Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for September, 2019

Important policy decisions taken and major achievements during the month.

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

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A. Storage Position of Important Reservoirs-

   Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring storage position of 113 important reservoirs spread all over the country. Overall storage position in 113 reservoirs as on 26.09.2019 was 146.203 BCM, which is 115% of the storage of corresponding period of last year and 121% of the average storage of last 10 years.

B. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) –

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

   - **Great Ganga Run’- Marathon to create awareness about river Ganga:**
     To connect people and spread awareness about water conservation & river rejuvenation, NMCG organised 'The Great Ganga Run' in New Delhi. Hon'ble Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Hon'ble Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports and Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti flagged off the 'Great Ganga Run' from Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on 15th September 2019. Almost 20,000 people had enrolled for the marathon in 4 categories.

   - A team of 16 volunteers from OISCA International led by Mr. Toshihiro Nakano, acting President along with Mr. Tadashi Watanabe, Vice President carried out tree plantation programme at Sambhal and Varanasi districts of Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with NMCG under its MoU.

   - **Namami Gange Cleanthon on World Clean Up Day:** NMCG organized a cleanliness drive at Delhi's Kalindi Kunj Ghat along the Yamuna River on the occasion of World Clean Up Day on 21st September, 2019.
• **NMCG undertook large scale cleanliness drive on the Yamuna River bank at Kudesia Ghat:** NMCG organized a large scale cleanliness drive on the banks of the river Yamuna at Kudesia Ghat, Delhi on 26th September 2019, under the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign. This cleanliness campaign was spearheaded by Hon’ble Minister (Jal Shakti). Secretary (DoWR, RD & GR), Secretary, DoDW&S and Director General, NMCG also joined in Shramdaan. The Central Water Commission, NPCC Limited, Tree Craze Foundation, Sparsh Ganga and NMCG officials also took active part in Shramdan. In a first, several Resident Welfare Organizations from all over Delhi participated wholeheartedly in the cleaning activities besides NMCG. Students from UPSC cell of Ramjas College also joined Shramdan with great enthusiasm.

• **Auction of the Mementos:** The exhibition-cum-auction of a total of 2,772 gifts, presented to the Prime Minister, commenced on 14th September 2019 at the National Gallery of Modern Arts (NGMA), Delhi. As done earlier in January 2019, the funds raised through it will be transferred to support the Namami Gange projects.

**C. Swachhita Hi Seva Campaign:** Swachhita Hi Seva Campaign was observed in Department of Water Resources, RD & GR and its various organizations including Central Water Commission, Central Ground Water Board & NMCG. Various activities like plastic free campaign, cleaning of Ghats, office premises etc were organized. Approximately, 42 major events were organized in important cities/towns across the Ganga Basin in the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Delhi and West Bengal by NMCG.

**D. The 6th India Water Week:** Hon’ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 6th India Water Week-2019 on September 24, 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The theme of the India Water Week-2019 was ‘Water Cooperation – Coping with 21st Century Challenges’ & it was held from 24th to 28th September 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan and the exhibition at Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.

**E. Department of Water Resources, RD & GR initiated the ‘National Water Mission Awards’** to recognize excellence in water conservation, efficient water use and sustainable water management practices. The awards were distributed in ten categories defined under five goals of NWM on 25th September, 2019 in Vigyan Bhawan.

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

i) Hon’ble Minister of Jal Shakti chaired meeting with Dr. Don Blackmore, Water Expert from Australia for discussion on river basin management on 06th September, 2019.

ii) Hon’ble Minister (Jal Shakti) chaired a meeting on 18.09.2019 at New Delhi to discuss the proposal of OREVA for development of little Rann of Kutch.
iii) Hon'ble Minister (Jal Shakti) inaugurated a workshop on 'Integrated Water Resources Management' on 04th September, 2019 at National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee.

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

i) Visited Bali, Indonesia during Sept 01—06, 2019, as the leader of the Indian delegation, for attending ICID’s 3rd World Irrigation Forum (WIF-3) and High Level Advisory Group Meeting on the theme "Dev. of Water, Food and Nutrition Security in a Competitive Environment".

ii) Meeting with Chairman, Committee on Subordinate Legislation regarding Constitution of River Management Board / Polavaram Project Issues, on 09.09.19.

iii) Attended the Session on “Water – innovations for efficient management and governance” during Innovation Summit organized by UNDP and UNEP, on 10.9.19.

iv) Attended Meeting of National Crisis Management Committee, held on 15.9.19.

v) Attended a meeting chaired by Cabinet Secretary with Sectoral Group of Secretaries (Rural & Agri.)

vi) Second Informal Meeting on core issues of Pancheswar Multipurpose Project with Dr. Rajan Battarai, Designated Interlocutor of Govt of Nepal, held on 23.9.19.

vii) Attended the Meeting chaired by Finance Minister regarding Capital Expenditure of Major Ministries, on 27.09.2019.

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

i) Meeting to discuss the proposal for rejuvenation of identified polluted stretches of ten rivers in the country under the National River Conservation Plan held on 11.09.2019.

ii) Ninth National Level Steering Committee (NLSC) meeting of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) held on 12.9.2019.


iv) 26th meeting of Governing council of CWPRS held on 30th September, 2019

I. A meeting of the India Bangladesh Joint Team was held in New Delhi on 27th September, 2019 as a follow-up to the decisions taken in Water Resources Secretary level meeting held at Dhaka on 7th – 8th August, 2019. The Joint Team in its meeting suggested the composition of the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) with member from both sides as well as formulated its Terms of Reference (ToR) to conduct the feasibility study of the Ganges-Padma Barrage Project (GBP) for
optimum utilization of the water received by Bangladesh under the provisions of Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, 1996.

J. An amount of Rs. 10.63 crore under the Special Package for completion of Irrigation projects to address water 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 September, 2019 for the various ongoing SMI/medium irrigation projects of the State of Maharashtra.

K. PMKSY under (Har Khet Ko Pani) SMI & RRR:- Central Assistance (CA) of Rs. 68.58 crore has been released to various surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) schemes under Har Khet ko Pani (HKKP) component of PMKSY during the Month of September, 2019 for the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

L. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has explored five high discharge exploratory wells in the Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Jammu & Kashmir while undertaking Ground Water Exploration under the National Aquifer Management Programme with water discharge varying from 120 lpm to 840 lpm.

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

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