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The Times of India- 06- January-2024

# Set up joint panel to enforce rainwater harvesting norms, DPCC urges NGT

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New Delhi: The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has requested the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for the formation of a joint committee for the coordination and implementation of the rainwater harvesting (RWH) norms in the city.

In a report submitted to the tribunal on Thursday, DPCC said the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) would identify all buildings with an area over 100 sqm where the installation of RWH pits was mandatory as per the building bye-laws. The report was filed after a committee had last year found contamination in water samples of 180 societies in Dwarka due to faulty RWH systems.

DPCC said Delhi government had recommended imposing an environmental compensation (EC), ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh, on the defaulters. It added that for a plot size of 100-500 sqm, EC would be Rs 50,000. It will be Rs 1 lakh for buildings spread over 501-

## DPCC REPORT SAYS

**For non-residential purposes, the fine may be enhanced by 50%. The proposed EC will be imposed by Delhi Jal Board, DPCC, district magistrate and the municipal zonal deputy commissioner in their territorial jurisdictions**

2,000 sqm, Rs 2 lakh for areas over 2000-5000 sqm, and Rs 5 lakh for 5,000 sqm and above.

"For non-residential purposes, the fine may be enhanced by 50%. The proposed EC will be imposed by the Delhi Jal Board, DPCC, district magistrate and the municipal zonal deputy commissioner in their territorial jurisdictions," the report stated.

It added, "The proposed joint committee comprising representatives of divisional commissioner, Delhi Development Aut-

hority, Delhi Jal Board and MCD will coordinate and ensure implementation of various orders of NGT and the Central Groundwater Authority. The committee will operate under the chairmanship of the divisional commissioner of DJB as the member convener and it will present an action-taken report to the chief secretary on the first month of every quarter."

MCD will prepare a list of all buildings in Delhi, along with the area, to determine which category they will fall into, DPCC said. DJB will provide technical assistance for RWH inspection and installation, while the deputy commissioners in all districts will ensure installation by carrying out inspections.

A report filed by a joint committee in NGT dated May 17, 2023 had stated that the total number societies in Dwarka were 354, and the water samples from 180 societies were found contaminated with the high presence of ammoniacal nitrogen and total dissolved solid in water samples.

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Telangana Today- 06- January-2024

# Electrical resistivity test begins at Medigadda

Will help assess the durability of the concrete structures at the barrage

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

As part of the end-to-end investigation of the Medigadda barrage structures, the project authorities on Thursday commenced an electrical resistivity test to assess the durability of the concrete structures.

The testing, which commenced on Thursday, will be completed in a week. Based on the findings, the final investigation report will be prepared for submission to the government, which had already ordered a judicial probe into the sagging of the barrage piers.

The L&T Company, which constructed the Medigadda barrage, has taken up the electrical resistivity test. Top officials of the Irrigation Department said the investigation as well as the rehabilitation would solely be the responsibility of the implementation agency. As sought by the dam safety experts, the barrage was drained and the work area was cleared to facilitate a thorough investigation. A cofferdam was constructed to keep the



## Testing Time

MEDIGADDA INVESTIGATION  
REPORT TO BE READY BY JAN 15

The same method is to be adopted at Annaram to identify issues

Sundilla barrage made leakage-free; grouting works completed

### WHAT IS ELECTRICAL RESISTIVITY TEST?

An electrical resistivity test, to put it in simple terms, is like taking an X-ray of the sub-surface. This test is used to evaluate the electrical resistivity of water-saturated concrete. It will provide a rapid indication of the concrete resistance to chloride ion penetration. The process helps in identifying the depths to which the chloride ions penetrate the concrete indicating the extent affected by corrosion in RCC structures. The tests of chloride permeability are an important aspect helping in assessing the durability of the concrete structures.

structure, impacted due to the sagging of piers, free from water. The investigation report would be ready by January 15, they added. The officials said that the en-

tire length of the barrage would be examined for structural issues by conducting the electrical resistivity test. "It is one of the foolproof methods to decide

the fate of the structures impacted for any reason," they explained. They further added that the State government would take a call on the issues involved in the re-

habilitation after a thorough study of the investigation report. Three of the piers which were impacted in a big way, would be dismantled by adopting the diamond-cutting method. The impact of the sagging was evident on three more piers too.

### Sundilla is leakage-free

The electrical resistivity test was conducted first on Sundilla barrage. Pressured grouting was taken up after identifying certain issues. The work had been completed and the barrage was made leakage-free. The rehabilitation works on the barrage were done by the implementation agency as part of the contractual obligation.

Electrical resistivity will also be conducted at Annaram barrage soon. The grouting works on the barrage were in progress. The seepage issues identified at a few places were being addressed. Despite all-out efforts being made by the department, provision of water to the Rabi ayacut this year would be a remote possibility, they said.

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The Statesman- 06- January-2024

# Cabinet approves scheme for study of climate change, weather

The scheme aims to enhance long-term observations of the Earth System

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 5 JANUARY

The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday approved PRITHVI Vigyan (PRITHVI), a major over-arching scheme for study of climate change, weather predictions and oceanic resources during 2021-26 at a cost of Rs 4,797 crore.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences scheme has a major objective of augmentation and sustenance of long-term observations of the atmosphere, ocean, geo-sphere, cryosphere and solid earth to record vital signs of the Earth System and changes.

The scheme encompasses five ongoing sub-schemes namely Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS); Ocean Services, Modelling Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART); Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER); Seismology and Geosciences (SAGE) and



Research, Education, Training and Outreach (REACHOUT).

The objectives of the Prithvi Scheme include development of modelling systems for understanding and predicting weather, ocean and climate hazards and understanding the science of climate change, exploration of polar and high seas regions of the Earth towards discovery of new phenomena and resources.

Besides, the scheme aims

at technology advancement for exploration and sustainable harnessing of oceanic resources for societal applications and translation of knowledge and insights from Earth systems science into services for societal, environmental and economic benefit.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is mandated to translate science to Services for the Society in areas like weather, climate, ocean and coastal state, hydrolo-

gy, seismology, and natural hazards.

It also pursues exploring and harnessing marine living and non-living resources in a sustainable manner for the country and to explore the three poles of the Earth (Arctic, Antarctic and Himalayas).

The services mandate of the Ministry includes weather forecasts (both on land and in the Oceans) and warnings for various natural disasters like tropical cyclones, storm surge, floods, heat waves, thunderstorm and lightning; and alerts for Tsunamis and monitoring of earthquakes. The Ministry's services are being effectively used by different agencies and state governments for saving human lives and minimising damages to property due to natural disasters. The research & development and operational (services) activities of the MoES are carried out by its 10 Institutes.

The Earth System Sciences deal with all the five

components of the earth system: atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, cryosphere, and biosphere and their complex interactions. The MoES holistically addresses all the aspects relating to the Earth System Science.

The overarching scheme of PRITHVI will holistically address all the five components of earth system to improve the understating of the Earth System Sciences and to provide reliable services for the country, as per reports.

Various components of the PRITHVI scheme are inter-dependent and are carried out in an integrated manner through combined efforts of the concerned Institutes under MoES.

The integrated R&D efforts will help in addressing the grand challenges of weather and climate, ocean, cryosphere, seismological science and services and explore the living and non-living resources for their sustainable harnessing.