

The Times of India- 19 - February 2024

Why 75% of Delhi's STPs aren't ready to tackle Yamuna stink

THREAT TO YAMUNA

Photo: Tarun Rawat

- Absence of disinfection system at STPs leads to retention of fecal coliform
- Fecal coliform (FC) is found in excreta that contaminates water through untreated sewage. Maximum 2,500, desired 500 MPN/100ml
- The higher the level of FC, the higher the presence of disease-causing pathogen in water
- Disinfection at STPs is done through chlorination, or ozonisation, or ultraviolet treatment – a facility absent at most of the places in the city



Untreated sewage in Yamuna

- Delhi has 36 sewage treatment plants
- Only nine have disinfection system, of which four are

- functioning partially
- Net sewage generation in city | **792 MGD**
- Total sewage being treated

- | **550 MGD**; about 30.6% of sewage untreated
- The sewage – treated or untreated -- flows to Yamuna

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New Delhi: Despite treatment, about 75% of the sewage treatment plants (STP) being operated by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) are terribly failing to get even close to treating the e-coli form or fecal coliform which represents the presence of raw sewage and excreta in the water.

According to the sources and reports with **TOI**, this is because the STPs have no facility for bacterial disinfection through either chlorination, UV treatment or ozonation, despite a previous NGT order.

The sewage, post treatment, is released further in the river Yamuna thus keeping it polluted and stinky, even as not all the sewage being generated in the city could be so far channelised for treatment. The STPs are thus able to treat some of the effluents and help improve the sewage quality by treating Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Oil and Grease and other nitrates and phosphates, but unable to treat the bacteria, which thereby flows unabated to the river or for whatsoever purpose the treated sewage water is diverted, primarily for horticulture purposes.

So far Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has 36 functional STPs of which only nine have installed devices to cater bacterial disinfection, however most of them are very small STPs like – Molarband (0.66 MGD), Chilla (9MGD), CWG Village (1 MGD). Of nine proper STPs disinfecting bacteria, about four are doing it partially or upto a certain capacity,

the big STPs with proper system installed includes a new STP at Okhla (capacity 30MGD) and a 45 MGD Kondli Phase IV STP.

However, for the rest of the plants, the fecal levels despite primary treatment – through oxidising chambers which releases oxygen in the sewage and help improves some effluents including BOD – is alarmingly high.

According to the Bacteriological analysis reports with **TOI**, the fecal coliform levels at the outlet of one such major STP throughout

So far, Delhi Jal Board has 36 functional sewage treatment plants, of which only nine have installed devices to cater bacterial disinfection. However, most of them are very small STPs

Jan 2024 was 14,00,00,00,000 (one hundred and forty crores) MPN/100ml, while at other it was 24,00,00,00,00,000 (twenty four thousand crores) MPN/100ml, and 46,00,00,00,00,000 (four hundred and sixty crores) MPN/100ml (most probable numbers per 100 ml of water) at a third STP.

There are about 28 such STPs with similar results, releasing this water into the river or diverting elsewhere. According to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), for the river Yamuna (though not the STP) the desirable limit for fecal coliform is

500MPN/100ml, while maximum permissible is 2500 MPN/100ml. Another DPCC's analysis report showed that the fecal coliform level in the river Yamuna for the month of Jan ranged between 400 (at the entry post confluence of Najafgarh drain) to 3,10,000 MPN/100ml.

However, the bacteriological analysis reports also show that installation of bacterial disinfecting units may resolve most of the Yamuna's problems originating within Delhi. One of the STPs, which had the disinfection system installed, had successfully treated the coliform levels from a raw sample of 24,000,000,000,000,000 (24 quintillions (2.4million trillions or 24×10^{18}) MPN/100ml to 1.8 to 2400 MPN/100ml throughout the month of Jan.

Earlier this year, the high level committee (HLC) on Yamuna, which is led by Delhi's Chief Secretary, had noted that there was a gap of 227 million gallons per day (MGD) between installed capacity and actual treatment, which mean at least 227 MGD of raw sewage is anyways flowing into the river with all its untreated fecal coliform, metals, BOD, COD, TSS etc. The committee had thus set new deadlines to meet the gap.

In the same meeting, the HLC had specifically pointed out that the STPs in their performance results were "not providing data on the fecal coliform".

The officials from Delhi Jal Board however did not respond to the **TOI**'s query on why the sewage was not being disinfected at about 75% of its STPs.

The Times of India-19 - February 2024

Hry agrees to supply water to Raj districts: Union min Shekhawat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TOI

Jaipur: Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that an agreement has been reached between Rajasthan and Haryana, resulting in the supply of drinking and irrigation water to the districts of Churu, Jhunjhunu and Sikar.

Shekhawat held a meeting with chief minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar at the Jal Shakti office in Delhi on Saturday. Both the CMs have agreed to distribute water from Hathnikund Barrage in Haryana through underground pipes. In the meeting, the MoU was signed by Bhajan Lal Sharma and Khattar with Shekhawat on the sharing of water.

"A time of four months has been fixed for the completion of DPR. The Central Water Commission and the Upper Yamuna River Board will monitor the project. The meeting has resulted in a strong step towards a concrete and permanent solution to the issue that has been stuck for two decades between the two states," said the minister. Bhajan Lal, while speaking to media, said, "It was a long-pending scheme that was not given due attention because of the Congress government.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat & Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar at Jal Shakti Office in Delhi on Saturday

Since we have a double-engine government, the project of providing water to lakhs of people has seen the light of day."

The official statement says that Rajasthan and Haryana will jointly prepare the DPR. "Over 577 MCM of water will be made available to Churu, Sikar, Jhunjhunu, and other districts of Rajasthan. The duration is between July and October, through underground pipes. The supply of water in the remaining months will also be considered depending on the availability of the water."

Three water storages, Renukli, Lakhwar, and Kishau, have been identified in the Upper Yamuna Basin, from which water will be provided to Rajasthan from Hathnikund for a stipulated period.

The Hindu-19 - February 2024

'Murky' water and a health crisis

The death of a 17-year-old girl and the hospitalisation of over 120 people due to suspected water contamination last week has turned the focus on lack of access to clean water and sanitation in several parts of Andhra Pradesh's Guntur city. While authorities scramble to address the health emergency, medical experts sound the alarm and emphasise the urgent need for preventive measures, writes **M. Sambasiva Rao**

After the death of her father two months ago due to a stroke, 17-year-old Maddela Padma bravely stepped into the role of breadwinner, working as a daily wage labourer, to support her mother and five younger siblings in Sarada Colony, a densely populated slum in Guntur city of Andhra Pradesh. On February 10, the teenager developed sudden health complications.

"For two days, she had terrible motions and vomiting," says Katamma Maddela, Padma's mother, who thought her daughter would feel better eventually. She has been bedridden for the past two months after a spinal surgery, so she could not do much to help her daughter. On the morning of February 10, Padma's condition deteriorated. "We shifted her to the Government General Hospital (GGH) with the help of our neighbours," she recalls. In a matter of hours, Padma died.

With Padma's passing, Katamma, who is in her 40s, finds herself at the intersection of grief and uncertainty. After her husband's death, her daughter took on two jobs: cutting the stalks of dried red chillies before they went to the mill to be pounded, and a cleaning job in the Railways, working for a third-party service provider. She now faces the daunting challenge of earning just



We are conducting house-to-house surveys to identify affected people, and are setting up health camps on a war footing. We are also collecting water and food samples for lab testing to ascertain the cause

KEERTHI CHEKURI
Municipal Commissioner,
Guntur

for her family to survive. Two of her younger daughters are still in school, studying in Class 1 and 5, while the other three children – another girl and two sons, all below 15 years – have dropped out of school. The ₹5 lakh ex-gratia that she received from the government following Padma's death will tide her over for a while.

Between February 10 and 13, as many as 120 people from different parts of the city, including Sarada Colony, were admitted at GGH Guntur. Hospital superintendent Y. Kiran Kumar says eight were critical. As the number of patients mounted, the hospital dedicated an ICU and a ward for them. "Since the incident happened over the weekend, some of the doctors were not available and the existing staff provided treatment to them," says Dr. Kiran Kumar.

He does wish that Padma had been brought in earlier though. "We may have been able to save her life," he says, adding that an autopsy report would confirm the reasons for her death.

Acknowledging that the situation could deteriorate, the administration set up emergency health camps. Scores of people – officials did not disclose the exact number – received treatment here and at health centres and private hospitals. All treatment was government-funded.

Struck by illness

Like most slums, the one in Sarada Colony, inhabited by about 1,500 people, is marked by congested houses, narrow roads, and a poor sewage and garbage disposal system. Outside Katamma's ₹2,000-per-month rented dwelling, the residents collect municipal water from a tap above a drain. They have set up a plastic drum by the roadside, using an extension pipe to collect water.

In Mallikharjunapet, an area of the city that badly needs a sanitation upgrade, Shaikh Nasar Vali says that his 73-year-old grandmother was admitted to GGH Guntur around 3 a.m. of February 12 following vomiting and diarrhoea. She has been receiving intravenous drips since while other members of his family were also showing similar symptoms, he adds.

"Several others from my colony have also been admitted to hospital. But the doctors are not responding adequately to the situation," Vali says, alleging that doctors and nurses were not giving enough information about the illness.

Lying on a bed adjacent to Vali's grandmother, Shaikh Mahaboob Johnny, a 48-year-old resident of Srinagar Colony in Guntur, says he was admitted to the hospital on February 10. "It started with loose motions and then I began vomiting. I had a sleepless night and got hospitalised the very next morning," he adds. Johnny shares that his son Amid, 25, also got sick but managed with medicines at home.

While a majority of people, including those affected and doctors, believe that water contamination triggered the health crisis, authorities of Guntur Municipal Corporation, the district administration, and experts at GGH are yet to confirm the reason for the sudden outbreak.

Government in action

Municipal Commissioner Keerthi Chekuri says that despite the cause being unknown, the civic body has initiated the process of collecting water



Grief-stricken: Family members of Maddela Padma, the teenager who died on February 10 at the Government General Hospital in Guntur. T. VIJAYA KUMAR

and food samples for laboratory testing.

"We are also conducting house-to-house surveys to identify affected people, and are setting up health camps on a war footing," she says. Preventive steps like creating hygiene awareness is also being carried out by ward volunteers.

Stating that they were waiting for the lab reports to reach a conclusion, Minister for Health, Medical and Family Welfare Vidadala Rajini also maintains that the focus is currently on preventive and control measures across the city and not

just at suspected hotspots. The maximum number of cases were reported



Several people from my colony, including my 73-year-old grandmother, were hospitalised following vomiting and diarrhoea. But doctors and nurses are not giving us enough information about the illness

SHAIKH NASAR VALI
A resident of Mallikharjunapet

urine, and blood samples of those affected will help analyse the disease and reasons for the health crisis," she asserts.

The government has deployed several health and ward secretariat staff, in addition to municipal employees, to conduct a family member health survey across all places in the city that saw incidents, the Minister adds.

M.T. Krishna Babu, Special Chief Secretary in the Health, Medical & Family Welfare Department, said last Monday that since the outbreak

was spread across the city, it was difficult for field staff to isolate a reason for the spread of symptoms.

Lathkar Shrikrish Balajirao, Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration, has instructed civic body officials to clean all drainage canals, repair water supply pipelines, and remove pipelines adjacent to drainage canals, during his field visit on Tuesday (February 13).

Guntur District Collector M. Venugopal Reddy says the government has been supplying water to affected areas through tankers, along with creating awareness about boiling water before consumption.

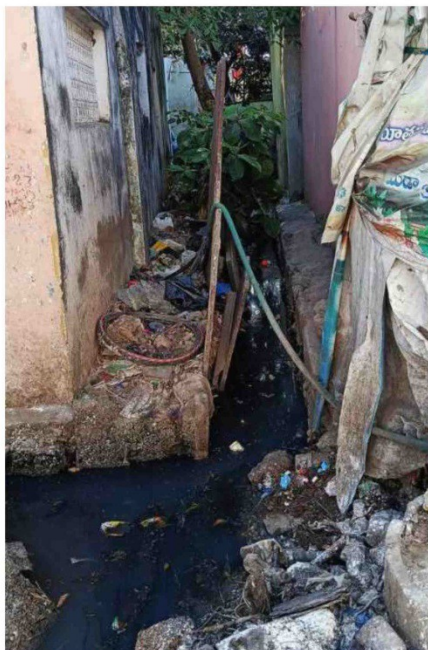
What microbiologists say

Some doctors suspect a cholera outbreak that is caused by contaminated water or food, with diarrhoea and vomiting being the main symptoms. The scientific way to investigate this is to get the stool sample examined under the microscope. If traces of *Vibrio cholera* bacterium are found, it can be broadly diagnosed as cholera, says P.V. Sudhakar, former Additional Director of Medical Education and former Principal of Andhra Medical College.

Microscopic examination takes a day, but sometimes, stool culture is necessary, as there may be sub-species, especially when there is a mass outbreak.

This process takes about three to five days, says K. Rambabu, Director of Visakh Institute of Medical Sciences. He adds that there is no need to panic, because with medicines, it can be treated in three to four days.

The vital aspect is to maintain electrolyte balance. "On one hand, we must ensure that the toxins are drained out of the body, and on the other, we inject electrolytes to maintain homeostasis," says Dr. Sudhakar. Personal hygiene is key – hands should be kept clean to avoid spread of germs, say doctors.



Unsanitary conditions: The open drainage located behind Maddela Padma's house at Sarada Colony in Guntur. T. VIJAYA KUMAR

Deccan Herald- 19 - February 2024

Act that affects water resources

In a regressive step, the amended Water Act exempts certain industries from effluent release norms

PANDURANG HEGDE

The Lok Sabha in its last session passed the Water Amendment (Pollution and Prevention) Act 2024. It has amended many clauses of the original Water Act of 1974, which was the first pioneering legislation to protect the water resources of the country.

During the discussions, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said, "It is geared towards ease of doing business, and it does not protect industries but helps to generate employment opportunities and that people must be taken along and must be inspired to make progress." The new Act, he said, will also lead to greater transparency in dealing with various issues related to water pollution.

Water is a common property resource that needs to be harnessed with great care. India has 17% of the world's population and only 4% of the freshwater resources. Thus it becomes more imperative to conserve, protect and stop those activities that lead to the destruction of this precious, scarce resource.

According to the NITI Aayog, the water crisis in the country is more threatening than is perceived and fulfilling the water needs for the rising population and meeting the needs of industries and agriculture is going to be the biggest challenge.

Is this new Act an improvement over the half-century-old Act of 1974? Does this address the concerns outlined by the governmental think tank? Will the provisions of the Act deter the polluting units that lead to the death of the living ecosystem of free-flowing water in the rivers?

The Act of 1974 laid the foundation for the institutional framework of establishing a Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) to monitor and prevent contamination of public water resources like rivers from sewage and industrial effluents. The role of the CPCB is to collect data and set technical standards to monitor water pollution while SPCBs enforce compliance with penalties and imprisonment of up to six years for serious violations.

These pro-active provisions of the Act were negated by the government by denying autonomy to the CPCB or SPCBs, low grants to implement the legal proceedings and lack of human resources to monitor the large scale of polluting units that came with industrialisation. The

failure of the Act is visible across the country when we see the rivers that have been turned into sewers.

According to the CPCB, 46% of the 603 rivers in the country remained polluted in 2022. The Jal Shakti Ministry admitted in the Lok Sabha that the second-most polluted river is Sabarmati, in Gujarat, hailed as a model of development for the entire country. The most polluted is Cooum in Tamil Nadu. Irrespective of the political ideology of state governments, the Water Act of 1974 has failed to address the issue of pollution and contamination of freshwater resources in the country.

Logically, the amendment should have addressed these challenges and incorporated provisions to deter any further degradation of water resources. Unfortunately, the Water Act of 2024 has not only diluted the provisions but also has taken away the autonomy of the state government by introducing a clause to override the decisions of the SPCBs in specific cases.

The most regressive element of the amended Act is exempting certain industries from discharging waste water and doing away with imprisonment for violations and imposing fines from Rs 10,000 to Rs 15 lakh. Thus anyone can get away with discharging effluents into the river after paying a fine! In fact, during the five decades the old Act was in existence, there was not a single case of imprisonment for violations.

In a landmark judgement in the Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Vs State of Haryana, the Supreme Court said that "water is a gift of nature, human hand cannot be permitted to convert this bounty into a curse".

Recent amendments to the Forest Conservation Act and Water Act dilute the legislation favouring industries with the sole objective of 'ease of doing businesses'. It has a profound impact on the lives of millions of people and other forms of life.

Ironically, the whole country witnessed the *pran pratishtha* ceremony performed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, whereas there was no coverage when his own government enacted an Act that led to *pran dand* or death penalty to destroy life-giving water!

We need to heed the advice of Gandhi who said, "The earth, the air, land, and the water are not an inheritance from our forefathers but on loan from our children. So we have to hand over to them at least as it has been handed over to us."

Are our government and people willing to follow this advice or do they want to live in the illusion that these Acts are really for the betterment of the larger society?

(The writer is a farmer and Uttara Kannada-based environmentalist)

Mint- 19 - February 2024

Govt sharpens groundwater monitoring, impact on food output feared

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NEW DELHI

The Centre is looking to revamp its approach to groundwater management, a senior government official said, as the nation faces the critical challenge of falling groundwater levels that threaten agricultural productivity.

The government aims to expand the network of monitoring wells to 90,000, including through 40,000 digital water level recorders (DWLRs) across the country. This move is designed to

enhance data quality and the frequency of groundwater analysis as it shifts to a more efficient six-hour data capture cycle.

At present, the department of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation has 26,000 monitoring stations and 67,000 monitored wells across the country.

It also has about 6,000-8,000 piezometers (used to measure underground water pressure), but none of them have digital water level recorders.

India is one of the world's biggest crop producers and more than half of its 1.3 billion



The government aims to expand the network of monitoring wells to 90,000. MINT

people rely on agriculture for their livelihoods.

The groundwater that makes up 40% of the country's water supply and is crucial for

agriculture has been steadily depleting for years.

Researchers estimate that the groundwater level will likely decline at 3.26 times

current rates on an average between 2041 and 2080, from 1.62-4.45 times now, depending on climate and other factors.

A 2021 study found that the overuse of groundwater could cause winter harvests in some regions to fall up to two-thirds by 2025.

It could also result in a reduction in food crops by up to 20% nationwide and up to 68% in regions projected to have low future groundwater availability in 2025.

"We are planning a few things... We are heavily investing in technology, and digitisation of the groundwater

monitoring mechanism is on our radar," the government official cited above told *Mint*.

As it stands, the Central Ground Water Board and state governments agencies collaborate to periodically assess the country's groundwater resources.

A 2022 assessment showed the annual extractable groundwater resource at 398 billion cubic meter (BCM).

Further, the annual groundwater extraction for all use cases was at 239.16 BCM, out of which 87% was utilized for agricultural activities.

The availability of groundwater resource and its extrac-

tion depend on several factors such as the intensity and period of rainfall, geological strata of the region, the number of existing recharge structures, extraction for purposes like industrial application, drinking/domestic use and irrigation.

According to the UN World Water Development Report 2022, India was among 10 countries with the highest share in global groundwater withdrawal in 2017.

Queries sent to the spokesperson and the secretary of the department of water resources remained unanswered at press time.

Millenniumpost-19 - February 2024

Delhi records max temp of 26.5 deg Celcius, rain likely today

NEW DELHI:The national capital on Sunday recorded a maximum temperature of 26.5 degrees Celsius, two notches above the season's average, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The humidity level oscillated between 100 per cent and 31 per cent during the day.

The IMD has forecast partly cloudy and misty conditions in Delhi on Monday morning, with minimum temperature likely to settle at 9 degrees Celsius and maximum at 27 degrees Celsius.

The weather department has also predicted rain or thundershowers with gusty winds on Monday and generally cloudy skies and moderate rain on Tuesday and Wednesday.

AGENCIES

The Hindu Business Line- 19 - February 2024

Stopping water from going down the drain

LIQUID ASSET. Start-ups are leading the way with AI and IoT being leveraged to ensure we don't run out of this precious natural resource

—
Preeti Mehra

That water is a precious resource we must conserve is a truism no one will contest. But in the context of global warming, climate change, frequent droughts and uncertain weather patterns, the use of water has acquired new dimensions. It encompasses a range of necessary action including saving our rivers and water systems. Crucially, it also involves effectively plugging leaks in distribution networks to reduce water loss and managing used water by treating it so that it becomes potable or usable and does not literally go down the drain.

The importance of saving water and used water management in a country like India cannot be overstated. India accounts for 2.45 per cent of land area and 4 per cent of water resources of the world but represents about 18 per cent of the

world population. According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) figures, 72,368 million litres per day (mld) of sewage was generated in urban areas in India in 2020-21. Currently, the installed sewage treatment capacity is 31,841 mld while the operational capacity is 26,869 mld. In effect, only 28 per cent is treated while the rest is released in rivers, lakes and aquifers leading to deterioration of water quality.

Luckily the uphill effort to save water is being sharpened by cutting-edge technology such as IoT and AI. Many start-ups have sprung up in India with new innovations and solutions to save, recover and rejuvenate water. A push to such efforts was given three years ago by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), which announced the 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-Up Challenge.' As many as 76 start-ups have been selected for the challenge.



PLUG LEAKS... in distribution networks to reduce water loss

THE WATER WARRIORS

The private sector is also providing the nudge. The HCL Group has a global programme that it partners with UpLink, the open innovation platform of the World Economic Forum. With a \$15 million investment over five years, the Aquapreneur Innovation Initiative selects promising start-ups and helps them scale up their innovation in management and conservation of freshwater.

Among the winners last month was the Indian venture SmartTerra that provides AI-powered analytics software to reduce water losses in city-scale and built environment networks. "SmartTerra makes finding a needle in the haystack easy," says Gokul Krishna Govindu, CEO of the company. He explains that the AI-powered tools help to quickly spot leaks across thousands of kilometres of underground

networks and that without AI, this would be a time-consuming effort.

The analytics also help utilities identify faulty metres and connections with anomalous consumption patterns. Currently, SmartTerra has been engaged by L&T in Pune to provide water loss analytics. In the pilot phase, SmartTerra managed to reduce water losses from 55 per cent to 32 per cent.

Boson Whitewater from Bengaluru is using AI and IoT to convert water from sewage treatment plants (STPs) into potable water. The company, which was among the 76 that won the MoHUA challenge, works with high rise apartments, malls and IT Parks to repurpose water from their STPs for drinking, household chores and centralised air conditioning.

Founded by Vikas Brahmar and Gowthaman Desingh, the technology involves a 11-stage filtration sys-

tem designed in sequence to reduce physical, chemical and biological contaminants in treated wastewater. The Boson IoT platform collects system parameters such as water pressure, its quality and quantity from the fully automated Boson Whitewater (BWW) System. This helps in scheduling predictive maintenance.

Technology is also helping to reduce water usage. Air India recently introduced 'Aerowash', a device for washing the exterior of its aircraft. It is a waterless process using a robotic-like micro-fibre brush drum for cleaning. The volume of clean water saved in a year is 30,000 litres for every narrow-body aircraft and about 75,000 litres for every wide-body aircraft.

With India thirteenth among the world's 17 most 'extremely water-stressed' countries, such innovative solutions are urgently needed. Water is a resource that cannot be wasted.

Hindustan- 19 - February 2024

नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल में दिल्ली जल बोर्ड की ओर से पेश हलफनामे में खुलासा, जलस्तर में भी बढ़ोतरी छह साल की कोशिशों से दिल्ली में भूजल दोहन 20 फीसदी कम

रिपोर्ट

प्रभात कुमार

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली सरकार द्वारा किए जा रहे प्रयासों के चलते भूजल दोहन में सुधार आया है। दिल्ली में पिछले छह साल में भूजल दोहन में करीब 20 फीसदी की कमी आई है। हालांकि, राजधानी में अभी भी राष्ट्रीय औसत से अधिक भूजल का दोहन हो रहा है। नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल में दिल्ली जल बोर्ड की ओर से पेश एक रिपोर्ट में यह खुलासा हुआ है।

भूजल दोहन का राष्ट्रीय औसत 59.26 फीसदी है और दिल्ली में 99.13 प्रतिशत हो रहा है। एनजीटी के न्यायिक सदस्य जस्टिस बृजेश सेठी और विशेषज्ञ सदस्य ए. सेंथिल वेल की पीठ के समक्ष जल बोर्ड ने रिपोर्ट दाखिल की है, जिसमें कहा कि वर्ष 2017 की तुलना में 2023 में राजधानी में भूजल दोहन में 20 फीसदी की कमी आई है। 2017 में 119.61 फीसदी दोहन हो रहा है, जबकि 2023 में 99.13 फीसदी

119.61

फीसदी भूजल दोहन 2017 में हो रहा था, इसके बाद इसे रोकने के प्रयास शुरू हुए

99.13

प्रतिशत भूजल 2023 में हुआ, यानी इसमें काफी हद तक गिरावट दर्ज हुई है

59.26

फीसदी राष्ट्रीय औसत है और राजधानी में 99.13 प्रतिशत हो रहा है

सभी शिकायतों पर जल्द कार्रवाई के आदेश

जल बोर्ड ने गणेश प्रसाद नाम व्यक्ति की ओर से दाखिल याचिका पर एनजीटी द्वारा मांगे गए जवाब में यह रिपोर्ट पेश की है। याचिका में चाणक्यपुरी इलाके में एक आरओ प्लांट द्वारा अवैध रूप से लाखों लीटर भूजल के दोहन का आरोप लगाते हुए कार्रवाई करने की मांग की थी। एनजीटी ने जल बोर्ड, प्रदूषण नियंत्रण समिति, राज्य भूजल प्राधिकरण और जिलाधिकारी की संयुक्त समिति का गठन करते हुए याचिका का निपटारा कर दिया। साथ ही, समिति को याचिकाकर्ता की शिकायतों पर कार्रवाई करने का आदेश दिया है।

हुआ। जल बोर्ड ने केंद्रीय भूजल बोर्ड की 'डायनामिक ग्राउंड वॉटर असेसमेंट ऑफ इंडिया- 2023' की रिपोर्ट का हवाला देते हुए एनजीटी को यह जानकारी दी है।

भूमिगत जल की स्थिति में सुधार हुआ : जल बोर्ड ने कहा कि दिल्ली में भूमिगत जल की स्थिति में सुधार

हुआ है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, कुल वार्षिक भूजल पुनर्भरण (रिचार्ज) में भी बढ़ोतरी हुई है। 2017 में 0.32 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर भूजल का पुनर्भरण हो रहा था, जबकि 2023 में बढ़कर 0.38 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर हो गया।

जल बोर्ड ने रिपोर्ट में भूजल

पुनर्भरण की स्थिति में सुधार लाने और भूजल के अवैध दोहन को रोकने के लिए अपनी प्रतिबद्धता जताई है। दावा किया कि आने वाले वर्षों में इसमें और सुधार होगा, क्योंकि इसके लिए बड़े स्तर पर काम चल रहा है। इसका फायदा आने वाले लोगों को मिलने की उम्मीद है।

ये काम किए

झीलों और तालाबों का कार्याकल्प

जल बोर्ड के मुताबिक, वह 64 जलाशयों को पुनर्जीवित करने का काम कर रहा है। इनमें से 39 जलाशयों के कार्याकल्प कार्य पूरा हो चुका है और 25 जल निकायों के लिए शीघ्र ही निविदा आमंत्रित की जाएगी। तिमारपुर ऑक्सीडेशन तालाब, द्वारका, पप्पनकला, रोहिणी, निलोटी में जल निकाय के निर्माण, रोशनारा झील के पुनरुद्धार का काम चल रहा है।

शोधित जल का खेती के लिए इस्तेमाल

रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि सिवर के शोधित जल का खेती व अन्य कार्यों के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है। सिंचाई विभाग, बिजली संयंत्रों और सीपीडब्ल्यूडी को सिंचाई व अन्य उद्देश्यों के लिए लगभग 120 एमजीडी शोधित जल की आपूर्ति की जा रही है। अगले साल इसे बढ़ाकर 210 एमजीडी करने का लक्ष्य है, ताकि खेती व अन्य कार्यों के लिए भूजल का इस्तेमाल न हो।

वर्ष जल संचयन

स्कूल, कॉलेज सहित सरकारी विभागों की इमारतों पर करीब 8793 वर्षा जल संचयन उपकरण लगाए गए हैं।



नक्सल प्रभावित क्षेत्र में अटक रहा काम

चार साल में 563 में से सिर्फ 27 गांव तक पहुंच रहा जल

बीजापुर/भोपालपटनम @ पत्रिका. जिले में प्रधानमंत्री की महत्वपूर्ण योजना जल जीवन मिशन का कार्य कछुआ गति से चल रहा है। पूरे जिले में टारगेट का पांच प्रतिशत से भी कम काम हुआ है। जिले के चार ब्लॉकों में 563 आबाद गांवों हैं। जिनमें जल-जीवन मिशन योजना के तहत 563 गांवों में नल कनेक्शन लगाने के कार्य था। जिसमें अब तक 27 गांवों में जल आपूर्ति की जा रही है। बाकि 377 गांवों में कार्यों का आदेश जारी हुआ है। इन सभी गांवों में हर घर पानी की योजना का कार्य बहुत ही धीमी गति से चल रहा है। चार सालों में जिले के आबाद गांवों में हर घर तक नलो के जरिए पानी पहुंचना था मगर ऐसा नहीं हुआ है। बीजापुर जिले के चार ब्लॉक में भोपालपटनम 128, उसूर 121, बीजापुर 95, भैरमगढ़ 219, गांवों में कनेक्शन लगने हैं। 563 गांवों में 27 गांव में पूर्ण रूप से नल जल योजना चालू हो चुकी है। इस काम को 2020 में चालू किया गया था इसका टारगेट मार्च 2024 को पूर्ण करना था लेकिन यह नहीं हो सका है। अब तक केवल पांच प्रतिशत ही काम हुआ है। कई गांवों में सोलर पम्प के माध्यम से घर तक पानी पहुंचाने की योजना केंद्र सरकार ने बनाई है मगर वह भी अधूरी है। क्रेडा विभाग को 1,7782.62 लाख रु सोलर पैनल

लगाने के लिए दिए गए हैं। कार्यालय के जानकारी के अनुसार भोपालपटनम ब्लॉक में इंद्रावती नदी से इन 17 गांवों में फिल्टर युक्त पानी पहुंचाया जा रहा है जिसमें भोपालपटनम नगर पंचायत, अर्जुनली, मम्मिड़गुड़ा, पेद्दामाटूर, चेरपल्ली, मोदकपल्ली, भट्टिगुड़ा, तिमेड़, रामपुराम, भट्टपल्ली, गुलपेटा, उल्लूर, चन्दनगिरी, सांझापल्ली, गोल्लागुड़ा, चिल्लामरका, गोटाइगुड़ा, रुद्राराम शामिल हैं।

नक्सल भय से टेंडर लेने कतरा रहे ठेकेदार

180 गांवों के लिए छः से सात बार निविदा निकाली गई है। मगर इस कार्य को लेने कोई इच्छुक नहीं है नक्सल प्रभावित क्षेत्र होने की वजह से यह कोई भी ठेकेदार रुचि नहीं दिखा रहे हैं। रोड की साइड वाले काम को ठेकेदार लेकर काम कर रहे हैं मगर अंदरूनी क्षेत्र टेंडर निकलकर निरस्त हो रहे हैं।

जिले में कुल 563 आबाद गांव हैं, हर घर में नल-जल देना है। काम थोड़ा धीमे चल रहा है। ठेकेदारों को नोटिस भी जारी कर रहे हैं। अति संवेदनशील क्षेत्र होने के कारण टेंडर के लिए ठेकेदार रुचि नहीं दिखा रहे हैं। अभी 180 गांवों में टेंडर प्रक्रिया चल रही है। दिसम्बर 2024 तक पूरा करने का टारगेट है।

डीसी नारनोरे, ई. पीएचई बीजापुर