

Times of India 16-April-2021

In two months, Delhi saw 35 days of ammonia spike in water supply

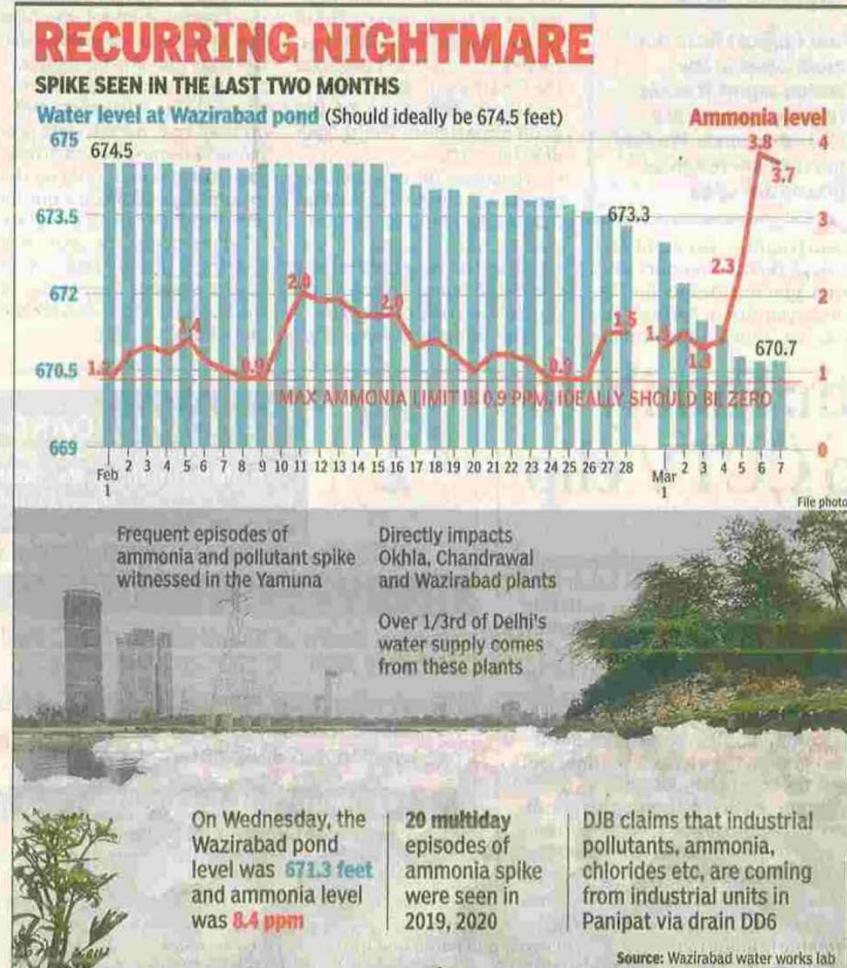
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New Delhi: Along with battling the overwhelming fourth wave of Covid cases, the capital has also been facing water supply issues. Data from the quality control department of Delhi Jal Board shows that during the last two months alone, ammonia levels in the Yamuna were at 0.9 ppm or above for 35 days.

DJB has a capacity to treat up to 0.9 ppm of ammonia levels in raw water, but beyond such high levels, neutralisation of ammonia with chlorine gas on a regular basis leads to creation of toxic and cancer-causing chloramine compounds. Data from Wazirabad pond shows that its water level remained below the standard 674.5 ft level for 25 days.

A senior DJB official said that even a decrease of 0.1 ft in the pond affects the water uptake by the treatment plants. "The levels during February and March have even gone down to 670.7 ft, even as a Supreme Court ruling mandated the maintenance of a standard 674.5 ft levels," the official added. On Wednesday, Delhi had recorded pollution levels 8 times higher than the maximum limit, while the pond level was 2.2 feet lower than the normal level.

Jal board officials argue that the pollutants, such as dyes, chlorides, and ammonia-based chemicals, come from Panipat industrial dye drain. "We can treat the other impurities, but ammonia treatment beyond 0.9 ppm is not feasible. DJB is planning to upgrade the water treatment plants by installing ozonation units, but even the modern plants can't treat such high levels," the official said.



Delhi has been frequently facing supply disruptions due to rise in ammonia levels. TOI had earlier reported that the city has witnessed 20 multi-day long episodes of ammonia-related water supply disruptions in the last two years.

DJB claims that the two main sources of ammonia are dyeing units in Panipat

and intermixing of industrial waste in Sonapat where two canals carrying fresh water and industrial pollutants run parallel with a sand wall just a few inches wide separating them. "A breach in the wall and overspilling pollutes city water supply. We have asked Haryana to concretise the wall, but no progress has been witnessed after dispute

over payment for its expenses," an official said.

While the capital needs to expedite the much delayed upgradation of its treatment plants, officials say interstate agencies like CPCB and Upper Yamuna River Board, too, need to crack down on polluting units in Panipat and push for reinforcement and concretisation of drains.

Business Line 16-April-2021

Ensuring water security

The govt, corporates and communities must work together

PAUL ABRAHAM

The global water crisis is one of the greatest challenges facing humankind. The crisis is manifesting due to the progressive decline in availability, rampant misuse of the precious resource and societal inability to deliver water where it is needed.

India's tryst with fighting the water crisis began with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. While providing health and sanitation facilities to each household, it soon became clear that water security was an essential component for the success of the project. With this insight, the government launched the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission (Rural) in 2019 and Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban) in 2020.

This problem has to be addressed at various levels.

Stock of water: Most of the water that is being accessed across the country is groundwater and recharging the underground aquifers is paramount. The country gets around four months of monsoon and harvesting the rainwater must become a national mission. It is crucial to invest in restoring water bodies and creating millions of ponds and percolation tanks to capture the rainwater.

Corrective action required to reverse effects of climate change like glacial melting is inherently slow paced and some water sources like rivers are going to be lost to us in the near term. Rampant deforestation has created scarcity due to the sources originating in forests drying up. Increasing forest cover is key to restoring the health of our riverine systems.

Use of water: The largest demand on water is from agriculture. Judicious use of water for agriculture is key to managing the water challenge.

Micro irrigation is crucial to reducing wastage caused by inefficient use. It is estimated that micro irrigation can save 40 per cent of the consumption from current levels.

Water-intensive crops like sugarcane, paddy, cotton and banana are cultivated in districts which are severely water stressed. Sugarcane, for instance, is grown in one of the most water-stressed areas of Maharashtra. As is the case with paddy in Punjab. It is imperative that geographic assessments be made and urgent realignments of crop mix undertaken.

It is time now to price water to all con-

sumers. A rational pricing structure of an economic resource that is not unlimited is essential. It will incentivise investments in the sector.

There's a need to invest in technology that provides clean and safe drinking water through methods that do not require regular maintenance and upkeep. This way, the longevity of these solutions increases and extends availability.

Access to water: In the larger scheme of things, the worst affected by this crisis are women and children. Children are more prone to water-borne diseases and women spend hours walking daily to fulfil the water requirements of their family, collectively estimated at 200 million hours each day. The Centre has been proactive by providing capital allocation towards social welfare schemes, apportioning ₹2.87-lakh crore for safe drinking water in the latest Union Budget.

Issues like bacterial and chemical toxicity have affected almost all the water sources, and these need to be addressed. Irresponsible sewage treatment, garbage disposal and industrial effluent discharge must also be addressed on a war footing. Water efficient toilet systems are required as well.

More than 600 million people have been affected due to lack of access to safe drinking water. The corollary to the distribution issue being addressed through piped water shouldn't be the absence of water stock to distribute. It is essential to drive these efforts with investments in superior project management capabilities with visible and measurable outcomes.

Education and training: Education on the importance of water and initiatives like rainwater harvesting and groundwater conservation is key. Schools need to have this embedded in their curriculum and CSR budgets should be used to create advocacy around the subject of water.

The initiatives must be community driven, as this increasing the chances of these resources being actively sustained. The Pani Samitis are a great example of how to manage at the micro level.

Access to safe water is not a privilege but a fundamental right. Corporate houses, communities and the government need to work together to ensure that this resource is protected, preserved and distributed equitably amongst all.



The writer is President, Hinduja Foundation

Telangana Today 16-April-2021

Rs 110 cr tourism push for Ranganayakasagar: Harish

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

The State government has sanctioned Rs 110 crore to develop Ranganayakasagar into a world-class tourism spot, Finance Minister T Harish Rao said on Thursday. "Komaticheruvu in Siddipet has already emerged as a tourism centre, and Ranganayakasagar will also be developed now," he said. During his recent visit to Siddipet, Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao had visited Ranganayakasagar and announced that it would be developed into a major tourism spot.

The guesthouse constructed on Pallagutta in the middle of Ranganayakasagar coupled with



Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao announced that the project would be developed into a major tourism spot.

excellent road connectivity had been drawing many tourists, the Minister said, adding that in undivided Andhra Pradesh, water bodies in the district used to fill only when it rained. "The situation has now changed

completely since all the lakes are brimming after works were taken up under Mission Kakatiya. The three-TMC capacity Ranganayakasagar has been filled with Godavari water through the KLIS," Rao said.

The Hans 16-April-2021

City to receive rain for four days

Yacharam records 4 cm, Manchal 3 cm

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BEGUMPET

RAIN or thundershowers towards evening or night is forecast for Hyderabad on April 16, 17, 18 and 19, with the day temperature listed as 38, 38, 37 and 38 deg C respectively. Partly cloudy sky with day temperature of 38 deg C on April 20 and 21 is the outlook, the Met department bulletin said on Thursday.

According to the bulletin, a cyclonic circulation lies over Vidarbha and its neighbourhood. A trough/wind discontinuity runs from the Kerala coast to north interior Karnataka across south interior Karnataka. The cyclonic circulation over north interior Karnataka and its neighbourhood has become less marked.

Meanwhile, rain occurred at a few places in the State, including Ranga Reddy district (Yacharam

- Marked fall by 4.10 deg C or less in day temperatures
- Warning of thunderstorms with lightning forecast today at isolated places in State
- Nalgonda registers highest max of 39.5 deg C; Adilabad 37.3, Nizamabad & Medak 35.4 each, Bhadrachalam 34.8, Khammam & Ramagundam 34.6 each, Hakimpet, Hyderabad & Mahbubnagar 34.2 each, Dundigal 34.1, Hanmakonda 30.5

4 cm and Manchal 3cm) during the last 24 hours.

Thanks to the rain lashing the City/State and cloudy weather, there was a marked fall by 4.10

degrees Celsius or less in day temperatures in some parts. They fell appreciably ranging from 2.1 to 4 deg C in some areas.

The bulletin warned of thunderstorms with lightning are very likely to occur on April 16 at isolated places over Telangana. It said the temperatures were below normal by 1.6 to 3.0 C in some parts; appreciably below normal by 3.1 to 5 deg C in some areas and markedly below normal by 5 degree Celsius or less in some parts of the State. The highest maximum temperature of 39.5 degrees Celsius was recorded in Nalgonda.

According to the bulletin, the other day temperatures recorded in the State were: Adilabad 37.3, Nizamabad & Medak 35.4 each, Bhadrachalam 34.8, Khammam & Ramagundam 34.6 each,

Hakimpet, Hyderabad & Mahbubnagar 34.2 each, Dundigal 34.1, Hanmakonda 30.5

Rashtriya Sahara 16-April-2021

स्वच्छ गंगा निधि कोष में छह वर्षों में 453 करोड़ मिले

■ नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

गंगा नदी की निर्मलता एवं अविरलता में जनभागीदारी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए गठित स्वच्छ गंगा निधि कोष में पिछले छह वर्षों में 453 करोड़ रुपये की धनराशि प्राप्त हुई है। राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन (एनएमसीजी) के महानिदेशक राजीव रंजन मिश्रा ने बताया, 'मार्च 2021 तक स्वच्छ गंगा निधि में 453 करोड़ रुपये की धनराशि जमा की गई है और इसके माध्यम से कई प्रमुख परियोजनाएं संचालित की जा रही हैं।'

एनएमसीजी से प्राप्त जानकारी के अनुसार स्वच्छ गंगा निधि के तहत संचालित परियोजनाओं में उत्तराखंड पर्यटन विकास बोर्ड द्वारा केदारनाथ के पास गौरीकुंड का विकास, 5 नालों का सफाई कार्य, घाटों और श्मशानों का पुनर्निर्माण, हरिद्वार में हर की पौड़ी परिसर का निर्माण और विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में वनरोपण शामिल हैं।

स्वच्छ गंगा निधि में वर्ष 2020-2021 में करीब 14.18 करोड़ रुपये प्राप्त हुए हैं। इसमें पेट्रोनेट एलएनजी लि. ने 1.5 करोड़ रुपये का योगदान किया है। पावर ग्रिड

कारपोरेशन ने भी 1 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक का योगदान किया है। एएआई कार्गो लॉजिस्टिक्स ने 1.45 करोड़ रुपये का योगदान दिया है। श्री धर्मस्थल मंजुनाथेश्वर धर्मोत्थान ट्रस्ट, कर्नाटक ने 15 लाख रुपये

स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन



■ इसके जरिए गंगा को निर्मल बनाने के लिए चलाई जा रही हैं कई परियोजनाएं

का योगदान दिया है।

गौरतलब है कि स्वच्छ गंगा निधि कोष का गठन साल 2015 में किया गया था। राजीव रंजन मिश्रा ने बताया कि हाल ही में राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन (एनएमसीजी) की 34वीं कार्यकारी समिति की बैठक हुई। बैठक में नमामि गंगे कार्यक्रम के तहत परियोजनाओं की समीक्षा की गई और आगे

के कार्यों की रूपरेखा पर चर्चा हुई।

उन्होंने बताया कि इसके तहत खास तौर पर अयोध्या में पौराणिक महत्व के पांच तालाबों एवं जल कुंडों के पुनरोद्धार की योजना, अयोध्या लोक कला परियोजना, जलमल निकासी की व्यवस्था का खाका तैयार किया गया। एनएमसीजी के महानिदेशक ने बताया 'अयोध्या में छोटे बड़े 100 से अधिक तालाब हैं। जल धारा परियोजना के तहत अयोध्या में 5 मुख्य तालाबों की पहचान की गई है जिनका पुनरोद्धार एवं विकास किया जाएगा।'

उन्होंने बताया कि इस परियोजना की लागत 9.25 करोड़ रुपये है। चुने गए पांच तालाब लाल डिग्गी, फतेहगंज, स्वामी रामजी दास आश्रम तालाब, सीता राम मंडी कुंड और ब्रह्म कुंड हैं। आने वाले समय में अयोध्या में पर्यटकों की भीड़ बढ़ने के मद्देनजर राम की पैड़ी का विस्तार किया जा रहा है।

उन्होंने बताया कि अयोध्या में जल निकायों में बहने वाले अपशिष्ट एवं गंदे जल का शुद्धिकरण तथा जलमल शोधन संयंत्र की स्थापना को अंतिम रूप दिया गया।

Amar Ujala 16-April-2021

राजधानी में पानी की कमी के लिए हरियाणा और पंजाब जिम्मेदार

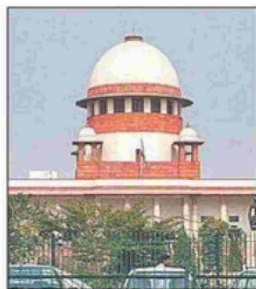
सुप्रीम कोर्ट में हलफनामा दायर कर जल बोर्ड ने कहा, दिल्ली में पानी की आपूर्ति में 30% तक कमी

राजीव सिन्हा

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने राजधानी में पानी की किल्लत और दूषित जल के लिए हरियाणा और पंजाब को जिम्मेदार ठहराया है। जल बोर्ड ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट से कहा है कि हरियाणा और पंजाब के रवेये के कारण दिल्ली में पानी की आपूर्ति में करीब 30 फीसदी कमी आई है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट में दायर हलफनामे में दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने कहा है कि हरियाणा और पंजाब न केवल राजधानी को कम पानी की आपूर्ति कर रहे हैं बल्कि दूषित पानी भी दे रहे हैं। यही कारण है कि यमुना में अमोनिया का स्तर बढ़ गया है। दोनों राज्य शीर्ष अदालत के पूर्व आदेशों का पालन नहीं कर रहे हैं।

जल बोर्ड ने कहा है कि हरियाणा में पेयजल की कमी नहीं है। दिल्ली



जल बोर्ड ने कहा, दिल्ली के लिए पानी उपलब्ध कराना दोनों राज्यों का दायित्व

की भौगोलिक स्थिति ऐसी है कि वह पानी के लिए हरियाणा और पंजाब पर निर्भर है। दिल्ली के लिए पानी उपलब्ध करना हरियाणा व पंजाब का दायित्व है लेकिन वे कर्तव्यों का

जल शोधन संयंत्रों में पानी की कमी

बोर्ड ने कहा है कि इन दोनों राज्यों के कारण वजीराबाद, चंद्रावल और ओखला जल शोधन संयंत्र में पानी की कमी हो गई है। जिस कारण दिल्लीवासियों को स्वच्छ और पर्याप्त पेयजल उपलब्ध नहीं हो पा रहा है। वजीराबाद जलाशय में अमोनिया का स्तर 4.4 पीपीएम है, जो बहुत उच्च स्तर है। साथ ही यह भी कहा गया है कि वजीराबाद संयंत्र अपनी क्षमता का 71 फीसदी, चंद्रावल 84 फीसदी और ओखला 86 फीसदी ही काम कर रहा है। जल बोर्ड ने हरियाणा और पंजाब के इस आरोप को भी खारिज कर दिया है कि दिल्ली के पास जल शोधन की तकनीक पुरानी है।

पालन नहीं कर रहे हैं। बोर्ड के मुख्य अभियंता एम के हंस की ओर से दायर इस हलफनामे ने हरियाणा और पंजाब के इस दावे को खारिज कर दिया है कि उनकी तरफ से न तो पानी की आपूर्ति कम की गई और न ही दूषित पानी की आपूर्ति की जा रही है। इन दोनों राज्यों की ओर से कहा गया था कि दिल्ली में दूषित पानी के लिए दिल्ली खुद

जिम्मेदार है। सनद रहे कि शीर्ष अदालत, दिल्ली जल बोर्ड की उस याचिका पर सुनवाई कर रही है जिसमें हरियाणा और पंजाब पर पानी की आपूर्ति कम करने का आरोप लगाया है। साथ ही दूषित पानी की आपूर्ति का भी आरोप लगाया है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने फिलहाल हरियाणा व पंजाब को यथास्थिति बनाए रखने के लिए कहा है।