



D.O. No. F-12011/1/2021-Coord

12th January, 2022.

Dear Sir,

The important issues/developments related to the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation during the month of December, 2021 are as follows:-

A. Storage Position of Important Reservoirs (CWC): -

Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring live storage position of 133 important reservoirs spread all over the country. Overall storage position in 133 reservoirs as on 30.12.2021 was 124.95 billion cubic meters (BCM), which is 99% of the live storage of corresponding period of last year and 119% of storage of average of last ten years.

B. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG): -

• Projects inaugurated/ laid foundation stone by Hon'ble Prime Minister

1. On 23rd December, 2021, Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated 50 MLD STP projects at Ramana, Varanasi.
2. On 30th December, 2021, Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated STP projects (7 MLD & 1.5 MLD capacity) at Ramnagar, Nainital and laid foundation stone for creation of 30.30 MLD STP capacity in Udham Singh Nagar of Uttarakhand.

• 6th India Water Impact Summit:

The 6th edition of the India Water Impact Summit was organized by NMCG and Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (c-Ganga) in hybrid mode at the NMCG office, New Delhi and also at IIT, Kanpur from 9th to 14th December 2021. The theme for this year's Summit was 'River Resources Allocation: Planning and Management at the Regional Level'. It was inaugurated by Hon'ble Union Minister for Jal Shakti in the presence of Hon'ble MoS (Jal Shakti and Food Processing Industries), Director General, NMCG and Prof. Vinod Tare of IIT, Kanpur.

• Nadi Utsav 2021:

During 17th to 23rd December 2021, NMCG in collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism organized Nadi Utsav 2021 to celebrate

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the value of rivers in the country. Events were organized along 12 major rivers, spanning the entire length and breadth of the country, and more than 20 smaller rivers. The celebrations were organized under four chosen themes of cleanliness, patriotism, nature & ecology, and devotion & spirituality. Nadi Utsav 2021 was celebrated under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav campaign in over 24 States and UTs with 130 events organized in more than 100 districts, at various places along the chosen rivers including Brahmaputra, Indus, Narmada, Sabarmati, Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari, Cauvery, Ganga, Yamuna. Several NGOs and national organizations like National Cadet Corps, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Wildlife Institute of India, INTACH, National Service Scheme, participated.

- **Signing of Concession Agreement for construction of STP:**

On 30th December, 2021 a tripartite Concession Agreement was signed between NMCG, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam and M/s. HNB Engineers Private Limited for development of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) of 45 MLD capacity for Farrukhabad-Fatehgarh, on Hybrid Annuity PPP mode, at a cost of Rs. 252.41 crore.

- **Signing of MoU**

1. On 14th December 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NMCG and Centre for Policy Research (CPR), in the presence of Hon'ble MoS (Jal Shakti and Tribal Affairs). As per the MoU, both parties will collaborate in research and knowledge production activities for rejuvenating rivers in India.
2. On 30th December, 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between NMCG and New Environment and Energy Research (NEER) for "Integrated River Basin Management". The MoU will help in the area of flood plain identification, palaeo-channel mapping and management of riverbanks for sustainable practices for rejuvenation of rivers and water systems.

C. National Water Mission (NWM): -

- 15th Water Tech Talk entitled "***Climate resilient, Natural Farming and learning from AP Community Managed Natural Farming***" was delivered by Mr. Vijay Kumar Thallam, IAS (retired) on 10th December 2021.

- **33rd Water Talk** entitled "**Digitally enabled strategy to enhance community resilience toward water security**" was delivered by Ms. Jayamala Subrahmaniam, CEO, Arghyam on 17th December 2021.

D. 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 December, 2021: -

- Hon'ble Minister Jal Shakti reviewed various feasible options regarding implementation of Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) and PKC link on 09th December 2021.
- On 21st December 2021, a review meeting regarding I&D and STP Works, Co-treatment of Septage, Sludge Management Plants & Construction of Bathing & Cremation Ghats held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Jal Shakti.
- Review Meeting taken by Hon'ble MoS (Jal Shakti & Tribal Affairs), Govt. of India, for all ongoing and future projects of the Ministry of Jal Shakti in the State of Odisha, at Bhubaneswar on 24th December 2021.

E. Important meetings/conferences held at the level of Secretary (WR, RD&GR) during the month of December, 2021:

- A review meeting was jointly taken by Secretary (WR) and Secretary (Ayush) on 01st December 2021 to discuss issues relating to establishment of National Institute of Ayurveda at Panchkula.
- Secretary (WR) attended a meeting to discuss 2nd Stage of Forest Clearance in respect of Ken-Betwa Link Project with MoEFCC, NWDA and Govt. of MP, on 02nd December 2021.
- Secretary (WR) chaired 13th a meeting, through VC on 06th December 2021, of the High Powered Steering Committee to review ongoing National Projects and to consider Upper Bhadra Project for inclusion under National projects.
- Secretary (WR) attended a meeting, held through VC on 09th December 2021, of the Committee of Secretaries taken by Cabinet Secretary to discuss "Revision of rates of Net Present Value (NPV) for forest land diverted to non-forest purpose".
- Secretary (WR) attended a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs regarding issues pertaining to PMKSY, held on 15.12.21.
- Secretary (WR) attended the briefing meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on the subject "Review of Upper Yamuna River Cleaning Project upto Delhi and River-bed Management in Delhi", held on 16th December 2021.

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- Secretary (WR) attended the meeting taken by Finance Minister on pre-Budget consultations for the Union Budget for Health, Education, Rural Development, Water and Sanitation, held through VC on 18th December 2021.
- A meeting to review of Namami Gange Projects was held on 21st December 2021 under the chairmanship of Secretary (WR).

F. Other important Meetings/Conferences held during the month of December, 2021: -

- 5th Review Meeting of the National Network Project on "Unraveling Submarine Groundwater Discharge (SGD) Zones along the Indian Subcontinent and its islands (Mission SGD)" was chaired by the Chairman, CGWB on 01st December 2021.
- On 1st December 2021, a review meeting was held under the chairmanship of DG, NMCG on "Performance Based Incentive Grant (PBIG) component of Ganga-2", with Principal Secretaries of the States.
- 56th meeting of Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) meeting chaired by Chairman, CWRC was held on 3rd December, 2021.
- The first meeting of the Committee for Construction Schedule of Polavaram Irrigation Project was held on 3rd December 2021 through video conference under the chairmanship of Chairman of the Committee & Member Secretary, PPA.
- The 18th meeting of the Dam Design Review Panel (DDRP) of Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP) was held on 20th December 2021 through video conference under the chairmanship of Shri A.B. Pandya, former Chairman, CWC.
- The 39th, 40th and 41st Executive Committee Meetings of NMCG were held on 15th, 22nd and 29th December 2021 respectively under the chairmanship of DG, NMCG.

G. National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) Programme: -

Under NAQUIM programme, CGWB has constructed 11 high discharge wells in the States of Kerala (1), Odisha (1), Karnataka (2), Gujarat (4), Maharashtra (1), Tamil Nadu (1) and Himachal Pradesh (1). The wells have been drilled in hard rock and alluvium areas with discharge ranging from around 192 to 830 litres per minute (lpm).

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H. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY):-

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in its meeting held on 15th December, 2021 approved the proposal for implementation of Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and Command Area Development and Water Management, Har Khet Ko Pani and Watershed Development components of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for the period 2021-26.

I. Ken Betwa Link Project (KBLP):-

On 08th December 2021, the Union Cabinet approved the implementation of the Ken-Betwa Link Project, being the first ever interlinking of rivers project under the National Perspective Plan. The project has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 44,605 crore, with central funding of Rs. 39,317 crore. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be set up for implementation of KBLP.

J. Enactment of Dam Safety Act, 2021:-

The Dam Safety Bill 2021 was passed by both Houses of Parliament and received the Presidential assent. The Dam Safety Act was notified in the official gazette on 14.12.2021. It has come into force with effect from 30.12.2021 vide another gazette notification dated 28.12.2021. The Act provides for adequate surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of all the large dams in the country so as to prevent dam failure related disasters. It provides for an institutional mechanism, at both Central and State levels, to address structural and non-structural measures required for ensuring the safe and efficient functioning of dams.

K. 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. The Department has adopted e-office from February 2017 and is presently using the version 6.2.0 and is ready for upgradation to the version 7.0. The CR Unit has been digitized.

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L. 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 faithfully,


(PANKAJ KUMAR)

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