of DLF and also build a retaining wall along the channel in Sholinganallur at a cost of ₹24 crore. Similarly, the missing links from Madurapakkam Odai to the marshland would be bridged with a network of macro drains from the Odai in DLF Campus road for a distance of 500 metres. There are also plans to improve Okkiyam Maduvu till Buckingham canal in Sholinganallur and link channel between Adambakkam tank

and Veerangal Odai.

It took five or six days for the waterlogging to be reduced last year. The department plans to construct concrete channels for quicker draining of surplus water into the marshland. A two-km-long channel would be built from Arasankazhani Velan-thangal tank to the marsh.

More channels are proposed to be constructed to cover the missing link between tanks in Ottiyambakkam and Arasankazhani and the marsh. The department plans to improve the flood mitigation infrastructure within a year, officials said.

Millennium Post- 03- May-2022

IN 2021-22, 56K SCHOOLS & 38K ANGANWADI CENTRES GOT FACILITY

Jal Swapna: More than 40 lakh get tap water connections till April

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Bengal government added another feather to its cap after the state achieved to cross the 40-lakh mark in providing tap water connections to rural households in April.

The total number of household connections till April 2022 has been 40,03,996 and in the month of April alone 1,96,337 households were provided with tap water connections according to data provided by the state Public Health and Engineering (PHE) department.

The PHE department is working on a mission mode to ensure tap water connection to 1 crore 77 lakh families under the 'Jal Swapna' project by the end of 2024. The project was kicked off in July 2020.

The Mamata Banerjee government has achieved a major



Representative Image

milestone by becoming the top state in the country in providing tap water connections to households in the financial year 2021-22. Bengal provided over 23.37 lakh connections in the last fiscal, well ahead of the second and third rankers Odisha and Bihar which provided 17.47 lakh and 17.39 lakh connections respectively. BJP-ruled Gujarat and Uttar

Pradesh lagged far behind, providing about 9.51 and 6.57 lakh connections respectively.

Nadia has topped among all the districts in this parameter by providing 46387 connections followed by Murshidabad with 39237 and North 24-Parganas with 27527 connections respectively in the 2021-22 fiscal. The state Public Health Engineering (PHE) department

Highlights

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which is implementing this project has taken up 2941 new and augmentation piped water supply schemes at a sanctioned cost of Rs 8399.50 crore in the financial year 2021-22.

In the recently concluded fiscal, around 56,000 schools and 38,000 Anganwadi centres

were provided with running water facilities.

The state PHE minister Pulak Roy said: "We are following directions of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and executing the work to ensure that people get the benefits of the project at the earliest".

Millennium Post- 03- May-2022

'SOUTH BENGAL DISTS TO WITNESS THUNDERSTORMS TILL MAY 4'

Storm in South Bengal dists: At least 4 dead since Sunday



OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: According to the Regional Meteorological Centre in Alipore, south Bengal districts will continue to witness scattered thunderstorms till May 4. At least 4 people have died across Bengal since Sunday night after a storm hit south Bengal.

The weather office also said that discomfort caused due to high humidity will continue to haunt people in different south Bengal districts

mostly during day time. People may experience comparatively colder weather in the late evening and night hours. Various north Bengal districts have also been receiving rainfall. As per weather office prediction, a low pressure trough will form on Wednesday which may turn into a cyclone on Friday.

Overnight rainfall in the city and other south Bengal districts brought down temperature to around 21.8 degree Celsius on Monday giving respite to people from the

scorching summer heat that was prevailing in the state for almost two months.

The city on Monday registered the highest temperature at 34.7. Alipore MeT office had predicted heavy thunderstorms in various south Bengal districts including Kolkata in the beginning of next week. Orange alert had been issued for the city as there was thunderstorm prediction in various parts along with strong breeze. A Thunderstorm accompanied with breeze hit Kolkata and its

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adjoining districts late Sunday night. Due to rains the lowest temperature dropped below 22 degree Celsius which is 4 degree below normal.

Incidentally, it may be mentioned that excessive prolonged heat waves triggered drinking water crisis in some belts of Purulia. People in Raghudi village of Purulia put up roadblocks near Barakar area along state highway 5.

The demonstration continued for 3 hours causing a huge traffic snarl.

Two people died in Bankura in separate incidents after coconut trees fell on them. Two others died in East Midnapore's

Nandigram after they were struck by lightning.

In another incident, five police personnel under Indus police station received injuries when the car they were travelling in met with an accident.

Several mud houses collapsed and properties were damaged in several parts of Bankura, West Midnapore, East Midnapore since Sunday night. Electric poles were damaged due to storms and as a result, power cuts occurred in various places of Bankura.

"The city and other south Bengal districts will receive heavy rainfall along with wind measuring around 50-60 kmph in the next 24 hours. Most of the south Bengal districts will also receive thunderstorms till May 4," a weather official said.

Some parts of the city received a spell of rainfall last Friday after a gap of 58 days though the intensity of rainfall had been low but in the past 48 hours, several districts received few spells of thunderstorms.

Around 5 people have died due to heat waves this season so far. People in all the south Bengal districts had been experiencing sultry weather due to excessive humidity nearly for the past two months.

The Tribune- 03- May-2022

Use water judiciously, appeals Jammu Mayor

OUR CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, MAY 2

Amid power and water shortage, Jammu Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta today appealed to people to use water judiciously. At a press conference, he said he had been touring water filtration plants in Sheetli, Dhountly and as well as the pumping stations of the Jal Shakti Department on a routine basis to take stock of the situation.

Gupta said efforts were being made to make these plants and water pumping

stations more effective by providing dedicated electricity feeders so that in case of power outage, the water supply does not get interrupted. "Besides this, solar panels will also be installed at the Sheetli filtration plant on a priority basis," he said.

According to the mayor, Jal Shakti officials have been directed to supply water through tankers in the areas facing acute shortage besides keeping an eye on illegal water connections.

He hoped that the situation would improve soon.

The Tribune- 03- May-2022

Govt mulls canal-based water supply to Karnal dist

Plans to set up 100 MLD treatment plant | To reduce burden on groundwater

PARVEEN ARORA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, MAY 2

With the groundwater level hitting rock bottom, the state government is mulling canal-based water supply system in Karnal. It plans to set up a canal-based water treatment plant with a capacity of 100 million litres per day (MLD).

The district authorities have sent a proposal to the state government. The Public Health Department (PHE) will discuss the availability of water with the Irrigation Department.

If all goes as per the plan, a canal-based water treatment plant will be built on around 42 acres near the Western Yamuna Canal and the treated water will be released into the city's distribution network.

Notably, there has been rapid and extensive extraction of groundwater in the Karnal block. The state witnessed an alarming downfall of 8.98 m in the groundwater level between 2000 and 2021, while



PROPOSAL UNDER CONSIDERATION

“The government is considering the proposal. We will also discuss the availability of water with the Irrigation Department. Shiv Raj Singh, PHE DEPT SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

it was 12.86 m in the district during the same time period. The water table of the Karnal block stood at 9.11 m in 2000, which has reached to 18.09 m in 2021. Similarly, the water table of Karnal district was at 8.57 m in 2000, which reached to 21.43 m in 2021.

“To provide an alternative source of water supply, we have sent a proposal to the government. At present, we have tubewell-based water supply system. The canal-based water supply system

will reduce the burden on the groundwater,” said Anish Yadav, Deputy Commissioner.

Recently, a report of the state water testing laboratory of the PHE Department revealed that the quality of canal water was much better than the groundwater being supplied to households, commercial and government establishments through taps. The report says the groundwater has higher contents of total dissolved solids, alkalinity and other minerals.