The Hindu Business Line - 12- January-2024

Water level drops for 14th week in a row

RISING CONCERNS. Storage in 34 of 150 reservoirs slips below 40%; South may face problems with rabi rice, pulses

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

The water level in the 150 major Indian reservoirs declined for the 14th week in a row with the storage in South India dropping to below 40 per cent.

Odisha joined the list of States with storage being lower than normal to raise the total to 11, while the number of reservoirs where the water level is below 40 per cent of the capacity increased to 34 from 33 a week ago.

According to the weekly bulletin on live storage status of the reservoirs issued by the Central Water Commission (CWC), the water level in the 150 major reservoirs this week was 102.162 billion cubic metres (BCM) or 57 per cent of the total capacity of 178.784 BCM.

RABI RICE IN TROUBLE?

Last week, the storage was 105.273 BCM or 59 per cent of the capacity. A year ago, the level was 81 per cent and the last 10 years average position is 95 per cent – a clear indication of the gravity of the situation.

Though the situation is not worrisome for North India since the ice melting in the Himalayas could flow and help the States there, South India could face problems, particularly with rabi rice and pulses, an agriculture expert said.

"Kerala relies on Tamil Nadu for red rice - Uma. It could be a problem. While people in the South may have to pay more for idli rice since its production could be affected," the expert said.

SOME COMFORT

Of the 42 reservoirs in the southern region, 19 have level less than 40 per cent of the capacity, while another four have less than 50 per cent. The level this week dropped to 39 per cent (40 per cent last week) of the 53.334 BCM capacity at 20.590 BCM. The central region is another one where the second-highest number of reservoirs — seven — have a level below 40 per cent of the capacity among the 26. The situation is better than last week when the storage in eight reservoirs was below 40 per cent.

The storage in the region was 66 per cent (67 per cent) of the 48.227 BCM capacity at 31.745 BCM.

The western region, including Gujarat and Maharashtra, saw the level drop to 69 per cent (71 per cent) of the 37.130 BCM capacity at 25.437 BCM. The storage in four reservoirs was below 40 per cent of the 49 against three last week.

In the 23 reservoirs in the eastern region, the level in three was full, while in another three it was below 40 per cent.

Of the 20.430 BCM capacity in the region, the storage was 68 per cent (69 per cent) at 13.814 BCM. The region also saw the level dropping below normal in Odisha after a gap of a couple of weeks.

The 10 reservoirs in the northern region were filled to 54 per cent (57 per cent) of the capacity at 10.576 BCM against the 19.663 BCM capacity.

Though the peninsular region has received excess rainfall since the beginning of the year, data from 711 districts collected by India Meteorological Department show that 75 per cent received deficient, large deficient or no rainfall.

Storage position of 150 major reservoirs*

Percentage filled	This week#	Last week#
100%	5	4
91%-99%	5	7
81%-90%	14	20
71%-80%	30	28
61%-70%	24	23
51%-60%	18	19
41%-50%	20	16
40% and below	34	33

Source: Central Water Commission weekly bulletin *Against capacity # No. of reservoirs

Millennium Post - 12- January-2024

'Climate change declined snowpack in Northern Hemisphere from 1981-2020'

NEW DELHI: Human-caused climate warming has declined snowpack in the Northern Hemisphere between 1981 and 2020, with the sharpest losses of about 10-20 per cent per decade seen in the southwestern and northeastern United States, as well as in central and eastern Europe, new research published in the Nature journal suggested.

Snowpack refers to the accumulated snow on the ground following snowfall and tends to not melt for a long time, owing to below-freezing temperatures. Consisting of multiple layers, the snow mass compresses and hardens under its own weight.

Researchers said that warm winters are known to favour rain over snow, increase snowmelt and reduce snow cover, which can have implications for water security and wider ecosystems.

This study's findings have potential water security implications for "hundreds of millions of people in North America, Europe, and Asia who depend on snow for their water that continued warming will amplify", they said.

They said that while seasonal snow cover has been predicted to indicate effects of human-induced climate change, consistent warming trends have not been seen for snowpack loss, even as they have been observed at hemispheric, continental and river basins scales.

The researchers from Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, US, examined the effects of climate warming on snow by combining observations of March snow mass levels in the Northern Hemisphere along with temperature and precipitation data.

They found that human-induced warming contributed to snowpack decline between 1981 and 2020. However, owing to snow's nonlinear sensitivity to temperature, snow loss has not been widespread to date, they said. The researchers pointed out that snow becomes more sensitive to melting when winter temperatures exceed minus 8 degrees Celsius, and that about 20 per cent of the Northern Hemisphere's snow mass is found in locations with winter temperatures in this range. All these locations may be at threat of increasing snow losses in the future.

It is also this 20 per cent that "exists around - and provides water for - many of the hemisphere's major population centres that has diminished," they said. "(These losses) leave population centres suddenly and chronically short on new supplies of water from snowmelt."

Their results highlighted that around 80 per cent of the Northern Hemisphere's population lived near river basins that are snow-dependent for freshwater, which could see sharp spring runoff declines that lead to water availability challenges. The findings showed that snow losses are attributable to human-induced climate warming, which are likely to accelerate in the future and lead to water availability challenges. AGENCIES

The Times of India - 12- January-2024

NGT seeks reports from states on drains polluting Yamuna

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

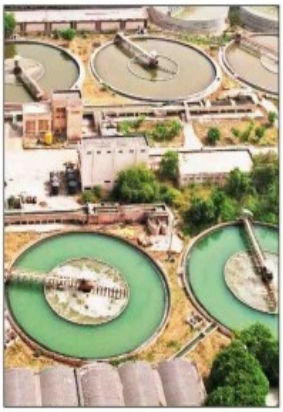
New Delhi: National Green Tribunal has directed Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh governments to file reports disclosing details of all drains that are releasing treated or untreated effluents into Yamuna. The tribunal is hearing a plea on the rejuvenation of the Yamuna.

"The reports must disclose each drain which is discharging the treated or untreated effluent in river Yamuna in Delhi and the states concerned, the total quantity of treated and untreated discharge by that drain in the river, the sewage treatment plants set up on that drain at different locations and end point local body which is ultimately responsible to ensure that no untreated discharge takes place from the drain," stated the bench headed by Justice Prakash Shrivastava.

The tribunal ordered Delhi, Haryana and UP to furnish the requisite information and file a fresh report within four weeks.

Navbharat Times - 12- January-2024

यमुना में अमोनिया लेवल अभी भी काफी ज़्यादा



सुबह अमोनिया लेवल 5 पीपीएम तक रहा

■ प्रस, नई दिल्ली : यमुना में अमोनिया लेवल गुरुवार को भी समान्य से करीब 8 गुना अधिक रहा। अमोनिय लेवल हाई होने के कारण वजीराबाद वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट में पानी उत्पादन कुल क्षमता का आधा ही हो रहा है। ओखला वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट में स्थिति बेहतर है। लेकिन, चंद्रावल वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट में भी पानी का उत्पादन फुल कैपिसिटी से नहीं हो रहा है। प्लांटों में पानी उत्पादन की क्षमता कम होने से कई इलाकों में पानी की भारी किल्लत है। कुछ इलाकों में लो-प्रेशर से पानी आने की शिकायत है।

शाम को स्थिति थोड़ी बेहतर हुई, लेकिन अब भी ट्रीटमेंट लायक नहीं

जल बोर्ड अफसरों के अनुसार सुबह वजीराबाद प्लांट के पास बने रिजर्वायर में अमोनिया लेवल करीब 5 पीपीएम था। शाम होने के बाद स्थिति में थोड़ी सुधार हुई। गुरुवार शाम को वजीराबाद रिजर्वायर में अमोनिया लेवल 4 पीपीएम रहा, जो सामान्य से करीब 8 गुना अधिक है। जल बोर्ड अफसरों का कहना है कि जबतक अमोनिया लेवल 0.9 पीपीएम या एक पीपीएम तक नहीं आता, तबतक वजीराबाद प्लांट में पानी उत्पादन फुल कैपिसिटी से शुरू नहीं किया जा सकता। अमोनिया लेवल को पानी व क्लोरीन से डाइल्यूट करने की कोशिश की जा रही है। लेकिन, इतना कम नहीं हो पा रहा है। इसके चलते ही वजीराबाद प्लांट में पानी का उत्पादन आधा हो रहा है। प्लांट का पानी उत्पादन क्षमता करीब 136 एमजीडी है। जिसमें से करीब 68 या 70 एमजीडी ही पानी उत्पादन हो पा रहा है। इसीलिए पानी की किल्लत है।

आज से स्थिति बेहतर होने की उम्मीद

जल बोर्ड अफसरों के अनुसार चंद्रावल और ओखला वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट से पानी उत्पादन लगभग फुल कैपिसिटी से हो रहा है। इसलिए इन दोनों वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट से जिन इलाकों में पानी सप्लाई होता है, उनमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं है। शुक्रवार सुबह से स्थिति थोड़ी बेहतर होने की उम्मीद है। ऐसा इसलिए कि हरियाणा में जिस जगह से ड्रेन का पानी यमुना में आता है, वहां गंदे पानी का डिस्चार्ज थोड़ा कम हुआ है और अमोनिया लेवल भी कम है।

Jansatta - 12- January-2024

विश्व में सर्वाधिक स्वच्छ देश बनाने के लक्ष्य के साथ आगे बढ़ें युवा : राष्ट्रपति

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 11 जनवरी।

भारत की राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने कहा कि युवा हमारे सबसे महत्त्वपूर्ण हितधारक हैं। अगर युवा पीढ़ी सभी शहरों और पूरे देश को स्वच्छ रखने का संकल्प लेते हैं तो साल 2047 का भारत निश्चित ही विश्व के सबसे स्वच्छ देशों में शामिल होकर अपनी आजादी के 100 साल का उत्सव मनाएगा। देश के सभी युवाओं से भारत को विश्व का सबसे स्वच्छ देश बनाने के बड़े लक्ष्य के साथ आगे बढ़ने का आग्रह किया।

आवास और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय की ओर से गुरुवार को आयोजित समारोह के दौरान स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण पुरस्कार प्रदान करते हुए राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि व्यापक भागीदारी के साथ आयोजित स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण, स्वच्छता के स्तर को बढ़ाने की दिशा में एक महत्त्वपूर्ण कदम है। उन्होंने ह्यस्वच्छता से संपन्नताह्ण के मार्ग पर आगे बढ़ने के लिए सभी की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि स्वच्छता अभियान, महिलाओं को आर्थिक आत्मनिर्भरता के लिहाज से नए अवसर प्रदान कर रहा है।

राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि हमारे सफाई मित्र हमारे स्वच्छता अभियान के तहत अग्रिम मोर्चे के सैनिक रहे हैं। यह जानकर खुशी हुई कि सफाई मित्रों की सुरक्षा, सम्मान और कल्याण सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रभावी कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि मशीनीकृत सफाई के माध्यम से मेनहोल को समाप्त कर मशीन-होल के जरिए स्वच्छता के लक्ष्य को हासिल कर हम एक संवेदनशील समाज के रूप में अपनी सही पहचान बना पाएंगे।

उन्होंने कहा कि स्वच्छ भारत मिशन के दूसरे चरण के तहत अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन में पुनर्चक्रण (दोबारा उपयोग के योग्य बनाना) पर जोर दिया जा रहा है। अगर हम अपशिष्ट से मूल्य की अवधारणा पर गहराई से विचार करें तो यह स्पष्ट हो जाता है कि सब कुछ मूल्यवान है, कुछ भी अपशिष्ट नहीं है। हरित अपशिष्ट से बायोगैस बनाने और अवशिष्ट व्युत्पन्न ईंधन से बिजली बनाने के पीछे यही समग्र व प्रगतिशील सोच काम करती है।

The Hindu - 12- January-2024

Surat, Indore cleanest cities; Maharashtra tops State list

Visakhapatnam, Bhopal, Vijayawada, Delhi, Tirupati, Hyderabad figure among top 10 clean cities; President calls for elimination of manholes 'to establish our true identity as a sensitive society'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Surat in Gujarat and Indore in Madhya Pradesh were on Thursday jointly declared the cleanest cities of India at the annual clean city awards for 2023 of the Union Urban Affairs Ministry. The next best is Navi Mumbai.

The Swachh Survekshan awards were given away by President Droupadi Murmu here.

Indore has been adjudged the cleanest city for the seventh time in a row.

The list of top 10 cleanest cities with a population of more than one lakh includes Greater Visakhapatnam, Bhopal, Vijayawada, New Delhi, Tirupati, Greater Hyderabad and Pune.

In the State rankings, Maharashtra came first, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Odisha is ranked fourth, followed by Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Karnataka, Goa, Haryana and Bihar.

In the category of cities with a population of less than one lakh, Sasvad and Lonavala in Maharashtra and Patan in Chhattisgarh secured the top three spots. The Mhow Cantonment Board in Madhya Pradesh was adjudged the cleanest cantonment Board.

Varanasi and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh won the top two awards for the cleanest Ganga towns. Chandigarh won the award for the safest city for sanitation workers. Twenty zonal awards were given to medium and small cities.

Madhyamgram, Kalyani and Haora, all cities in West Bengal, have the dubious distinction of being placed at the bottom of the list, while the States at the end of the list were Rajasthan, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

The theme of the cleanliness survey 2023 was "Waste to wealth", while for 2024, it is "Reduce, reuse and recycle".

"Only by eliminating manholes through mechanised cleaning and achieving the goal of sanitation through machine-holes, we will be able to establish our true identity as a sensitive society," Ms. Murmu said in her address. She noted that the circular economy's methods of recycling and reusing more and more goods were proving helpful for sustainable development. She expressed confidence that such a system will prove to be very useful in the field of waste management also.

Ms. Murmu also launched the 'Swachh Survekshan' 2023 dashboard at the function.

'People's movement'

Union Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said: "Today, every city in India is ODF (open defecation free). This became possible because the Swachh Bharat Mission went from being a government programme to becoming a Jan Andolan (people's movement)."

Mr. Puri said that in 2014, there was only 15-16% scientific processing of waste, while today the number is almost 76%; in the next two to three years, 100% will be achieved. "By the end of this mission, we would have fully transitioned from manhole to machine hole," he said.

The Swachh Survekshan, which began with a modest evaluation of 73 major cities in 2016, now covers 4,477 cities. The evaluation this year was done by over 3,000 assessors. Nearly 12 crore citizen responses were received.

Ranking cleanliness

The tables list the cleanest cities with more than 1 lakh population and the best-performing States, according to the Swachch Survekshan Awards. Indore bagged the tag of India's cleanest city for the seventh consecutive time

Cleanest cities with >1 lakh population		States ranking	
Rank	City	Rank	State
1	Indore	1	Maharashtra
1	Surat	2	M.P.
3	Navi Mumbai	3	Chhattisgarh
4	Greater Visakhapatnam	4	Odisha
5	Bhopal	5	Telangana