

## **NEWS ITEMS ON CAG/ AUDIT REPORTS (16.09.2022)**

### **1. Bhopal: CAG report points at poor tiger conservation plan and management at some national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in MP ([freepressjournal.in](https://www.freepressjournal.in)) SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

Bhopal: The report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), tabled in state assembly on Thursday, pointed at the poor Tiger conservation planning and inadequate management at national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the state.

The report has panned the management of six out of 13 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries for not having any conservation and management plan after the expiry of the existing ones during the period of the audit.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Wild life assured that a report would be sought from the field officers and the reasons for delay would be examined. CAG, in its report, said that there was no institutional mechanism to ensure that plans get prepared in time. There was no dedicated staff for the work, nor were any timelines prescribed for it. While divisions are already struggling with shortage of staff at different levels, the shortage being 41% at ranger level and 52% at deputy range level making it further difficult for them to spare time for preparation of Tiger Conservation plan or management plan.

Ken Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary did not have any management plan for two years from 2017-18 while Gangau Wildlife Sanctuary did not have any plan for 2012-13 and Bagdara Wildlife Sanctuary for 2014-15 to 2016-17.

Similarly, Madhav National Park lacked a plan for two years 2017-18 to 2018-19 while Karera Wildlife Sanctuary had no plan for two years 2018-19. Nauradehi and Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuaries were operating sans any plan for 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively.

<b>National Parks/Sanctuaries</b>	<b>Period of Plan</b>
Ken Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary	2007-08 to 2017-2018
Gangau Wildlife Sanctuary	2006-2012
Bagdara Wildlife Sanctuary	2017-18 to 2026-27
Madhav National Park	2007-08, 2016-17
Karera Wildlife Sanctuary	2008-09, 2017-18
Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary	2007-08 to 2016-17
Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary	2008-09 to 2017-18

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/bhopal/bhopal-cag-report-points-at-poor-tiger-conservation-plan-and-management-in-mp>

### **2. MP state govt borrowing increased by Rs 28000 cr in 2020-21: CAG report ([freepressjournal.in](https://www.freepressjournal.in)) SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

Bhopal: The state government's borrowing from market and central government saw a steep hike during the Covid-period in 2020-21, amounting to Rs 28064 crore while it didn't achieve any of three key fiscal targets during the period, as per

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India's report for the year, tabled in the state assembly on Thursday.

“Due to low economic activity during Covid pandemic, the revenue deficit of state increased and hence fiscal deficit also increased. State government borrowing from market loans and loans from Gol increased by Rs 28063 crore from Rs 20197 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 48260 crore in 2020-21”, states the report.

The report says the state government met the three per cent limit of guarantee redemption fund and loan repayment criteria but it didn't honour its commitment/obligation made in its MoU with Gol and the power distribution companies under UDAY scheme.

Underlining lack of financial management the report says the investment held in 'cash balance investment account' by the government stood at Rs 7060.93 crore and Rs 18069.32 crore at the end of 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively.

“Keeping the huge amount in 'cash balance investment account' at lower rate of interest while borrowing at higher rate has financial implications. The high level of investment in such an account at the end of these financial years indicated there is a need for better cash management”, states the report.

## **PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS**

On financial performance of state public sector undertakings (PSUs) the report says as on March 31, 2021 there were 70 state PSUs including three statutory corporations and eight government controlled other companies. Out of 70, there was 31 inactive state PSUs. These PSUs are inactive from 3 to 31 years. Thus, only 39 PSUs accounts could be audited.

“During 2020-21, these 39 PSUs registered turnover of Rs 99211.48 crore, which was equal to 10.81% of the GSDP of Madhya Pradesh”, said the report.

The report says the investment of the state government in equity and long-term loans in 70 PSUs was Rs 62065.12 crore against total investment of Rs 106152.75 crore at the end of March 31, 2021. The outstanding long-term loans of these PSUs as on March 31, 2021 increased to Rs 31820.52 crore from Rs 31382.78 crore during the previous year (2019-20). <https://www.freepressjournal.in/bhopal/mp-state-govt-borrowing-increased-by-rs-28000-cr-in-2020-21-cag-report>

### **3. Bhopal: PWD officials' laxity responsible for poor NH condition in MP, reveals CAG report ([freepressjournal.in](https://www.freepressjournal.in)) SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

Bhopal: The national highway gets washed away after every monsoon because mandatory inspection and tests are not carried out and the department concerned fails to take action against contractors responsible for the same, says a report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The CAG report for the year ended March 2020 was tabled in the state assembly, on Thursday. Constructions and up-gradation of NH are done by the Public Works Department (PWD). The report stated that neither

the executive engineers nor the chief engineer inspected and monitored the work on stipulated frequency.

According to the report, 43 works of five NHs divisions were audited for the works undertaken between 2017 and 2020. The report had at the serious negligence of the department officials while preparing the tenders, it quotes “Audit noticed deficiencies in preparation of estimates like incorrect estimation, provisions of unwarranted items and non-inclusion of essential items in the estimates, invitation of tender on inflated estimates, adaptation of incorrect rate and many other irregularities”.

The audit report also speaks of the financial irregularities; it quotes, “Audit also noticed irregularities pertaining to inadmissible and excess payment of price adjustment to the contractor, non-deductions of advances and royalty, delay in completion of work and many more”. Hundreds of crores of rupees were spent on the construction of the roads, but no testing of the quality was undertaken as district-level laboratories lack required equipment and gadgets. The report quotes “Multiple issues affecting the level of quality assurance to be derived such as non-conducting of mandatory tests, not carrying out tests of road works for departmental laboratories and non-availability of equipment in district level laboratories”.

#### **Irregularities in road construction**

-In the construction of Sagar -Vidisha-Sanchi section road an inflated rate of Rs 4.32 crore has come to fore. Similarly, Indore Betul road was constructed at an inflated rates of Rs 3.77 crore. The total inflated estimation of Rs 8.11 crore was found by the CAG.

-While constructing Rewa-Satna, Indore Betul and Indore Ahmedabad roads, the original scope work was withdrawn, which gave Rs 3.89 crore loss to the state exchequer.

-Undue financial favours of around Rs 11.76 crore were given to the contractors in three roads projects. Besides, Rs 6.42 lakh was paid to contractors in excess on account of price adjustment <https://www.freepressjournal.in/bhopal/bhopal-pwd-officials-laxity-responsible-for-poor-nh-condition-in-mp-reveals-cag-report>

#### **4. MP**

**News: प्रदेश में 30 प्रतिशत से भी कम जल शुल्क वसूल पा रहे नगरीय निकाय**  
([naidunia.com](http://naidunia.com)) SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

कैग की रिपोर्ट में हुआ खुलासा। सैपल के तौर पर लिए गए 33 नगरीय निकायों के आडिट में सामने आई जानकारी। इन निकायों में जहां 2015-16 में बकाया राशि 121 करोड़ रुपये थी, वह वर्ष 2019-20 में बढ़कर 375 करोड़ रुपये हो गई।

नगरीय निकायों की आर्थिक स्थिति बिगड़ने की बड़ी वजह यह है कि वह जल शुल्क और संपत्ति कर की वसूली ही नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। यह जानकारी नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (सीएजी) की 2015-20 के बीच प्रदेश के 33 नगरीय निकायों के सैपल आडिट में सामने आई है। इसमें यह पता चला कि इन

पांच साल में नगरीय निकायों में जल शुल्क की वसूली 30 प्रतिशत से भी कम रही। इन निकायों में जहां 2015-16 में बकाया राशि 121 करोड़ रुपये थी, वह वर्ष 2019-20 में बढ़कर 375 करोड़ रुपये हो गई।

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि पांच साल के भीतर ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन पर 297 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए गए, लेकिन इसके लिए सिर्फ भोपाल और ग्वालियर नगर निगम ने ही कर लगाकर चार करोड़ रुपये संग्रहित किए। नगरीय निकायों की आर्थिक हालत खराब होने एक वजह यह भी रही कि वे जल शुल्क का समय-समय पर पुनरीक्षण नहीं कर रहे हैं। सेवा शुल्क की वसूली भी तीन से 30 प्रतिशत तक ही हो रही है। संपत्ति कर की औसत वसूली भी 60 प्रतिशत रही है।

वैट और जीएसटी का सही आकलन नहीं होने से 1465 करोड़ कम मिले

रिपोर्ट में सामने आया है कि राज्य सरकार ने जीएसटी और वैट का सही आकलन नहीं किया, जिससे निकायों को 1465 करोड़ रुपये की राशि इन पांच साल में कम जारी की गई। राज्य वित्त आयोग के गठन में देरी के चलते भी नगरीय निकायों की आर्थिक स्थिति खराब हुई है। छठे वित्त आयोग के गठन का समय होने के बाद भी निकायों को राशि का हस्तांतरण तीसरे आयोग की सिफारिशों के अनुसार किया गया।

241 मोबाइल टावर मिले अवैध

रिपोर्ट में सामने आया है कि 30 शहरी निकायों में स्थित 1328 मोबाइल टावरों में से 241 टावर अवैध थे। इसके बाद भी संबंधित निकायों द्वारा इनके नियमितीकरण और जुर्माना लगाने के संबंध में कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की गई। इसके अलावा 334 टावरों की लाइसेंस अवधि समाप्त हो गई थी, लेकिन इनके नवीनीकरण की प्रक्रिया शुरू नहीं की गई।

यह सिफारिशें कीं

- शहरी स्थानीय निकायों को निधियों का स्थानांतरण राज्य वित्त आयोग की सिफारिशों के अनुसार किया जाना चाहिए।

- निकायों में मिलने वाले शुल्क और कर की वसूली की निगरानी और बेहतर करनी चाहिए, जिससे समय पर वसूली हो सके।

- सीवरेज और ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन व्यवस्था को और बेहतर करने की जरूरत है। <https://www.naidunia.com/madhya-pradesh/bhopal-mp-news-urban-bodies-are-able-to-collect-less-than-30-percent-water-charges-in-the-state-7817628>

## 5. MP

**News: चार साल में 115 बाघों की हुई मौत, कान्हा टाइगर रिजर्व में सर्वाधिक 30 प्रकरण (naidunia.com) SEPTEMBER 16, 2022**

टाइगर स्टेट मध्य प्रदेश में 2014 से 2018 के बीच 115 बाघों की मृत्यु हुई। इसमें सर्वाधिक 40 बाघों की मृत्यु आपसी संघर्ष के कारण हुई। बिजली के करंट से 16 बाघ और 21 तेंदुओं की मृत्यु हुई। बाघ संरक्षण के लिए दिसंबर 2007 से न तो बांधवगढ़ और न ही पन्ना टाइगर रिजर्व में कोई योजना थी। कान्हा, पेंच और बांधवगढ़ टाइगर रिजर्व में से किसी ने भी विशेष बाघ सुरक्षा बल की स्थापना नहीं की। यह बात भारत के नियंत्रक महानेखापरीक्षक (कैग) ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कही, जिसे गुरुवार को विधानसभा में पटल पर रखा गया।

मध्य प्रदेश में वन्यप्राणी संरक्षण और वन्यप्राणी रहवासों के सतत प्रबंधन पर कैग ने रिपोर्ट तैयार की है। इसमें बताया गया कि 2018 की बाघ गणना में बाघों की संख्या में 71 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई और ये देश में सर्वाधिक 526 हो गए। दो बाघों को ओडिशा के सतकोशिया टाइगर रिजर्व स्थानांतरित करने से पहले नए स्थल पर सुरक्षा उपायों को सुनिश्चित नहीं किया गया। इसके कारण एक बाघ का नुकसान हुआ और दूसरा भी नए स्थल पर परिस्थितियों को अपना नहीं सका। हालांकि, संजय और पन्ना टाइगर रिजर्व के साथ नौरा देही अभयारण्य में बाघों का स्थानांतरण सफल रहा। 2014 से 2018 के बीच 115 बाघ और 209 तेंदुओं की मृत्यु हुई। 80 बाघों के मृत्यु प्रकरण प्रतिवेदित किए गए। कान्हा और बांधवगढ़ टाइगर रिजर्व में बाघों की मृत्यु दर सर्वाधिक रही। हालांकि, बाघों के संघर्ष को वन विभाग ने जुलाई 2021 में दिए उत्तर में बाघों की संख्या में 71 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि और बाघ पारिस्थितिकी में आपसी संघर्ष को सामान्य व्यवहार बताया है।

आपसी संघर्ष में सर्वाधिक मृत्यु

रिपोर्ट में आपसी संघर्ष में बाघों की सर्वाधिक मृत्यु की बात सामने आई है। कान्हा टाइगर रिजर्व में सर्वाधिक 21, बांधवगढ़ में 12, पेंच में पांच, पन्ना टाइगर रिजर्व में एक बाघ की मृत्यु आपसी संघर्ष में हुई। बीमारी से बांधवगढ़ में 3, कान्हा और पेंच में एक-

एक बाघ की मृत्यु हुई। जबकि, शिकार या जब्ती के 16 प्रकरण सामने आए। इसमें बांधवगढ़ में पांच, कान्हा में चार, पेंच में तीन और पन्ना टाइगर रिजर्व का एक मामला शामिल है।

बाघों से संघर्ष में 12 तेंदुओं की मृत्यु

प्रदेश में 2014 से 2018 के बीच 209 तेंदुओं की मृत्यु हुई। इसमें 12 तेंदुओं की मृत्यु बाघों के साथ संघर्ष और 22 की बीमारी, डूबने, प्राकृतिक या अज्ञात कारणों से हुई। सात तेंदुओं की मृत्यु सड़क एवं रेल दुर्घटना के कारण हुई। इसमें सर्वाधिक चार प्रकरण औबेदुल्लागंज वनमंडल में सामने आए। कैग ने इस बात पर भी आपत्ति उठाई कि माधव राष्ट्रीय उद्यान के दो प्रकरणों में दो तेंदुओं की मृत्यु की सूचना वन विभाग के अधिकारियों को नहीं दी गई। फोरेंसिक रिपोर्ट प्राप्त किए बिना ही एक मामले में मृत्यु का कारण प्राकृतिक बताकर उसे समाप्त कर दिया।

### यह अनुशंसा की

- शिकार और मौतों की उच्च घटनाओं के लिए सुरक्षा उपाय अपनाने हाट स्पॉट की पहचान करना चाहिए।  
- विशेष बाघ संरक्षण बल की स्थापना की प्रक्रिया में तेजी लाना चाहिए।

- पर्यटन से संबंधित गतिविधियां और बुनियादी ढांचे ऐसे हों, जिससे जंगली जानवरों और रहवासों की भलाई में बाधा न आए।

- बाघ संरक्षण योजनाओं और प्रबंध योजनाओं की प्रत्येक गतिविधि पर राशि के आवंटन और उपयोग की निगरानी के लिए तंत्र स्थापित किया जाए। <https://www.naidunia.com/madhya-pradesh/bhopal-mp-news-115-tigers-died-in-four-years-maximum-30-cases-in-kanha-tiger-reserve-7817590>



**6. Is there any parallel authority inquiring into SWD encroachment issue: HC to BBMP ([thehindu.com](http://thehindu.com)) UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 16, 2022**

**Court also wants to know from BBMP whether CAG has given any report on SWDs**

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday asked the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) whether any parallel authority was inquiring into the issue of encroachments of storm water drains (SWDs) in the city and if there was any stay order against removing encroachments.

Also, the court wanted to know from the BBMP counsel whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has given any report on the SWDs of the city.

A division bench comprising acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty posed these questions orally while adjourning further hearing on the issues of SWDs and pothole repair works till Friday to enable the BBMP counsel to seek instruction from the officers on these queries.

The High Court has been monitoring the issues related to SWDs, lakes and potholes through various petitions over the few years.

Number of encroachments

**Details of SWD encroachments as of September 13, 2022\***

Zones/Areas	Number of encroachments identified	Number of encroachments removed in 2016-17	Number of encroachments removed in 2018-19	Number of encroachments removed between Aug. 30 and Sept. 13, 2022	Remaining encroachments to be removed
East	237	3	124	0	110
West	71	11	1	1	58
South	20	0	0	0	20
Koramangala valley	10	7	0	0	3
Yelahanka	588	215	277	11	85
Mahadevapura	1,101	98	867	48	88
Mahadevapura-New	45	0	0	0	45
Bommanahalli	276	40	210	4	22
Bommanahalli-New	66	0	0	0	66
R.R. Nagar	47	38	0	3	6
Dasarahalli	165	16	23	2	124
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,626</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>1,502</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>627</b>

\* Data submitted by the BBMP to the High Court of Karnataka

It has been stated in the report that the BBMP undertakes work of desilting of SWDs from time to time and 2,626 encroachments of SWDs were identified during 2016-17 by conducting surveys. While 428 of these encroachments were removed in 2016-17, 1,502 encroachments were cleared in 2018-19 and 69 encroachments were removed between August 30, 2022 and September 13, 2022. The process is underway to remove the remaining 627 encroachments, the report stated.

### **Sluice gates**

On proposal to install sluice gates in lakes to manage water flow, the BBMP has said that process to prepare a details project report is under way besides seeking the assistance of the Minor Irrigation Department of the Government, which has installed maximum number of sluice gates to the lakes in Chikkaballapura district.

### **Pothole filling**

On pothole filling work, the report stated that there were 2,231 major potholes as on September 14, and of these 2,010 potholes have been repaired, and the process of filling 221 potholes is under way.

The report also said that citizens grievance redressal cell in the wards have been set up and the details of these cells were notified through publications in the newspaper giving names and contact numbers of the engineers besides providing these details in the official website of the BBMP. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/is-there-any-parallel-authority-enquiring-into-storm-water-drains-encroachment-issue-hc-to-bbmp/article65895184.ece>

## **7. Karnataka HC to BBMP: Is parallel authority enquiring into SWD encroachments? ([newindianexpress.com](https://www.newindianexpress.com)) 16 September 2022**

BENGALURU: The Karnataka High Court on Thursday asked Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) whether removal of encroachments has been stayed, and if any parallel authority is enquiring into the storm water drain blockage issue.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S Vishwajith Shetty, which issued directions recently to the state government and BBMP for clearing encroachments on storm water drains and preventing dumping of any kind of waste into such drains, asked BBMP these two questions during the hearing of a public interest litigation.

Seeking response from the BBMP on the CAG report on the rajakaluve issue, the court adjourned the hearing to Friday. This was after BBMP informed the court that it is in the process of removing the remaining 627 encroachments on rajakaluves, of the total 2,626 encroachments identified during 2016-17.

BBMP filed a statement before court that out of 2,626 encroachments, BBMP removed 428 encroachments in 2016-17, 1,502 encroachments in 2018-19 and 69 encroachments between August 30, 2022, and September 13, 2022. Thus, as on September 13, 2022, the BBMP has removed 1,999 encroachments.

“BBMP has taken all measures to ensure free flow of rainwater by clearing blockages and undertaken desilting of storm water drains from time to time,” BBMP told court. In

compliance with the directions of the court, BBMP informed that it has set up a Citizens' Grievances Redressal Cell in all the wards to address problems arising due to unprecedented rain.

Meanwhile, BBMP informed the court that it has identified 2,231 major potholes as on September 14, 2022, and of which, it has filled up 2,010 potholes. Pointing out that cement blocks are being used to fill potholes, the court observed that it is very unfortunate that residents themselves are found filling potholes in some parts of the city.

Expertise sought

It was also stated before the court that in order to implement its proposed plan to install sluice gates to lakes in the city to avoid floods during the rainy season, the chief engineer of BBMP (Lakes) on Tuesday wrote to the Secretary of the Minor Irrigation Department requesting their expertise and also consultants who have worked on installation of sluice gates. The letter was written after it came to know that the irrigation department installed maximum number of sluice gates for lakes in Chikkaballapura

district. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bengaluru/2022/sep/16/karnataka-hc-to-bbmp-isparallel-authority-enquiring-into-swd-encroachments-2498716.html>

## **8. Govt ignoring CAG report on sewage: Krishna Byregowda ([newindianexpress.com](https://www.newindianexpress.com)) 16 September 2022**

BENGALURU: Amid the issue of encroachments on 'rajakaluves' creating havoc in Bengaluru, Congress MLAs K J George and Krishna Byregowda raised the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) report on sewage water being released into Storm Water Drains (SWDs), in the assembly on Thursday.

There were stringent rules that apartments should have their own Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) as sewage cannot be released into SWDs, but many are violating it, alleged George.

Krishna Byregowda criticised the government, saying it had not gone through the CAG report as Law Minister J C Madhuswamy has advised the House not to discuss the issue of sewage water being released into SWDs, with the apprehension that it may attract the attention of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). "But the CAG has documented and tabled a report," he pointed out.

He took a dig at the BJP for blaming the havoc on previous Congress governments, despite the fact that the BJP and JDS have ruled the state for 24 years since 1983. He reiterated that the Congress, during the Siddaramaiah government, had cleared encroachments on a 400km stretch out of 805km, and even the BJP government's record of clearing them on 33km was planned during that regime. "The BJP, which should have continued the operation, has diverted Rs 1365 crore set aside for other works," he said.

George held CM Basavaraj Bommai's hectic schedule responsible for ignoring Bengaluru's issues, saying he had himself held the Bengaluru in-charge post. "When B S Yediyurappa was chief minister, things were different, with Katta Subramanya



Naidu and R Ashoka responding quickly. I am not saying Bommai is not capable, but time is a constraint for him,” he explained.

### **COCOON REELERS HIT**

Taking up the rain havoc issue, Ramanagara MLA Anita Kumaraswamy revealed that her assembly segment was worst hit, with corpses rising to the surface in a graveyard at Maralavadi. “The Silk City was affected with water gushing into cocoon reeler factories. Some bridges collapsed, cutting off connection to several villages,” she said, and insisted that silk cocoon reelers be given compensation and loans at zero per cent interest to reconstruct their business. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2022/sep/16/govt-ignoring-cag-report-on-sewage-krishna-byregowda-2498731.html>

### **9. ‘BJP govt developed only 63 km SWDs in three years against requirement of 400 km’ ([thehindu.com](http://thehindu.com)) UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

#### **Govt. diverted funds earmarked for storm-water drains towards development of minor roads: Krishna Byre Gowda**

Accusing the BJP government of going slow on the development of storm-water drains (SWDs) in Bengaluru that resulted in flooding of several areas during the recent rains, Congress member Krishna Byre Gowda on Thursday alleged that the government had actually diverted funds earmarked for construction of SWDs to other minor works.

“The BJP dispensation was able to complete development of only 63 km of SWDs in Bengaluru in the last three years as against the requirement of developing about 400 km. Such lethargic progress is the main reason for the recent flooding of the city,” Mr. Gowda said, while participating in a debate in the Assembly on the problems of people due to recent heavy rains.

#### **₹350 cr. Diverted**

“The government has diverted around ₹350 crore from the ₹1,321 crore that had been earmarked for development of SWDs,” he alleged, adding that money was diverted towards taking up development of small roads in the city.

He explained that a total of 400 km of SWDs had been developed in Bengaluru till 2018-19 (before the BJP came to power). But from then, the BJP had been able to develop only 63 km of SWDs though it had to develop another 400 km to insulate the city from floods, he said.

Pointing out that Karnataka in general and Bengaluru in particular had been receiving heavy rains in the last four years, Mr. Gowda argued that the government should have anticipated rains this year too and taken up development of SWDs well in advance to prepare for any eventuality.

#### **CAG report**

Referring to the statement of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai that the government would get details on the SWDs in Bengaluru, Mr. Gowda said already the CAG had mapped the SWDs in the city and also published them in its report that had been tabled

before the State Legislature. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/bjp-govt-developed-only-63-km-swds-in-three-years-against-requirement-of-400-km/article65895802.ece?homepage=true>

## **10. Govt loses over Rs 1,160 crore revenue ([meghalayamonitor.com](http://meghalayamonitor.com)) Sep 16, 2022**

Shillong: The state government has lost over Rs 1,160 crore in revenue owing to underassessments and other factors, according to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report for the revenue sector till March 31, 2020.

“Test check of the records... during the year 2019-20 revealed underassessments/short/non-levy/loss of revenue amounting to Rs 1,166.89 crore (which is 48.19% of the state’s own tax revenue for 2019-20) in 498 cases,” the report stated.

The CAG report pointed out that the revenue earning departments had weak internal controls to detect the anomalies. In fact, “there was no system in place to actively exchange information and coordinate amongst the departments for cross-verification of records to detect illegal transportation of minerals, evasion of royalties, excise duties etc.”. <https://meghalayamonitor.com/govt-loses-rs-1160-crore-revenue/>

## **SELECTED NEWS ITEMS/ARTICLES FOR READING**

### **11. IAF planning to lease airborne early warning aircraft to plug capability gaps ([indiatoday.in](http://indiatoday.in)) September 16, 2022**

Amid delays in the procurement of airborne early warning systems, the Indian Air Force (IAF) is planning to lease such aircraft to bridge its capability gap.

The IAF has five airborne warning aircraft, three Israeli-origin Phalcon airborne early warning and control systems and two homegrown Netra AEW&C planes.

“The adversaries, including China and Pakistan, have several such aircraft. Pakistan alone has 12 of these planes acquired from Sweden and China. The Chinese Air Force has a large number of similar planes and can cover their borders with India conveniently,” government sources told India Today.

Though India has five systems and other surveillance planes of the Indian Navy, the task of 24x7 surveillance on both fronts is becoming a bit challenging, they said.

The sources said the IAF might try to lease these planes from global manufacturers if someone is willing to, as only a few countries can produce such systems.

The Indian Air Force has got a programme with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), which is turning six Airbus 320 planes into AWACS, but the project would take some time to get completed.

Meanwhile, the leased aircraft are planned to be used until the IAF gets new planes and aircraft from indigenous sources. <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/indian-air-force-to-lease-airborne-early-warning-aircraft-drdo-indigenous-aircraft-2000891-2022-09-16>

## **12. NGT directs UP govt to pay Rs 120 crore as environmental compensation ([financialexpress.com](https://www.financialexpress.com)) September 15, 2022**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Uttar Pradesh government to deposit an amount of Rs 120 crore as environmental compensation for improper management of liquid and solid waste.

A bench headed by chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel held the state accountable for discharging at least 55 million litres per day (MLD) of untreated sewage into drains, rivers and other water bodies.

“From the report filed on behalf of the state, it is not clear as to the number of industries for whom a Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) is planned and the water quality does not show positive results after bio-remediation work,” the bench, also comprising Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert members A Senthil Vel and Afroz Ahmad, said.

The bench pointed out that water pollution continues and the issue is “at the planning stage in crucial aspects”.

It held that the liability of the state government for the discharge of 55 MLD sewage into rivers in and around Gorakhpur was at the rate of Rs 2 crore per MLD.

“We determine the liability of the state of Uttar Pradesh for the discharge of 55 MLD sewage into rivers at Gorakhpur at Rs 110 crore. Further, for failure to process solid waste, on scale applied in other cases, compensation is to be fixed. As per information given during the hearing, the unprocessed legacy solid waste is 3.8 lakh MT at two sites. Applying the scale of compensation followed in the case of Maharashtra, compensation comes to Rs. 11.4 crore, which is rounded off at Rs 10 crore. Thus, the total compensation is determined at Rs 120 crore,” the bench said.

The bench directed the state government to deposit the compensation within a month in a ring-fenced account under the control of the divisional commissioner, Gorakhpur.

It also directed the constitution of a six-member joint committee for planning and execution of remedial measures to meet the norms, preferably within six months, failing which further compensation could be levied.

“The steps will include operationalisation of CETPs, interception and diversion of drains to the respective Sewage Treatment Plans (STPs)...maintaining floodplain zones of rivers, lakes in question and also Ramgarh Tal, preventing encroachment, ensuring plantation and desilting of the Tal and other associated activities,” the bench said.

Additionally, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Board could jointly carry out field investigation on commissioning and

utilisation of CETPs, along with evaluating the functioning and performance of the STPs, the bench added.

“An action-taken report may be filed with the registrar general of this tribunal within six months...,” it said.

The bench was hearing a petition seeking remedial action against contamination of water bodies and groundwater because of the discharge of untreated sewage and industrial effluents, especially in the Ramgarh Lake and the Ami, Rapti and Rohani rivers in and around Gorakhpur district.

In its last hearing on March 30, the tribunal had reviewed the progress and said there was a serious failure on the part of the authorities as regards controlling water pollution. <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/ngt-directs-up-govt-to-pay-rs-120-crore-as-environmental-compensation/2668724/>