

Hindustan Times- 10- June-2023

# River pollution down after intervention: Yamuna panel

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

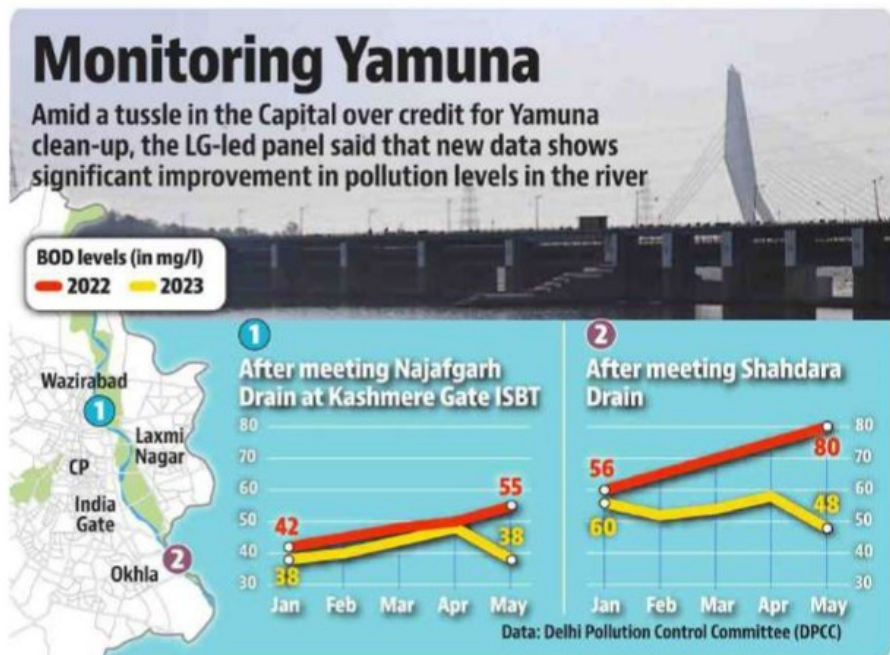
**NEW DELHI:** A high-level committee on Yamuna rejuvenation chaired by Delhi lieutenant governor VK Saxena on Friday said that pollution levels in the river have dipped over the last one year.

At a meeting, the committee, citing data by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), said that the biological oxygen demand (BOD) levels in the river measured at the ISBT Kashmere Gate ghat after the Najafgarh Drain meets the river showed that BOD dipped from 55 milligrams of oxygen per litre (mg/l) in May 2022 to 38mg/l in May 2023.

BOD is an indicator of pollution levels in water bodies and indicates the amount of oxygen required by aquatic life and organisms in the river in order to survive. The higher the BOD, the greater is this demand, which in turn means aquatic life is unlikely to survive. To be sure, BOD levels in a river should be 3mg/l or less, according to the Central Pollution Control Board standards.

The BOD concentration was also down by 40% at the point in the river just after it meets the Shahdara drain. In May this year, it stood at 48mg/l as against 80mg/l last year. Separately, the BOD level dipped by 37% in the Najafgarh drain, falling from 76mg/l in May 2022 to 38mg/l this year, according to DPCC data.

"In case of Yamuna, at ISBT, after the Najafgarh Drain meets the river, BOD levels that stood at 42 mg/l in January 2022, came



down to 38mg/l in January 2023. The figure for May 2022 stood at 55mg/l that came down to 38mg/l in May 2023. Similarly, in the Yamuna at the site after the Shahdara Drain meets the river BOD levels that stood at 60 mg/l in January 2022, came down to 56mg/l in January 2023. The figure for May 2022 stood at 80mg/l and came down to 48mg/l in May 2023," said HLC in a statement.

DPCC, which comes under the Delhi government, is responsible for collecting water samples from Delhi's drains, treatment plants

and ghats along the Yamuna on a monthly basis.

HLC on Yamuna rejuvenation was formed by the National Green Tribunal on January 9, 2023 for reviving the river, with the Delhi LG appointed as its chairperson for overseeing the progress of projects in this regard.

HLC monitors the rejuvenation of Yamuna under eight verticals — 100% treatment of sewage; trapping of all drains; construction of sewerage networks in unauthorised colonies and JJ clusters; industrial effluent man-

agement through CETPs; septage management; restoration and rejuvenation of Yamuna floodplains; utilisation of treated waste water; and environmental management plan of Najafgarh Jheel.

Delhi water minister Saurabh Bharadwaj claimed the LG was "stealing taking credit" for the work done by the state government. "A six-point plan to clean Yamuna was launched by CM Kejriwal in November 2021, much before Vinai Kumar Saxena was sent as the Hon'ble LG," said Bharadwaj.

Hindustan Times- 10- June-2023

# India can avoid 400k deaths if JJM meets target: WHO report

**Zia Haq**

zia.haq@htlive.com

**NEW DELHI:** India can potentially prevent nearly 400,000 deaths from diarrhoea and save about 14 million DALYs (disability-adjusted life years) from water-related ailments if it manages to achieve universal rural coverage under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), said a World Health Organization report commissioned by the government. One DALY represents loss of equivalent of one year of full health.

Coverage under the Jal Jeevan programme, which aims to connect each of India's 190.40 rural households with a functional tap-water connection by 2024, has so far reached 62.84%. Nearly 820 million people in 12 major river basins of country face "high to extreme" water stress, according to World Bank data. The piped water mission, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019, seeks to create sustainable infra-

structure for doorstep availability of drinking water in all rural households.

The WHO analysis focused on diarrhoeal diseases as they account for a majority of water and sanitation-related disease burden. The WHO report stated that in 2018, 36% of India's total population, including 44% rural population, lacked access to "improved drinking-water sources on their premises".

Consumption of unsafe drinking water had severe health and societal consequences, it said, adding in 2019, unsafe drinking water, along with inadequate sanitation and hygiene, is estimated to have contributed to 1.4 million deaths and 74 million DALYs globally. "Rural tap water connections increased from 16.64% in 2019 to 62.84% within 41 months, representing an average annual increase of 13.5%," said Vini Mahajan, secretary department of drinking water and sanitation.



The Times of India- 10- June-2023

# Yamuna Water Quality Improves, BOD Levels Dip By 31% In A Year

## LG Expresses Satisfaction At Work, Asks Depts To Ensure Coordination

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The quality of water in the Yamuna and the Najafgarh drain showed a consistent improvement in the last few months, the LG's office said on Friday, citing data from the monthly reports of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

As per the report, the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) level was down 40% in the Shahdara drain, 37% in the Najafgarh drain and 31% in the Yamuna near Kashmere Gate Inter-State Bus Terminal in May this year compared with the levels measured in the same month in 2022.

BOD is the amount of oxygen consumed in one litre of water by microorganisms while they oxidise the entire organic matter present in it at a specified temperature. Sewage can raise the BOD, which in turn indicates an inability of organisms to survive in the water.

As per the standard protocol of testing water samples

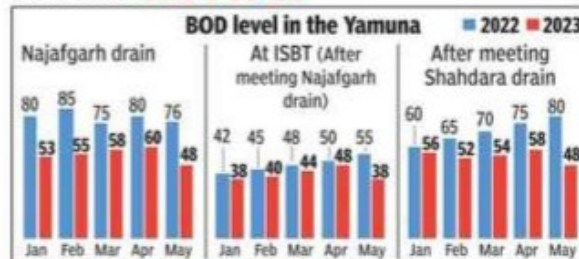
at different locations, BOD in the Najafgarh drain was 80 microgram per litre in January 2022, which decreased to 53 mg/l a year later. The same was registered at 76mg/l in May 2022 but declined to 48 mg/l in May 2023.

In case of the Yamuna, BOD at ISBT, after the confluence with the Najafgarh drain, was recorded at 42 mg/l in January 2022. This fell to 38 mg/l in January 2023. In May last year, the level was at 55 mg/l but came down to 38 mg/l a year later. Similarly, the BOD level after the fall of the Shahdara drain stood at 60 mg/l in January 2022 and 56 mg/l exactly a year later. It was 80 mg/l in May 2022 and slid to 48 mg/l in May 2023.

Officials said even during the intervening months of February, March and April, the figures for 2023 showed a decrease from those in 2022.

The data was shared at the fifth meeting of the high-level committee formed by the National Green Tribunal for the rejuvenation of the river under the chairmanship of

### SAVING THE RIVER



LG reviews the work done to clean the Yamuna

lieutenant governor VK Saxena. The LG reviewed the progress since the committee was constituted and perused

the action taken report of the previous four meetings.

"It was informed that ever since work on cleaning the

Najafgarh drain was started in August 2022 under the direct supervision of the LG, and cleaning operations in the Yamuna after the constitution of the high-level committee in January 2023, consistent improvement in the quality of water in the drain as well as the river was reported," the LG's office said.

Officials said the LG expressed satisfaction at co-ordinated efforts of the various stakeholder departments. "He has, however, cautioned the officials against complacency and reiterated that all timelines with regards to works must be met," said an official of the LG's secretariat.

The coordination had resulted in an impetus to setting up of sewage treatment plants and decentralised STPs, which had been pending for years due to land-related issues. "Of 29 such projects, 17 got land in the past one month due to the LG's intervention. The remaining are also expected to be sorted out soon," an official said.

The Times of India- 10- June-2023

# State awaits monsoon as water scarcity intensifies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** With not enough pre-monsoon rain and a delay in the onset of monsoon, water crisis has intensified in several districts of the state, especially in North Karnataka and the Malnad districts.

In some villages, hundreds of families have reportedly moved temporarily to other places to cope with the water crisis. There are also reports of schools, lodges, restaurants being closed due to shortage of water.

Every year, the monsoon reaches the state by the first week of June, but according to the latest forecast, this time around, the state will witness onset of monsoon only after June 10.

The extended dry spell has depleted reservoirs and forced some municipalities to cut supplies in order to ensure water lasts until the arrival of monsoon showers.

## CM TO DISCUSS DEATHS DUE TO WATER CONTAMINATION

Chief minister Siddaramaiah said Friday that he would hold a meeting with district officials and seek details about the reported incidents of deaths due to water contamination in Koppal recently. He held discussions with district officials to resolve the current water scarcity in various parts of the state and



directed them to ensure adequate supply of drinking water. On May 31, the CM had requested his Maharashtra counterpart Eknath Shinde to "direct the authorities concerned to immediately release 2 TMC of water from the Warna/Koyana reservoir to Krishna river and 3 TMC of water from Ujjani Reservoir to Bhima river.

According to reports, key reservoirs in the state were at 11% of their overall storage capacity on Friday, compared to 15% a year ago.

State governments have deployed water tankers to alleviate the problem in several villages, though people complain that the supply isn't enough. Women and children can be se-

en standing in queues for hours, waiting to collect water from the tankers or public taps.

Faced with acute water scarcity, protests have been staged and there are reports of even clashes breaking out between groups over water.

To make matters worse, the water level at Almatti Dam across Krishna River has de-

## TIMES VIEW

Despite the central and state governments launching projects worth crores of rupees, the situation over paucity of drinking water is only getting worse by the year, causing wide-ranging damages. Worse still, several villages in the state still lack access to safe drinking water. The recent deaths in Kalyana Karnataka region due to consumption of contaminated water are indicative of the scale of deprivations, that can also trigger various water-borne diseases. It's time for the authorities to address this crisis on a war-footing before it gets any worse.

pleted. As on date, the state has 3.3 tmcft of water. Officials say the reserves are enough to take care of drinking water requirements until only the second week of July.

Since Maharashtra too has not received enough pre-monsoon rain, there has been no inflow of water into Krishna from the neighbouring state.

## Water-rich districts like Malnad too struggling

Surprisingly, people from the water-rich Malnad districts, especially Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu, are also grappling with water scarcity this summer. "All borewells have dried up and even submersible pumps have failed, as the ground water level has depleted," an official said.

As the backwaters are drying up fast, services of barges to help visitors reach the pilgrimage centre of Siganduru across Sharavathi river will have to be withdrawn temporarily.

Tourists who wish to visit Sigandur Chowdeshwari temple from Shivamogga now need to travel 130 km via Hosanagara. Moreover, vehicles will not be allowed to be ferried on the barges because the water level at the banks is too low for such operations, the official added.



The Hindu- 10- June-2023

# Cauvery Authority to meet on June 16; Mekedatu dam may not be discussed

**T. Ramakrishnan**  
CHENNAI

The subject of the proposed Mekedatu dam may not figure at the Cauvery Water Management Authority's meeting to be held in New Delhi on June 16.

Indicating this, an official of the Tamil Nadu government referred to the decision taken by the Authority in December 2022 to take a "uniform stand" for discussions on Mekedatu and any other project in the Cauvery basin, till the Supreme Court gave its ruling on an application filed by Tamil Nadu last year on the Mekedatu issue.

The agenda for the meeting does not contain any reference to the project. The advent of the monsoon, the expected



Tamil Nadu has been consistently opposing any attempt by Karnataka to raise the Mekedatu issue.

pattern of rainfall and the likely flows in the Cauvery are among the topics that would be discussed.

According to the application filed by Tamil Nadu in court, the planning of the Mekedatu dam "was in gross violation" of the decision of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal of February 5, 2007, which was

affirmed by the Supreme Court on February 16, 2018.

Besides, the State had been consistently opposing any attempt by Karnataka to raise the issue. A year ago, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta gave his opinion in favour of the Authority discussing the project, after which the State

approached the court.

However, it remains to be seen whether Karnataka, where the Congress had assumed office last month, would avoid raising the Mekedatu issue, as the party had, in the run-up to the Assembly election, promised the people of the State that it would go ahead with the project.

## Shivakumar's reaction

About 10 days ago, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Major and Medium Irrigation D.K. Shivakumar, while responding to the sharp reaction of Tamil Nadu Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan to an earlier statement of his, said the people of Tamil Nadu should be "warm-hearted" on the issue.

The Indian Express- 10- June-2023

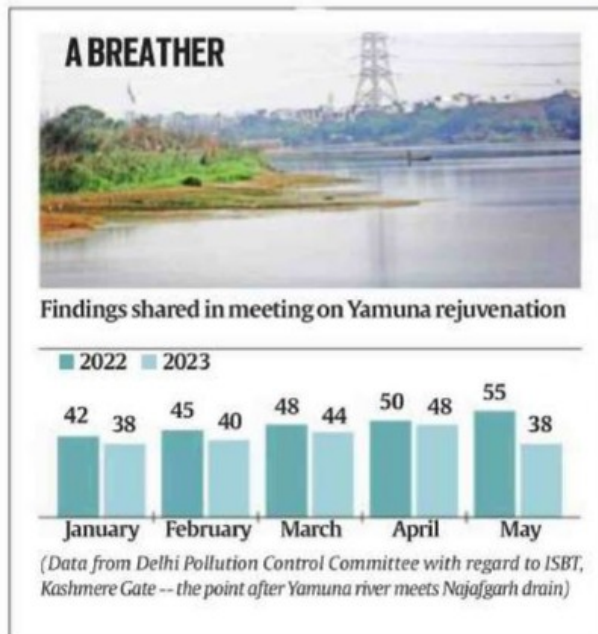
# Improvement seen in Yamuna, Najafgarh drain water quality as biochemical oxygen demand dips

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

WATER QUALITY in Yamuna is showing signs of improvement with the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) – the proportion of which determines the level of pollution in a water body – in the Najafgarh drain as well as in the river from the point where it meets the drain having fallen compared to last year, according to Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) figures presented at a meeting on Friday.

During the fifth meeting of the High-Level Committee for rejuvenation of the Yamuna, chaired by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, progress on work so far was reviewed. The committee was constituted on the orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in January.

According to a communication from the L-G's office, DPCC data shows that the BOD level in the Najafgarh drain, which was 80 mg/litre in January 2022, had dropped to 53 mg/litre in January 2023. Further, the figure that was 76 mg/litre in May 2022 had dropped to 48 mg/litre in May this year. With several other drains meeting the Najafgarh drain and the latter eventually



meeting the Yamuna near Wazirabad, ensuring clean water in the drain is crucial to keeping the river clean.

At ISBT Kashmere Gate, a location from where the DPCC draws water for testing after the Najafgarh drain merges into the river, the BOD level, which was 42 mg/litre in January 2022, had fallen to 38 mg/litre in January 2023, according to DPCC data presented at the meeting. In May, the BOD level in the river

at ISBT was 55 mg/litre in 2022 and 38 mg/litre in 2023.

A total of 17 projects for sewage treatment plants, out of 29 that were earlier held up due to non-availability of land, have now been allotted land by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the Revenue Department, according to the communication from the L-G's office.

When the NGT issued its order on pollution in the Yamuna

in January, it had said that the success of the committee would be viewed in terms of reduction of pollution load, adding the committee's targets should be measurable and identifiable. The tribunal's order had said that a pollution graph should be prepared on a quarterly basis with the goal of "substantial reduction" by July 1.

Rejuvenation of the Yamuna that is being monitored by the committee includes treatment of sewage and associated expansion of the sewerage network along with construction of sewage treatment plants, treatment of industrial effluents, restoration of the floodplains and management of the Najafgarh jheel.

Timelines on work must be met and seamless inter-departmental coordination is to be ensured, Saxena told officers, according to the communication issued by his office after the meeting.

According to the final report of the erstwhile Yamuna Monitoring Committee submitted in 2020, "improvement in the quality of river water is linked to the twin factors of maintaining a minimum flow of fresh water and reduction in the discharge of polluted water, both domestic and industrial, joining the river."



The Tribune- 10- June-2023



CM Manohar Lal unveils the biennial Integrated Water Resources Action Plan in Chandigarh on Friday.

# State plans to cut water deficit by 50% in 2 years

To meet twin challenges of depletion, waterlogging

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 9

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar today launched the biennial Integrated Water Resources Action Plan (2023-25), under which four major departments have a target of reducing water deficit by 50 per cent in two years. "The plan aims to meet the twin challenges of water depletion and waterlogging," said Khattar.

Holding a press conference, Khattar said the total water availability of the state was 20,93,598 crore litres, whereas the total water demand is 34,96,276 crore litres, making a water deficit of 14 lakh crore litres.

"All water-related departments have come forward and taken the responsibility to conserve water through various demand and supply side interventions. This would save around 6.97 lakh crore litres (49.7 per cent of water deficit) of water in the next two years," the CM added.

The Chief Minister said the maximum amount of water was used in agriculture and horticulture sectors.

As per the plan, 3.14 lakh acres of land would be covered under crop diversification, saving 1.05 lakh crore litres (7.6 per cent) of water. Direct seeding of paddy would be done on 4.75 lakh acres and save 1.18 lakh crore litres (8.4 per cent) of water. Also, 27.53 lakh acres will be

## WATER RESOURCES ACTION PLAN LAUNCHED

Total availability	21 lakh crore litres
Water demand	35 lakh crore litres
Water deficit	14 lakh crore litres

## DAMS TO ENSURE REGULATION

Three dams — Renuka, Lakwar and Kishau — were being built so as to ensure the regulation of water. With the construction of these dams, the water needs of the state would certainly be addressed, said the Chief Minister.

## TAPPING SMALL SOURCES

Plans are being made to explore the utilisation of small sources of water. Dams will be constructed and plans will be formulated to ensure how this water can be utilised for local use.



Manohar Lal Khattar, CHIEF MINISTER

brought under conservation tillage to save 0.51 lakh crore litres (3.7 per cent).

Further, 0.47 lakh crore litres (3.4 per cent) would be saved by using high varieties of seeds on 3.49 lakh acres, 0.35 lakh crore litres (2.5 per cent) would be saved by using green manure on 9.73 lakh acres and 0.27 lakh crore litres would be saved by covering 0.43 lakh acres under natural farming.

Similarly, Irrigation Department, Public Health Engineering Department, Panchayats Department (including Ponds Authority and Rural Development) and others (PWD, ULB, Forest, Education (Higher, Technical and Secondary) have also taken measures

for water conservation.

The CM said 'Reduce, Recycle and Reuse' should be their focus as they move towards water management and conservation. He said at present, 250 cusec water was being given to Delhi as per the Supreme Court orders. In the coming times, the water need was certainly going to increase, hence dedicated efforts were being made to ensure that proper management of water with optimum use, recycling, and reuse was done, he added.

Khattar said the SYL was a pivotal issue for Haryana and Punjab. "We are hopeful that this issue will soon be resolved. Construction of SYL is not in our hands," he added.

Deccan Herald- 10- June-2023

## K'taka submits revised Mahadayi proposal to Forest ministry

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Karnataka has submitted a revised proposal to the National Wildlife Board seeking approval for the Mahadayi project.

Besides, the state government also submitted a revised proposal to the Union Ministry of Forests and Environment seeking permission to divert

26.92-hectare forest land for non-forest purposes.

Though the Karnataka Irrigation Department had earlier submitted these proposals, the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests had sought details from the Karnataka government about mitigation measures.

The Ministry also asked the state about the details of alternative land for afforestation if forest land diversion is allowed for the project.

The state government last year submitted a revised proposal for the Mahadayi project involving the diversion of Mahadayi river water through Kalasa and Banduri Nala. The project received approval from the Central Water Commission last year.

The government plans to divert 33.05 hectares of forest land in Kanakumbi and surrounding areas in Khanapur taluk of Belagavi district to construct a diversion weir.

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Amar Ujala- 10- June-2023

# एसवाईएल पर पंजाब की हठधर्मिता जारी, शीर्ष कोर्ट ही करेगा फैसला

केंद्रीय मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत बोले-यमुना पर बनेगा सीवर वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट  
संवाद न्यूज एजेंसी

सिरसा। केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत ने कहा कि सतलुज यमुना लिंक नहर (एसवाईएल) का मामला सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में विचाराधीन है। इसलिए उस पर वह ज्यादा टिप्पणी नहीं करेंगे। मगर हरियाणा और पंजाब के बीच सचिव और मुख्यमंत्री स्तर पर बातचीत हुई है। पंजाब सरकार अपनी बात पर अड़ी हुई है। इस बारे में अदालत को अवगत करवा दिया गया है। अब फैसला सर्वोच्च न्यायालय को ही करना है।

गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत सिरसा में पत्रकारों से बातचीत कर रहे थे। वह केंद्र सरकार के नौ साल पूरे होने के उपलक्ष्य में आयोजित कार्यक्रमों में शिरकत करने पहुंचे थे। महिला पहलवानों के विवाद पर उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार इस संवेदनशील मामले को लेकर गंभीर है। केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह और



खेल मंत्री अनुराग ठाकुर महिला पहलवानों से अलग-अलग बात कर चुके हैं, खेल में राजनीति के कारण ही इस प्रकार के संकट पैदा होते हैं। इस संवेदनशील मामले को निपटाया जाएगा। पुलिस अपनी जांच कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि यमुना नदी गंगा की सहायक नदी है। यमुना पर एशिया का सबसे बड़ा सीवर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट स्थापित किया जाएगा और पानी को शुद्ध करके रिफाइनरी या कृषि उपयोग में लाया जाएगा। इस पर प्रक्रिया चल रही है।