

Urban Water & Sanitation Weekly Newsletter

November 27, 2023 – December 3, 2023

Note: Rs 1 crore = Rs 0.01 billion; Rs 1 lakh = Rs 0.1 million; Rs 1,000 million = Rs 1 billion

Policy & Programmes

❖ The **Central Government** has approved the implementation of **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan** which aims to provide **11 important infrastructure components to tribal communities** that include **piped and community water supply**. The other components include permanent housing, road connectivity, mobile medical units, hostel construction, etc. Furthermore, piped water supply would be provided to all particularly vulnerable tribal groups' habitations including 0.49 million households to be constructed under the mission while community water supply would be provided to 2,500 villages/ habitations with population less than 20 households.

Finance

❖ The **Asian Development Bank** has approved a loan worth **\$170 million to modernise water supply services in Kochi, Kerala**. The city receives an intermittent water supply for five to 24 hours per day in different localities. This is despite the universal coverage of the water pipeline network. Therefore, the project includes the rehabilitation and upgradation of five existing water treatment plants (WTP) with a cumulative production capacity of 325 million litres per day (mld). Moreover, a new plant with a capacity of 190 mld will be constructed and around 700 km of pipelines will be replaced to minimise loss of treated water during distribution. This is accompanied by the introduction of a real-time monitoring system and the upgradation of approximately 146,000 water meters to high-quality and reliable meters.

Service Providers

❖ **Nashik Municipal Corporation**, on **November 27, 2023**, announced its decision to reintroduce the proposed hike in **water tax** and the **newly introduced sewage utility taxes from FY 2025**. It has also received approval for the same by the standing committee of the civic body. The hiked water tax and a new sewage utility tax are as per the guidelines of the 15th Finance Commission of the central government. The parliamentary panel has also approved to levy a sewage utility charge of Rs 3 per 1,000 litres, based on the water consumption of the consumers.

❖ **Researchers** from various universities in **Chennai** have designed a **solar-powered distillation system to remove the salinity from the salty groundwater of the city**. The east coast of Chennai has been facing water salinity due to the gradual intrusion of seawater. This system heats water through a solar panel, distills it, removes the salts, and condenses the vapours to purify water. The pH level of the collected samples of water is within 7.1, while total dissolved solids are within 45 milligrams per litre (mg/l) and sodium and potassium levels are within 3.5 mg/L.

❖ The **Public Health and Engineering Department** plans to commission the **Bisalpur water supply system** by the **end of 2023**. To achieve this, the trial run for the newly installed filter plants at the Surajpura pump house by the middle of December 2023 and the trial run for the new intermediate pump house in Renwal will also soon take place. Under this system, around 210 mld of additional water would be supplied to Jaipur from Bisalpur dam.

Projects

❖ A new project to install a **sewer line in missing areas** of the ongoing **Buddha Nullah project** will be launched soon under the **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) programme**. The sewer line would be 3.5 km long and would be constructed between the pumping stations of Sundar Nagar and Kundanpuri at Rs 0.36 billion. This work is undertaken to avoid the discharge of untreated sewage into the Buddha Nullah in Punjab. Around 85 per cent of the work on the overall Buddha Nullah project has been completed.

❖ The **Central Government** has approved funds worth **Rs 2.86 billion** for the implementation of a **flood mitigation project in Pune, Maharashtra under the Flood Risk Management Programme**. Currently, a detailed study on identifying the flood-prone spots is being conducted. The scope of work includes the

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upgradation of stormwater drains and construction of box drains at 65 locations in the city, construction of gabion wall along nullahs, deepening, cleaning of nullah, and construction of recharge shafts. The project is being implemented by Pune Municipal Corporation to avoid waterlogging during monsoon season.

❖ **Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA)** is **planning to install ultrasonic flow meters at sewage treatment plants (STP) along with CCTV cameras for monitoring the flow of raw sewage.** These ultrasonic flow meters are planned to be installed at all existing STPs in the city, including Behrampur and Dhanwapur. They would also be installed at the common effluent treatment plant at Manesar. These will be connected with GMDA's integrated command centre for real-time monitoring. The data obtained will also be shared with the Central Pollution Control Board and Haryana State Pollution Control Board. Currently, online monitoring devices and normal flow meters are installed at the outlets of existing STPs.

❖ **R K Engineers Sales Limited** has **won a contract worth Rs 443.5 million for water supply works at Chaudahkosi Parikarma Marg in Ayodhya district, Uttar Pradesh.** Bids for the same were invited by the Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam in April 2023. The scope of the project includes surveying, soil investigation, design, testing, trial and run, commissioning, and testing of the water supply pipeline and associated works along with water supply utility shifting works at Chaudahkosi Parikarma Marg in Ayodhya district. The work is likely to be completed in 12 months.

Tenders

❖ The **Theni-Allinagaram Municipal Corporation** has **extended the bid due date for the development of underground sewerage scheme (UGSS) in the left-out areas of Theni-Allinagaram, Tamil Nadu under AMRUT 2.0 from November 22, 2023 to December 6, 2023.** Bids for the same were invited in October 2023. The scope of work includes construction and operation and maintenance for five years at an estimated cost of Rs 610 million. The project is being funded by the World Bank.

❖ The **Chopda Municipal Corporation** has **extended the bid due date for the development of UGSS under the Maharastra Suvarn Jayanti Nagorathhan Maha-Abhiyan from November 21, 2023 to December 11, 2023.** Bids for the same were invited on November 11, 2023. The scope of work includes sewerage and conveyance system for zones 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, sewage sup, pump house for IPS 1 and 2, sewage pumping main, pumping machinery, programmable logic controller, and supervisory control and data acquisition automation and related infrastructure. The work is likely to be completed in two years at an estimated cost of Rs 717.26 million.

❖ The **Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC)** has **invited bids for the construction of a sewerage trunk main in the AMC area of Gujarat under AMRUT 2.0.** The last date for bid submission is December 14, 2023. The scope of work includes providing and laying the sewerage trunk main from Narida to Jashodanagar by micro-tunneling method in the AMC area. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 2.71 billion.

❖ **Rail India Technical and Economic Service Limited** invited **consultancy bids under the Neyyar Dam WTP project on November 28, 2023.** The last date for bid submission is December 14, 2023. The scope of work includes consultancy services for confirmatory boreholes having a maximum length of 500 m including tests recommended for suitable foundation stability for micro tunnelling and conducting electrical resistivity tests for soil strata exploration at 30 locations for Neyyar PTP nagar transmission main. The work is likely to be completed in 20 days at an estimated cost of Rs 2.49 million. Kerala Water Authority has proposed to develop a WTP at Neyyar dam in Thiruvananthapuram district in Kerala. It is being funded by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board. The WTP would supply 100 mld of water to the city, while four panchayats Maranalloor, Malayinkeezhu, Vilappil and Vilavoorkal will get 5 mld water each. The treated water will be carried to the PTP Nagar reservoir.