

Only 7 of 24 Delhi drains trapping sewage: CPCB

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NEW DELHI: Sewage is trapped and diverted in only seven out of the 24 major drains in Delhi, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has said, adding that effluents continue to enter the Yamuna from the remaining drains.

The central pollution board also said that only two of the 36 sewage treatment plants (STPs) that it had monitored were found complying with the norms that was laid down, adding that a deterioration in water quality beyond Wazirabad was due to a lack of fresh water reaching the river.

CPCB made the observations in a report dated December 6 submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Delhi has missed multiple deadlines over the years to trap its drains and connect them to STPs.

The government did not respond to HT's query on the report.

On October 17, NGT had directed CPCB to submit a detailed report before it on sta-

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tus of the Yamuna clean-up, and on how sewage treatment plants were faring, as part of the case Nizamuddin West Association Vs Union of India & Ors.

In its report, CPCB said the seven drains that trapped sewage and were connected to STPs were the Sweeper Colony drain, Magazine drain, Khyber Pass drain, Metcalf drain, Tonga Stand drain, Civil Mill drain, and Sarita Vihar drain. Two drains — Old Agra canal and Drain No 14 — did not have any sewage flowing.

"In six drains, namely Sonia Vihar drain, ISBT drain, Delhi Gate Drain, Sen Nursing Home drain, Barapullah drain and Maharani Bagh drain, the work

for interception and diversion of sewage is under progress. In three major drains, namely Najafgarh, Supplementary, and Shahdara drains, work of interception of sub-drains is also under process," it said, adding that the reason behind a polluted Yamuna was this sewage ending up in the river.

"During the month of April to June 2023, of the 36 STPs monitored by CPCB in Delhi, only two — Coronation pillar-IV and Nilothi Phase-II were observed complying with norms..." the report said.

Experts said the sooner these drains are trapped, the sooner Delhi can see visible improvements in water quality.

"Until sewage continues to flow in, we cannot expect much of a change. We have already seen several deadlines being passed over the years. It is also important for the river to have an environmental flow which naturally sustains the river and cleanses it, which is currently lacking," said Bhim Singh Rawat, a Yamuna activist, and member of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP).

The Indian Express — 08-December-2023

Most locations along Yamuna fail to meet water quality standards; Palla, Wazirabad two exceptions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

MOST LOCATIONS along the Yamuna in Delhi still fail to meet water quality standards, 11 months after a high-level committee was constituted by the National Green Tribunal to look into the rejuvenation of the river.

According to data submitted by the Central Pollution Control Board to the NGT, out of seven locations along the Delhi stretch of the river, water quality at only two locations (Palla and Wazirabad, near where the river enters Delhi) meet water quality criteria for outdoor bathing.

Dissolved oxygen — which is the quantity of oxygen dissolved in water, allowing the survival of aquatic life — is nil at four locations downstream of Wazirabad, the report submitted by the CPCB noted. “The reasons for deterioration of water quality of river Yamuna downstream of Wazirabad is due to non-availability of fresh water and discharge of partially treated wastewater from 18 drains into river Yamuna,” it added.

In October, while hearing a



Of the 24 drains in Delhi identified to be discharging wastewater into the river, seven have been tapped, meaning they carry their water to a treatment facility, says report. *File*

matter concerning pollution in the river, the NGT had asked the CPCB to verify the facts and figures disclosed in the reports placed on record by the states and authorities, and “file a comprehensive report reflecting correct position.”

Of the 24 drains in Delhi identified to be discharging wastewater into the river, seven have been tapped, which means that they carry their water to a treatment facility, so far, according to the report.

As for three of the city's large drains, the Najafgarh drain, the Supplementary drain and the

Shahdara drain, work on intercepting the sub-drains that meet them is underway, as per the report. Compared to data from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) on water quality of the Yamuna in October last year, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), which is the oxygen needed for organic waste to decompose, is lower at all seven locations this October. At ITO, for instance, the BOD in October last year was 53 mg/litre, according to the DPCC while it was 31 mg/litre in October this year, as per the CPCB's report.

Groundwater alarm

Ignoring overexploitation is fraught with risks

INDIA is the world's largest user of groundwater, exceeding the combined consumption of the US and China. Around 90 per cent of groundwater withdrawal is used for agriculture as surface water sources are insufficient. Some areas in the Indo-Gangetic basin have already passed the groundwater depletion tipping point, according to a new report by the United Nations. Environmental tipping points are critical thresholds beyond which ecosystems experience abrupt and often irreversible changes. The entire north-western region of the country is predicted to experience critically low groundwater availability by 2025. A study by a US university has warned that the rate of groundwater depletion in India could triple by 2080 if farmers continue to draw it at the current rate.

The findings on Punjab in a report of the Central Ground Water Board would not come as a surprise. It has categorised 114 of the 150 assessed blocks as over-exploited, three as critical and 13 as semi-critical. Only 20 are safe. The state has a whopping 13.94 lakh tube-wells and Punjab State Power Corporation Limited data suggests that the majority of these are located in districts with an overexploited water table. In Sangrur and Malerkotla, the extraction of groundwater is 164 per cent more than the recharge. Losing access to water poses a risk to the entire food production system, with global implications. The paddy-wheat cropping system is the main contributor to severe groundwater depletion, and there are limits to which irrigation efficiency can address the situation. Water-guzzling crops are simply unsustainable in the long run. Ignoring or resisting change is self-defeating.

Another alarming revelation is the detection of arsenic and fluoride in groundwater beyond the permissible limits for human consumption in various states. The contamination of groundwater needs to be dealt with urgently.

Times of India — 08-December-2023

Discharge of partially treated wastewater adds to river woes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Tarun Rawat

New Delhi: A report by Central Pollution Control Board has shown that the non-availability of freshwater and the discharge of partially treated wastewater from 18 drains into the Yamuna are the reasons for deterioration of its water quality downstream of Wazirabad.

The report, submitted to National Green Tribunal, said the water quality was poor in the Asgarpur-Hasanpur stretch in Haryana due to discharge of wastewater from Faridabad and Palwal. Wastewater from Ghaziabad, Noida and Greater Noida was impacting the water quality.

CPCB, which collected the water samples, told National Green Tribunal that of the 22 drains in Delhi, seven are found tapped and only four drains — Khyber Pass drain, Metcalf drain, Drain Number 4 and Barapulla drain — were observed to be complying with the general standards for discharge of environmental pollutants into the inland water surface under Schedule-VI of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986.

"Of the eight STPs monitored in Delhi, three — Kondli Phase-II, Kondli Phase-IV and Nilothi Phase-I — were seen to be complying with norms of the tribunal. Of these eight STPs, two were obser-



Early morning smog at Yamuna Ghat in Delhi on Sunday

ved to be complying to the discharge standards for bacteriological parameters such as fecal coliform," the report said. These were Kondli Phase-I and Pappankalan Phase-II STPs, monitored in Delhi.

The report added that of the 33 STPs monitored in Haryana, six — Dhanwapur-II (68 MLD); Badshapur in Faridabad (30 MLD), Sewah Road Phase-I, Sewah Road Phase-II, Jattal Road Phase-I and Jattal Road Phase-II — were seen to be complying to all norms. Of these 33 STPs, 11 were observed as complying with the discharge standards for fecal coliform.

In Uttar Pradesh, of the 10 STPs that were monitored, the Morty Rajnagar Extension STP was seen to be complying with discharge standards on physicochemical parameters, such as pH, bioche-

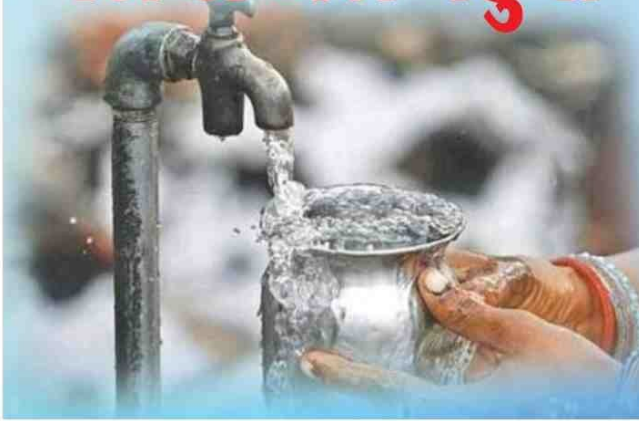
mical oxygen demand (BOD), suspended solids, chemical oxygen demand, ammoniacal nitrogen and phosphorous. Of the 10 UP STPs, two were complying to the discharge standards for fecal coliform, the report said.

"The water quality data for Yamuna for the Delhi stretch depicts that out of seven locations, only two at Palla and Wazirabad meet the primary water quality criteria for outdoor bathing, notified under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986," the report said.

Downstream of Wazirabad, "the water quality deteriorates". The dissolved oxygen is nil at four spots. At ISBT, ITO, Nizamuddin, Okhla U/S and Asgarpur, there is non-compliance on BOD, fecal coliform and fecal streptococci, the report added.

Rashtriya Sahara – 08-December-2023

70% ग्रामीण घरों में नल से जल पहुंचा



- भारत सरकार के जल जीवन मिशन के तहत ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के 70 प्रतिशत परिवारों को नल से पानी पहुंचाने के लिए कनेक्शन दे दिया गया है
- यह महत्वाकांक्षी योजना 2019 में नल के जरिए सभी घरों को सुरक्षित और पर्याप्त पेयजल पहुंचाने के उद्देश्य से शुरू की गई थी
- 2024 तक इस संकल्प को पूरा करने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है। जल जीवन मिशन के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, देश के 19,24,26,914 ग्रामीण परिवारों में से अब तक 13,47,50,894 घरों को नल से पानी का कनेक्शन प्रदान कर दिया गया है

(स्रोत : जल जीवन मिशन)