Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for August, 2019

Important policy decisions taken and major achievements during the month.

The important issues/developments related to the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation during the month of August, 2019 are as under:

A. Storage Position of Important Reservoirs-

Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring storage position of 107 important reservoirs spread all over the country. These include 39 reservoirs having significant hydro-power benefits with installed capacity of more than 60 MW each, out of which, 10 reservoirs have Storage build up less than or equal to average of previous 10 years. Overall storage position in 107 reservoirs as on 29.08.2019 was 126.631 BCM, which is 111% of the storage of corresponding period of last year and 125% of the average storage of last 10 years.

B. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) –

The following are the achievements of Namami Gange in August, 2019 –

- 6 projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 92 crores were approved in the 23rd Executive Committee meeting held on 30th July 2019. These projects deal with sectors such as aquifer mapping, Afforestation, Wetland management, capacity building programmes, and GIS based mapping of certain characteristics of the river.

- 7 projects viz. 1 project of sewerage infrastructure, 4 projects of ghat and crematoria, 1 project of Composite Ecological Task Force were completed in this month.

- A sewerage infrastructure project at Sahibganj, Jharkhand costing Rs. 89 crore was completed creating 12 MLD new and 12 MLD rehabilitated sewage treatment capacity with 55 KM of sewer network.

- **Workshop on Ganga Water Impact Alliance:** NMCG & Ganga jointly organized 'Water Impact Initiative & Ambassador’s Dialogue' chaired by Hon'ble Minister, Jal Shakti to discuss water cooperation with all partner
nations to accelerate the implementation of water treatment technologies on 22nd August 2019 in New Delhi. A report by c-Ganga on 'India Water Impact Summit 2018' was also released during the event and 28 Countries participated in the deliberation.

- **World Water Week 2019, Stockholm, Sweden (August 25-30,2019):** NMCG participated in the World Water Week 2019 held at Stockholm, Sweden during 25th to 30th August, 2019 through setting up of a 'Namami Gange' pavilion and participation in different technical sessions and panel discussions. The pavilion successfully projected the massive size and diverse achievements and potential areas of collaboration and investment in the 'Namami Gange' mission.

  - The most prominent dignitaries visiting the pavilion included His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf and Crown Princess Victoria and Duchess of Vastergotland who took keen interest in various activities displayed in the exhibition and appreciated the comprehensive nature and momentum of the Mission. Other notable high-level dignitaries who visited were: Hon. Cecilia Abena Dapaah, Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources, Ghana; Hon'ble Karlene Maywald, Chair, Australian National Water Commission and former Minister for Water security; Vice President of Dutch Water Authorities; Commissioner Water Development Commission, Ethiopia; Chair of Asia-Pacific Water Forum; Head of Water Development Division, Germany.

  - Stockholm Water Prize Laureate of 2019, Dr. Jackie King also visited the pavilion.

  - Water Front', the Daily Newsletter of the water week, also featured the Indian participation through 'Namami Gange' Stall.

  - Professors and researchers from prestigious universities and academic institutes such as: University of Oxford; University of Leeds; the Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden; University of Portsmouth, UK; CEPT University, India; Institute for Technology and Resources Management in Tropics and Sub-tropics, Germany; United Nations University, Canada; IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute; Sandec Sanitation, Water & Solid Waste for Development, Switzerland also visited the pavilion. Visitors from other reputed international organizations included: GIZ, World Bank, CSE, WWF and UN Organizations. Representatives from Technology providers in water and sanitation sector presented their technologies and showed keen interest in 'Namami Gange' projects for potential collaboration.

  - Director General, NMCG made presentation in a session 'Locking Carbon in a Water Vault: Wetlands as Ecosystem-based Mitigation' regarding the wetland conservation as part of Ganga river basin
management and interventions at community and basin Level. Similarly, NMCG also participated in various other technical sessions such as ‘River Basin Organization - role in conflict resolution’; ‘Environmental flow’; ‘water scarcity clock-we are running out’, Circular Economy etc.

- **Cleanliness and awareness drives on various Ghats**: As part of ongoing cleaning of Ghats being organized in Delhi-NCR with the help of the municipal corporations and partner/associated organizations, cleaning drive was organized on 4th, 11th and 25th August 2019 at Kalindi Kunj ghat by Tree Craze Foundation in collaboration with Sashakt Foundation and Lahar Foundation. A cleanliness drive was organized by Ganga Vichaar Manch on Rasulabad Ghat, Teliyar ganj. School children were engaged/targeted in the awareness drive at Pilli Kothi, Varanasi and took Ganga Swachhta pledge to reiterate their commitment towards the Ganga cleaning.

- **Awareness Drives during Kanvad Yatra**: Mass awareness drives were conducted during the Kanvad Yatra. Religious pilgrims took Ganga Swachhta Pledge on the occasion of Nag Panchami at Deshmedha Ghat, Varanasi on 5th August 2019.

- **Dissemination Meet on CFAR’s Five-City Urban Sanitation Intervention**: DG-NMCG, delivered the key note address calling for steps towards engaging communities in the decision making processes at the ‘Dissemination Meet on five-city Urban Sanitation Intervention’ by Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) on 13th August 2019 in New Delhi.

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**C. Hon’ble Minister (Jal Shakti) delivered the keynote address on August 29, 2019 during High level dialogue session on SDG-Paris Climate Agreement Stocktaking- Building a Resilient Future through Water at SIWI’s World Water Week held in Stockholm Sweden.**

**D. A Secretary Level meeting between India and Bangladesh was held in Dhaka during 7-8 August, 2019 for discussing bilateral cooperation in the areas of river water sharing, flood forecasting, Ganges Barrage Project, river pollution and related water resources matters.**

**E. Important Meetings/Conferences held during the month of August, 2019 at the level of Hon’ble Minister/MoS-**

i) **Hon’ble Minister (Jal Shakti) visited the NMCG pavilion exhibited at SIWI’s World Water Week held in Stockholm, Sweden on 29.08.2019 and also held interaction with different groups at the pavilion.**
ii) Hon’ble Minister (Jal Shakti) addressed the newly inducted ‘Group A’ officers of the Central Water Engineering Service at National Water Academy, Pune during their induction training program on 20.08.2019.

iii) Hon’ble MoS (Jal Shakti) visited Nagpur on 23.08.2019 to grace the occasion of Pani Parishad Programme in Bhandara District of Maharashtra.

F. Important Meetings/Conferences attended by Secretary (WR,RD&GR) during the month of August, 2019 –

i) Meeting taken by Hon’ble PM on 31.08.2019 regarding proposed visit of Hon’ble PM to Kanpur.

ii) Meeting taken by Pr. Secretary to PM regarding issues of North Koel Project, Bihar and Jharkhand on 22.08.2019.

iii) Joint meeting of Supervisory Committee and Implementation committee of NGT held on 05.08.2019.

iv) 2nd Workshop cum review meeting under Jal Shakti Abhiyan chaired by Cabinet Secretary on 26.08.2019.

v) Attended Live Phone-In-Programme at Indraprastha & FM Gold channel of All India Radio on 10.08.2019.

G. Important Meetings/Conferences held at the level of Secretary(WR,RD&GR) during the month of August, 2019 –

i) An Inter-Ministerial meeting to consider continuation of India-Nepal Joint Project Office (JPO-SKSKI), Biratnagar, Nepal for carrying out survey and investigation works and preparation of DPR of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multi Purpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme in Nepal was held on 29.08.2019.

ii) Meeting with Principal Secretaries (WRD) of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura States on 02.08.2019 in connection with Secretary level meeting held in Dhaka.

iii) Meeting on SYL canal matter as per the directions of Supreme Court with the Committee of Officers of Haryana & Punjab held on 16.08.2019 and 21.08.2019.

iv) Secretary (WR, RD & GR) reviewed JICA assisted Sewage Infrastructure Project for Mula-Mutha Rivers on 20th August, 2019 at Pune.

H. An amount of Rs. 227.46 crore for Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) under PMKSY has been sanctioned/released in the Month of August, 2019 for various ongoing Major/Medium Irrigation Projects of the State of Maharashtra and Telangana.
I. An amount of Rs. 68.29 crore under the Special Package for completion of Irrigation projects to address distress in Vidarbha and Marathwada Districts and other chronically drought prone areas of the rest of Maharashtra has been sanctioned/released in the month of August, 2019 for the various ongoing SMI/medium irrigation projects of the State of Maharashtra.

J. PMKSY under (Har Khet Ko Pani) SMI & RRR:- Central Assistance (CA) of Rs. 162.7912 crore has been released to various surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) schemes under Har Khet ko Pani (HKKP) component of PMKSY during the Month of August, 2019 for the State of Assam & Bihar.

K. Central Assistance of Rs. 30.21 Crore has been released under Flood Management & Border Area Programme (FMBAP) during the month of August, 2019.

L. To promote water conservation vigorous social media drive was launched on Facebook and other platforms resulting in increase of Facebook likes from 39,094 to 1,46,855 on 31st, August, 2019. The total number of social media posts that have been made during August, 2019 are around 396, which have reached approximately 9.37 crore persons and engagement of 1.63 crore persons was reached.

M. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has explored six high discharge exploratory wells in the States of Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir while undertaking Ground Water Exploration under the National Aquifer Management Programme with water discharge varying from 120 lpm to 1140 lpm.

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

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT
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