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Hindustan Times - 15- January-2024

## 'Major share of installed capacity of power projects is utilised in J&K only'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 14 JANUARY

Government said that a major share of installed capacity is utilised in Jammu and Kashmir and only a minor portion is supplied to other states, honouring agreements executed in 2009.

Of the total installed capacity of 1140 MW in the UT sector, a major share of around 1030 MW (88 per cent of total capacity) is utilised in J&K, while the remaining 150 MW is sold outside J&K, honouring agreements executed in 2009, a government spokesman said.

The Centre has set Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) targets, making it mandatory for every State/UT to procure some quantum of hydro and solar power to meet a proportion of power demand. J&K, being a hydro-rich state, has to rely on thermal power, particularly dur-



ing winters, to meet the base load demand. As such arrangements are being made to bank hydro power with other states in exchange for thermal power whenever there is a surplus situation.

On the controversy of the power starved Jammu and Kashmir signing an agreement to supply electricity to Rajasthan from the Ratle hydroelectric project, the spokesman said as J&K faces power shortage during winters, such arrangements are being made to bank hydro power with other states in exchange of

thermal power whenever there is surplus situation.

The spokesman said J&K generates only 600 MWs of hydro-electricity against a generation capacity of 3500 MWs during winters when the peak demand reaches up to 3200 MWs.

In reference to the misinformation related to Ratle Power Projects in various newspapers and other media platforms, the absolute fact is that in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Hydro Power projects are developed in both State and Central sec-

tors, the spokesman said.

Out of the existing installed generation capacity of 3500 MW, 1140 MW is contributed by UT-owned plants, including projects like 900 MW Baglihar, 110 MW Lower Jhelum, and 110 MW Upper Sindh. The remaining 2300 MW comes from central sector plants, with prominent ones being Salal, Dul-Hasti, Uri, and Kishanganga.

During winters, power houses in J&K, under both central and state sectors, generate a maximum of 600 MW against their rated capacity of 3500 MW due to a fall in water levels in the rivers. However, with the peak demand reaching up to 3200 MW in winters, it becomes evident that J&K's power demand cannot be solely met by hydroelectric power plants.

Out of J&K's own power houses, a major portion of electricity generation is from the Baglihar Hydro Electric Pro-

ject (BHEP), producing approximately 900 MW. Other locally owned power generation plants, including Upper Sindh, Lower Jhelum, Chennani, others, collectively generate around 200 to 250 MW. This totals approximately 1100 to 1140 MW through UT's own generating stations, which drops to around 200 MW in winters.

The remaining power requirement during winters is met through Central Generating Stations (CGS) both within and outside J&K.

In the existing situation, J&K requires more power from thermal generators to meet its base load requirement. Solar generation could provide balancing support to hydro plants to some extent.

Over the last four years, J&K has not signed any Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for selling power outside J&K from its power houses; the same quantum has been maintained as per previous PPAs.

Hindustan Times - 15- January-2024

## Dip in Bhakra dam water level raises concerns

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**CHANDIGARH:** The water level in Bhakra dam reservoir — the Gobind Sagar lake — is seven feet lower than what it was last year, and officials are now worrying that the lack of snowfall in the mountain ranges upstream could lead to a situation where there is not enough water ahead for this year's summer irrigation demand.

The Bhakra dam on the Sutlej river is among the critical reservoirs, capable of storing up to 6.23 billion cubic metre of water, which is then released downstream, feeding a network of canals that help irrigate the critical agrarian states of Punjab and Haryana and feed drinking water needs in these regions, including further away in



The Bhakra dam on the Sutlej river is capable of storing up to 6.23 billion cubic metres of water.

AMBUJ MISHRA / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Delhi. As per the central water commission, currently the dam has 3.27 BCM which is almost half of the total capacity. Except for the monsoon months between July and September, the reservoir is

mostly fed by snowmelt.

"River Sutlej is fed by melting of glaciers and in case of less snowfall it would impact filling of the dam," said Sunil Singla, secretary of Bhakra Beas management

board (BBMB).

In last August, the Bhakra reservoir filled up to its top level of 1,680 feet due to heavy rain in the catchment areas. Within four months, 57 feet of water has been consumed, which is equal to half of the total water holding capacity of the reservoir.

According to Singla the dam still has huge quantity of water available but keeping in view the need and dependence on the dam, it may need adequate arrangement for filling the reservoir. As per figures from BBMB, the water levels in Gobind Sagar lake as on January 13 was at 1,623 feet, or seven feet less than what was last year on the same day. Compared to what is normal for this time of the year, the reservoir had 7% less water.

While this number may not seem much at the moment, the figures could suddenly become stark because the snow season is due to end by the middle of next month, and the peak snowfall period has been virtually dry.

The concern was echoed by India Meteorological Department director Surendra Paul based in Shimla. Paul said snowfall usually begins from mid-December which continues till February. He said the predictions for the near future are of no snowfall in catchment of river Sutlej, which is spread over 56,000 square kilometre in the upper reaches of Himachal Pradesh and some parts in Uttarakhand. "Snowfall in upper reaches is expected in January end but it is to be seen how much snow falls then," added Paul.

The Hindu - 15- January-2024

## A project in troubled waters

It is time for facts about the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project to come out

### STATE OF PLAY

**B. Chandrashekhar**

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**T**he Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), considered to be one of the world's largest multi-purpose projects, is known to have increased the production of foodgrain, particularly paddy, in Telangana over the last five years. However, the project, with its long water tunnels, aqueducts, underground surge pools, and large pumps, has been synonymous with controversy from the stage of conceptualisation.

### Problems with the project

The Congress, which recently assumed power in the State, has been opposing the KLIP from the start as the project has practically reduced the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Pranahitha-Chevella Sujala Sravanthi (PCSS) project, conceived by the Congress in 2007 and meant to harness water from the Pranahita tributary of the Godavari river for use in Telangana, to a non-starter. Despite not getting the nod from Maharashtra for the Tummidihetti Barrage, the take-off point of the PCSS, the Congress government in erstwhile combined Andhra Pradesh executed parts of the canal network.

The alleged corruption in the execution of the KLIP was one of the main poll planks for the Congress in its election campaigns in 2018 and 2023, with party leaders going to the extent of charging the then ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of swindling ₹1 lakh crore in the name of the project. On both occasions, the leaders who led the Congress campaign – N. Uttam Kumar



Reddy and A. Revanth Reddy, respectively – vowed to order an inquiry into the alleged corruption once their party formed the government.

The BRS leadership refuted the charges. It demanded to know how ₹1 lakh crore could be swindled when expenditure on the project was about ₹98,000 crore until the Congress government took over. It accused the Congress's supporters of filing of cases against the project in courts and in the green tribunal with the intention of stalling the project.

What has not helped the BRS's case is the fact that the project has suffered two major setbacks. First, two of the KLIP's pump houses linked to the Medigadda and Annaram Barrages got submerged during the Godavari floods in mid-July 2022. Then, in October last, six piers of the Medigadda Barrage suffered serious damage, forcing the authorities to empty the barrage. The incident exposed cracks and other damages in the downstream of the Annaram and Sundilla Barrages too.

In December, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced that a judicial inquiry would be instituted into the alleged corruption and irregularities in the KLIP. BRS leaders also welcomed the probe stating that they too want the truth to come out.

However, the State government was apparently forced to

hasten up the process of inquiry by instituting a vigilance inquiry following the alleged burning or missing of some files of the KLIP in one of the project offices. The non-cooperation of some project engineers in submitting information is also understood to have pushed the government to act swiftly. "The Chief Minister has already addressed a letter to the Chief Justice of the High Court for the allotment of a sitting judge for conducting a judicial inquiry into the KLIP irregularities and corruption. In the meantime, we have ordered for a vigilance inquiry," said Minister for Irrigation N. Uttam Kumar Reddy.

Over a dozen teams of the Vigilance and Enforcement Department conducted searches in several offices of the KLIP at Ramagundam, Mahadevpur, Karimnagar, Warangal and Hyderabad including the office of the Engineer-in-Chief and seized records, files, computer hard disks for three days starting January 9.

### Investigation

Irrespective of whether it's a Vigilance and Enforcement Department probe or a judicial inquiry by a sitting judge of the High Court, the people of Telangana should be presented with the facts of the case and the reasons for the damage at the barrages. There should also be a thorough technical (expert) investigation into the damage as suggested by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA). In its examination of the sinking of the six piers, the NDSA had faulted the planning and design of the project in its report and stated that a combination of issues involving planning, design, quality control and operation and maintenance led to the damage.

Dainik Jagran - 15- January-2024

# जीवनदायिनी यमुना का जीवन बर्बाद कर रहा नालों का सीवेज

विनीत त्रिपाठी • नई दिल्ली

दूषित यमुना को साफ करने की हर स्तर पर न सिर्फ आवाज बुलंद होती है, यमुना को साफ करने का श्रेय लेने की सियासी होड़ भी दिखाई देती है, लेकिन जमीनी स्तर पर कुछ बदलाव नहीं होता। सुप्रीम कोर्ट से लेकर नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (एनजीटी) के दर्जनों आदेश यमुना की तलहटी में दफन हो चुके हैं और नदी की स्थिति बदतर होती जा रही है। अब भी एनसीआर में हर रोज बड़ी मात्रा में सीवेज यमुना में मिल रहा है और लोग यमुना के निर्मल होने का इंतजार करने को विवश हैं।

एनजीटी में दिल्ली, हरियाणा और उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा दाखिल की गई ताजा रिपोर्ट हैरान करने वाली सच्चाई पेश करती है। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार दिल्ली के 22 में से 13 नालों से यमुना में 2976.4 एमएलडी

दिल्ली सरकार की तरफ से दाखिल की गई रिपोर्ट में सामने आई हकीकत, यमुना में मिलता है दिल्ली के 13 नालों का सीवेज

(मिलियन लीटर डेली) सीवेज मिल रहा है। वहीं, दूसरी तरफ उत्तर प्रदेश और हरियाणा में शोधित व गैर-शोधित पानी को एक साथ मिलने के कारण सारे प्रयास व्यर्थ हो रहे हैं। गाजियाबाद के 11 नालों में से महज एक नाले के पानी को नदी में गिराने से रोका जा रहा है। यमुना मामले पर सुनवाई करते हुए एनजीटी ने 17 अक्टूबर 2023 को टिप्पणी की थी कि मामले में विभिन्न एजेंसी द्वारा दाखिल गई विभिन्न रिपोर्ट को देखकर यही पाया कि यमुना नदी की सफाई संतोषजनक नहीं रही है।

निराशाजनक स्थिति » संपादकीय

## तीनों राज्यों में नालों से सीधा यमुना में मिल रहा सीवेज दिल्ली की रिपोर्ट

- 13 नालों से 2976.4 एमएलडी सीवेज यमुना में मिल रहा है।
- यमुना में मिलने वाले कुल 22 नालों में से केवल नौ को ही नदी में गिरने से रोका गया है।
- नजफगढ़ और शाहदरा नाले को सीवेज डिस्चार्ज (507.4 एमजीडी) का प्रमुख स्रोत माना जाता है, लेकिन दोनों नालों के प्रवाह को मोड़ने वाले इंटरसेप्टर सीवरेंज प्रोजेक्ट के पूरा होने की कोई समय-सीमा नहीं बताई गई है।
- इस प्रकार गैर-शोधित सीवेज में 222 एमजीडी का अंतर है और इसे यमुना में बहाया जा रहा है।
- एसटीपी पर रिपोर्ट में दिए गए परिणामों में फेकल कोलीफॉर्म के लिए कोई डेटा उपलब्ध नहीं कराया

गया है।

- सीपीसीबी द्वारा नौ एसटीपी पर दी गई रिपोर्ट में दिए गए नतीजे यह दर्शाते हैं केवल दो एसटीपीओ मानदंडों को पूरा कर रहे हैं।

## उत्तर प्रदेश की रिपोर्ट

- गाजियाबाद के 14 नालों में से केवल एक नाले के पानी को नदी में गिराने से रोका जा रहा है, जबकि नोएडा में एक नाले के पानी को नदी में गिरने से नहीं रोका जा सका है।
- शोधित सीवेज के 90 एमएलडी पानी को उपयोग करने के बजाय सीधे गाजीपुर नाले में बहा दिया जाता है जो कि यमुना में मिल रहा है।
- इंदिरापुरी और बथला नाले से गैर-शोधित 52 एमएलडी सीवेज शाहदरा नाले में लाया जाता है और

## हरियाणा की रिपोर्ट

- शोधित व गैर-शोधित सीवेज को एक साथ मिलाया जाता है और इससे सारे प्रयास व्यर्थ हो रहे हैं।
- प्रत्येक कस्बे के संदर्भ में एसटीपी की जगह और यमुना नदी से जुड़ने वाले प्रत्येक नाले की जानकारी नहीं उपलब्ध कराई गई
- 3,78,866 घरों को सीवर लाइन से जोड़ना अभी बाकी है।

यह यमुना में मिलता है।

- 150 एमएलडी गैर-शोधित सीवेज हिंडन नदी के माध्यम से यमुना तक पहुंच रहा है।
- नोएडा में एसटीपी के लिए फेकल कोलीफॉर्म पर डेटा की जानकारी नहीं दी गई है।

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The Indian Express - 15- January-2024

# As ammonia levels rose in Yamuna, a water treatment plant struggled to keep pace

Wazirabad plant supplies water to Civil Lines, Karol Bagh, Rajinder Nagar, Greater Kailash and the Walled City



Toxic foam was seen floating on the Yamuna last week. Close to 70% of Delhi depends on the Yamuna for its water needs. *Gajendra Yadav*

MALLICA JOSHI  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

A KEY water treatment plant in the national capital that supplies water to Civil Lines, Karol Bagh, Rajinder Nagar, Greater Kailash and the Walled City struggled to keep pace with the rising ammonia levels last week, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

An official responsible for quality control at the Wazirabad water treatment plant is learnt to have flagged the issue to senior officers, who decided to reduce treatment capacity to tackle the issue.

The DJB, when contacted, acknowledged that production was reduced to 50%, but said the water quality at the outlet was maintained.

The problem of high ammoniacal nitrogen concentration in the Yamuna during winter is not new. Between December and March each year, treatment plants have to be either shut down or work at reduced capacity several times as the system can handle ammonia only up to 1 part per million (ppm).

The Wazirabad plant receives water from two sources — through the Carrier Lined Channel or the Munak Canal, and the Yamuna river stream. Since the canal is regulated, effluent from industries are not dumped into it as it travels through Haryana into Delhi. The same does not hold true for the river channel — as it makes its way, hundreds of industries dump untreated waste into it. By the time the Yamuna enters Delhi, the water is highly polluted.

This problem is exacerbated in the winter as the amount of water in the river drops due to lack of rain upstream, and the concentration of pollutants increases.

Water through the river channel reaches the Wazirabad pond. On Thursday, the concentration of ammonia in the pond was 5.9 ppm. According to DJB, concentration at the pond has been above normal since

**The DJB acknowledged that production was reduced to 50%, but said the water quality at the outlet was maintained**

December 15 last year.

Water at the Wazirabad water treatment plants is drawn from the pond as well as the Munak Canal and once the two are mixed, the concentration of ammoniacal nitrogen at the inlet of the treatment plant decreases.

On Wednesday afternoon, concentration of ammonia at the Wazirabad Water Treatment Plants 1 and 2 was 2.9 ppm, DJB sources said.

Officials explained that they use chlorination to neutralise ammonia in the water — 11.5 kg of chlorine is needed per litre of water per hour to neutralise 1 ppm of ammoniacal nitrogen.

At Wazirabad Water Treatment Plant 1, which produces 45 million gallons of water daily, the amount of chlorine needed to treat 1 ppm ammonia is around 97 kg per hour. But the installed capacity is 60 kg per hour, sources said. For 2.9 ppm of ammonia, the chlorine requirement increases to over 250 kg per hour.

The problem intensifies in winter because the efficiency of the chlorination plant reduces, explained a senior officer: "As the temperature drops, icing at the chlorination plant increases and it can work only at around 25% to 50% capacity... The machines are 10-15 years old and they do not work at 100% capacity in any case... Water that was supplied (last week) was not fully treated."

An official responsible for quality control at the plant alerted senior officers that the concentration of ammonia was beyond the treatable range, it is learnt. The official suggested one of two options — to draw water only from the canal or shut the plant.

The Chief Engineer (water treatment plants), however, told the official to reduce treatment capacity to 50%. "The plant was not shut down but the capacity was reduced to 50%. It is not possible for us to draw water only from the canal," DJB said in its official response to *The Indian Express*. It added that water quality at the outlet was maintained.

Water minister Atishi did not respond to queries from *The Indian Express*.

In a letter to the Delhi Chief Secretary on December 28, however, she had taken cognizance of the issue, saying that the level of ammonia in the river had reached 2.8 ppm and water production at two plants would have to be reduced to 50%.

She had also asked the Chief Secretary to address the "serious delay" in starting an in-situ ammonia treatment plant at Wazirabad pond.

An official explained that while the DJB does not check ammonia levels after chlorination, they do check for residual chlorine, which, as per the Jal Board's standards, should be 1.5 ppm. This is also the standard DJB asks bidders to maintain in its tender documents.

A joint report by United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), DJB and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), among others, also states that "proper disinfection of the clear water is maintained by keeping 1.5 ppm of residual chlorine".

"For the past four days, residual chlorine in treated water has been around the 0.25–0.75 ppm mark. The standard of 1.5 ppm residual has been set keeping in mind the need to eliminate pathogens after ammonia has been neutralised. That the residual chlorine is 0.25 ppm shows that neither has ammonia been neutralised fully, nor is there enough chlorine to manage pathogens (that can cause water borne diseases). Improper chlorination is also linked to the formation of toxic compounds in water," the official said.