



D.O. No. F-12011/1/2023-Coord

18th April, 2023

Dear Sir,

The important issues/developments related to the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation during the month of March 2023 are as follows:-

A. Storage Position of Important Reservoirs: Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring live storage position of **146** important reservoirs spread all over the country and issuing bulletin on every Thursday. Live storage in these reservoirs as on **31.03.2023** was 76.058 billion cubic meters (BCM), which is **94%** of the live storage of corresponding period of last year and **118%** of storage of average of last ten years.

B. The UN 2023 Water Conference:

- The 2nd UN Water Conference 2023 was held at New York, USA from 22nd to 24th March 2023 as a part of concerted global action to achieve the internationally agreed water, sanitation and health-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A six-member delegation led by Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti (MoJS) participated in the conference. During the conference, Hon'ble MoJS delivered the keynote address at a panel discussion on '*Namami Gange - an integrated and holistic approach towards conservation and rejuvenation of River Ganga and its ecosystem*'. Director General, NMCG also presented an overview of the Namami Gange Program which has now evolved as one of the flagship programmes of the world, in the conference. He emphasized the five key pillars of the programme: *Nirmal Ganga* (unpolluted river), *Aviral Ganga* (unrestricted flow), *Jan Ganga* (public participation), *Gyan Ganga* (knowledge and research-based solutions), and *Arth Ganga* (people-river connect through the bridge of economy).

C. Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman:

- Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) & Jal Jeevan Mission and National Water Mission under Ministry of Jal Shakti organized "*Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman*" on 4th March 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi as a prelude to International Women's Day to highlight and acknowledge the leadership and contribution of women at grass root level towards making "*Swachh Sujal Bharat*". On this occasion, Hon'ble President of India felicitated the women achievers who have contributed exceptionally in ODF Plus Model Villages, Har Ghar Jal Villages and Water Conservation etc; under national flagship missions. Hon'ble President of India also launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA:CTR) 2023 campaign.



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D. World Water Day:

- **DoWR**, RD &GR (National Water Mission) celebrated World Water Day on 22nd March 2023. The event was graced by Hon'ble Minister of State (Jal Shakti & Tribal Affairs) **Shri Bishweshwar Tudu and Hon'ble Minister of State (Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel**. The event was witnessed by thousands of school children and youth through telecast by Ministry of Education on 12 channels of NCERT. Hon. Ministers urged the citizens to take pledge on water conservation and judicious consumption of water. During the event DMs/DCs of various districts showcased the work done by them in their districts under Jal Shakti Abhiyan. The event also saw the launch of e-flip book highlighting the best practice under JSA:CTR.

E. G-20 Meeting:

- The 2nd Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting under India's G20 presidency was held from 27 – 29th March 2023 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. More than 130 delegates from G20 member countries along with 11 invitee countries and 14 international organizations participated in the three-day event. The meeting focused on thematic areas like arresting land degradation, accelerating ecosystem restoration & enriching biodiversity, encouraging resource efficiency and circular economy and promoting a sustainable and climate resilient blue economy. NMCG set up a Namami Gange Exhibition at the Exhibition Center. Ministry of Jal Shakti led the side event with thematic site visits to the Adalaj Vav, Sabarmati siphon, Sabarmati river front and Narmada main canal, showcasing India's ancient water management practices and the nation's long-standing tradition of conserving water resources. During other sessions of the day the G20 countries presented their best practices in Water Resource Management.

F. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG):

- **Ganga Swachhta Pakhwada 2023:** Ganga Swachhta Pakhwada 2023 was observed in five main stem Ganga basin States and towns along the river's tributaries, under Namami Gange Programme. Various activities such as Awareness Rallies, Swachhta Abhiyan, Painting Competition, Ganga Quiz, Ganga Sangoshti, Nukkad Nataks, Signature and Shapath campaigns etc; were organized during the event.
- **World Water Day 2023 activities:** To mark the occasion on 22nd March, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organized along with its stakeholders organized a cleanliness drive at Kalindi Kunj ghat on Yamuna

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in the National Capital on 25th March 2023. Several awareness activities were also organized in main stem Ganga basin States in which various members from volunteer groups and civil society participated in large numbers.

- NMCG, in association with the Centre for Science and Environment, organized an event on ***"Making Water Sensitive Cities in the Ganga Basin Aimed at Improving River Health/Flows"*** on 15.03.2023 at India Habitat Centre (IHC), New Delhi. During the event, DG, NMCG, delivered the keynote address and explained about the initiatives undertaken by NMCG, such as capacity-building workshops with diverse stakeholders, adaptation of best practices and Sustainable Development plans from across the globe and their implementation for rejuvenating our rivers.
- On 3rd March 2023, NMCG in association with National Book Trust for Ganga Pustaka Parikrama set up a pavilion at "World Book Fair 2023". During the event, Namami Gange related literature were displayed to encourage public awareness and participation in the cleaning of the river Ganga and its tributaries.
- **Foundation Stone Laying & Inauguration of Projects: -**
 - On 24th March 2023, Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of 3.45 KM Interception & Diversion and 55 MLD STP Projects worth of Rs. 308.09 crore for Assi-BHU Area (Phase-II), Varanasi.
 - On 21st March 2023, Shri Swatantra Dev Singh, Hon'ble Minister Uttar Pradesh inaugurated the newly constructed Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) of 10 KLD capacity in Municipality Chunar, Mirzapur.
- **Project Site Visit: -**
 - On 6th March 2023, L.G. Delhi along with officials from NMCG visited to Qudsia Ghat to inspect the progress of cleaning of river Yamuna and Ghats.
 - DG (NMCG) and Director (Technical) visited the projects works in Ayodhya on 8th March 2023.

G. Important meetings/conferences held at the level of Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti & Hon'ble Minister of State (Jal Shakti) during the month of March 2023: -

- A meeting of Governing Body (GB) of NERIWALM was held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti on 3rd March 2023.
- Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti held a review meeting on WARIMS Project of National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) on 15th March 2023.

- Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti and Hon'ble Minister for State (Home) held a joint review meeting regarding security issues of Farakka Barrage, Colonies and Land Encroachment on 16th March 2023.
- Hon'ble Minister of State (Jal Shakti & Tribal Affairs) held a review meeting on 17th and 18th March 2023 at Deoghar Jharkhand to discuss the new proposal of Ganga-Darwa Link.
- Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti held a meeting to discuss the overall progress of Namami Gange Programme on 29th March 2023, which was attended by DG (NMCG), ED (Technical) along with other officers from NMCG.

H. Important meetings/conferences held at the level of Secretary (WR) during the month of March 2023: -

- PIB meeting on Jamrani Multipurpose Project of Uttarakhand under PMKSY scheme was attended by Secretary (WR) on 07th March 2023.
- Meetings on Pilot Study for preparation of District Atlas for Water Bodies was held on 8th and 10th March 2023 under the chairmanship of Special Secretary (WR).
- Secretary (WR) attended a review meeting regarding the status of implementation of budget announcements for the year 2023-24, held under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary through video conference on 15th March 2023.
- Secretary (WR) held a meeting regarding feasibility of expansion of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Irrigation Census) with the inclusion of Major and Medium Irrigation Projects on 27th March 2023.
- A review meeting on progress with WAPCOS and CGWB towards Dam Sites at Indroka and Bastawa Mata Villages in Jodhpur, Rajasthan was held on 29th March 2023 under the chairmanship of Special Secretary (WR).
- Secretary (WR) attended PIB meeting on completion of balance works of North Koel Reservoir projects of Bihar and Jharkhand states, held on 31st March 2023 under the chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure).

I. Other important Meetings/Conferences held during the month of March 2023: -

- On 2nd March 2023, a meeting with representatives of the Ganga Task Force, Delhi Development Authority, Delhi Jal Board and Forest Department to discuss immediate corrective measures to control the pollution level in the river Yamuna from Wazirabad to Okhla stretch of Delhi was held under the chairmanship of DG (NMCG).
- 17th Meeting of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers was held on 06th March 2023 at Hyderabad under the chairmanship of Chairman, Task Force & Advisor, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

- A review meeting in hybrid mode with the concerned States to discuss the implementing status of Atal Bhujal Yojana was held under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Admin/IC&GW), D/o Water Resources, RD & GR and National Project Coordinator on 17th March 2023.
- Chairman, CWC chaired the National Workshop on On-Farm Water Management for Future Water Security, organized by IWRS, IITR & CWC on 20th March 2023.

J. National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) Programme:

- As a part of the NAQUIM studies, during the month of March 2023, CGWB has constructed 07 High discharge wells in Odisha (1), Andhra Pradesh (2), Telangana (2), Tamil Nādu (1) and Chhattisgarh (1).
- Five Regional Workshops on the "National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) Programme" were held in five different cities namely *Chandigarh - 02.03.2023, Bengaluru - 06.03.2023, Jodhpur - 10.03.2023, Patna - 17.03.2023 and Nagpur - 24.03.2023.*

K. National Water Mission (NWM):

- **NADI UTSAV: National Water Mission and Rotary India Water Conservation Trust have organized "Nadi Utsav" on 27th - 29th March 2023 in Mayurbhanj District, Odisha.**
- 38th National Water Mission webinar session on "*Best Practices of Water Management: Dialogues with District & Municipal Administrators*" was held on 18th March 2023 under the chairmanship of AS & MD, NWM.

L. India Bangladesh and National River Conservation Plan:

- As per the provisions of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty 1996, 80th India-Bangladesh Joint Committee meeting was held at Kolkata including inspection visit of Joint Hydrological observation site at Farakka from 28th February to 4th March 2023.

M. Miscellaneous Matters:

- **National Hydrology Project**, which was approved for duration of 8 years, has now been extended till September 2025.
- **Increasing efficiency in decision making:** - As per the latest edition of Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure (CSMOP), the channel of submission has been reduced to four levels by issuing departmental instructions. It has been observed that the Desk Officer System is not suitable for adoption in this Department, considering its allocation of work.

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- The Department has adopted e-Office from February 2017 and is presently using the version 7.2.1. The Central Registry Unit has been digitized.

N. The incumbency details of the posts in the Department and its organizations under the purview of the ACC have been updated on AVMS portal.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Pankaj Kumar)

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