

Hindustan Times- 01- March-2023

Water supply hit in some areas as pollution in Yamuna rises

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NEW DELHI: Parts of the Capital were without water supply or received low pressure supply for the third day in a row due to the combined impact of low water levels in the Yamuna River and high levels of ammonia in the raw supply. Water output at the Wazirabad water treatment plant has reduced by at least 30%, as compared to the 15-20% recorded on Monday, according to Delhi Jal Board (DJB) officials.

"Normally, the Wazirabad water treatment plant supplies 134.5MGD (million gallons per day) to its catchment areas but production is running at 83 MGD," said the water production report issued on Tuesday.

As on Tuesday, water level at Wazirabad barrage, which

serves parts of north, south and central Delhi, was 671.8 feet against the normal levels of 674.5 feet, said DJB officials.

Water levels in the river have been dropping since Saturday. The Yamuna witnesses frequent spells of low water levels during the summer months.

Moreover, ammonia levels recorded at Wazirabad barrage were at the 3ppm level -- more than 2ppm above the maximum limit that can be treated by the Wazirabad water utility.

DJB's plants can treat up to 1ppm levels of ammonia in raw water, but chlorination beyond this limit leads to production of toxic chloramine compounds. "Ozonation plants are being set up to increase treatment capacity to 4ppm," said another DJB official, asking not to be named.

For the past several years,

Delhi has blamed Haryana for releasing untreated industrial pollutants in the river along the Panipat industrial area, but the Haryana government has denied this charge.

MP Singh, a resident of south-west Delhi's Najafgarh, said on Tuesday that Vijay Park has not got water for the past 24 hours.

Rohit Tomar, a resident of north-east Delhi's Bhajanpura, said their neighbourhood has not got water supply since February 26. "Even the helpline numbers and emergency numbers are not working," Tomar said. Sourav Thakur, a resident of south-west Delhi's Mahavir Enclave, said block C in his neighbourhood has not got water for more than two days.

DJB had issued an advisory on Sunday for the areas where water supply would be affected.

The Statesman- 01- March-2023

Gomti water level drops, Lucknow faces crisis

SNS & AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, 28 FEBRUARY

Early onset of summer has led to a drop in the water level of Gomti river to 1.4 feet below the normal 346.7 feet due to the extreme weather.

No winter rains and unusually high temperatures in February are being cited as reasons. According to officials, the normal level is the "intake point" below which the Jal Sansthan pumping station at Gaughat water works cannot draw water to supply it to many areas of the Old city. Sources said that the situation may lead to a drinking water crisis in the state capital, if the river is not provided fresh supply from Sharda canal by the irrigation department in the next six days.

According to the Jalkal department, the water level has reached 345.3 feet at Gaughat pumping station - the level the river reach-



es usually in May.

Due to drop in water level, the Jalkal department had to cut water supply for half an hour in the morning and evening in Aminabad, Aishbagh, Nakhas, Rakabganj, Naka, KKC, Lalbagh, Latouche Road last week.

Thereafter, some quantity of water was released from the canal by the irrigation department that is being used.

Prof Dhruven Singh, a geologist at Lucknow University who has done extensive work on the Gomti, said that there are three main reasons behind this. "The first reason is no winter rains this year, the second is the extreme-

ly hot February and the third is the widespread withdrawal of groundwater," he said.

"The river originates from Gomat Taala in Pilibhit and is a groundwater fed river that is enriched with rainwater. Since, this year, all three factors were adversely affected, water level went down," he said.

He further stated, "We cannot control rain or weather conditions, so groundwater extraction should be controlled, and rain water harvesting should be done in every household. If remedial steps are started today, it will take at least two years to restore normalcy." The temper-

ature in February, this year, has remained 2 to 5 degrees Celsius higher than normal and there has been 73 percent reduction in winter rainfall.

According to a senior official at the School of Earth Environmental Sciences (SEES), BBAU, global warming could be the reason behind meteorological anomalies.

"If we follow the meteorological department's '100 Year Rainfall Series', which was released a few years back, we will find that the rainfall in the upper basin of the Gomti has decreased for the last 20 years. As a result, the tributaries have dried up, but people kept extracting groundwater. All this is slowly drying up the river," he said. Ram Kailash Gupta, general manager, Jalkal department, said, "We are in talks with the irrigation department to release 100 cusecs of water per day from Sharda to Gomti soon to meet the crisis."

Business Standard- 01- March-2023

NHPC's ₹32K-cr hydel project near China border gets Centre's approval

RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

28 February

The government approved its largest ever hydropower project in Arunachal Pradesh bordering China as India seeks to build renewable generation to meet rising power demand.

The government approved the estimated investment of ₹31,900 crore for the 2,880-megawatt Dibang project, state-run hydropower producer NHPC said Monday. The project is estimated to take nine years to build.

India has classified

hydropower as renewable energy and sees it as key in its transition away from coal to help manage the fluctuations caused by intermittent solar and wind supplies.

However, the large-scale environmental damage and dislocation of communities to construct dams has hampered those plans, with local protests delaying projects and adding to construction costs.

Dibang, which will be built over more than 5,000 hectares (12,360 acres) of forest land, faces similar risks, according to

Himanshu Thakkar, coordinator for nonprofit South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People. The company's nine-year timeline is optimistic

when accounting for potential delays because of local protests and geological difficulties, he said. "The cost is going to be much higher and benefits much lower," Thakkar said. "There's really no viability for such projects."

The approved investment includes ₹6,720 crore of government support for flood

moderation and enabling infrastructure, such as roads and bridges connecting the construction site.

NHPC didn't respond to an email seeking comments.

Several other projects in the Himalayan region are running years behind their original schedule, with some blamed for loosening the earth and forcing local evacuations.

"The Himalayan region is such a disaster-prone area and every such project is going to act as a force-multiplier for potential disasters," Thakkar said.

BLOOMBERG



The Economic Times- 01- March-2023

'Ganga, Brahmaputra Ready for Goods and Services Movement'

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Dibrugarh: Ganga and Brahmaputra river channels are ready for large-scale movement of goods and services according to the Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal.

Speaking to **ET** on the sidelines of a ceremony to mark the arrival of the MV Ganga Vilas, tourist vessel, Sonowal said that the focus is on developing the economic potential of the Brahmaputra river.

The vessel completed the world's longest river cruise in Dibrugarh (Assam) on Tuesday. He said the successful completion of the river cruise from Varanasi to Dibrugarh is a reflection that the waterway is primed for goods and passenger movement. Sonowal said that the Brahmaputra river will unlock the economic potential of the North Eastern re-



Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways

gion of the country by providing easy and speedy access to goods and services in the region.

According to Sonowal, it has been established that the Brahmaputra is feasible as a navigational channel with no dearth of depth across the river. This is what allowed the large cruise vessel to move comfortably.

(The reporter is in Dibrugarh at the invitation of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways)

Navbharat Times- 01- March-2023

लगातार सूखने से यमुना में बढ़ा अमोनिया का स्तर

■ विस, नई दिल्ली: होली से पहले ही राजधानी में पानी का संकट गहराता जा रहा है। अभी तक यमुना के जलस्तर में कमी की वजह से ही पानी सप्लाई में परेशानी आ रही थी। अब पानी की कमी की वजह से यमुना में अमोनिया का स्तर भी बढ़ गया है। ऐसे में वजीराबाद वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट की क्षमता अब 30 प्रतिशत तक कम हो गई है। पिछले तीन दिनों से यह

दिल्ली के कई इलाकों में पानी की सप्लाई भी हुई प्रभावित

15 प्रतिशत कम क्षमता पर काम कर रहा था। इसकी वजह से राजधानी का एक बड़ा हिस्सा पानी की समस्या से जूझ रहा है। हालत इसलिए भी गंभीर हो रही है, क्योंकि गर्मी बढ़ने के साथ ही पानी की डिमांड भी हर दिन बढ़ रही है। इस समय पानी की डिमांड करीब 900 एमजीडी है। जबकि दिल्ली जल बोर्ड 830 से 850 एमजीडी पानी की सप्लाई कर पा रहा है।

दिल्ली जल बोर्ड से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार हरियाणा की तरफ से यमुना में औद्योगिक कचरा छोड़े जाने और नदी में बहाव कम होने की वजह से अमोनिया बढ़ा है। डीजेबी की टीम अमोनिया की समस्या को कम करने की कोशिश कर रही हैं। इसके लिए अन्य सोर्स से मिल रहे पानी को मिलाकर वजीराबाद तलाब पर पानी को पतला किया जाता है।