

Telangana Today 17-January-2022

# Weatherman forecasts more rains

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

Hyderabadis were in for a surprise on Sankranti day as various parts of the city reported unexpected heavy overnight rainfalls on Saturday. While it is not unusual for Hyderabad to witness light drizzles in January, as per Telangana State Development Planning Society data, the city normally receives an average rainfall of 5.1 mm during this month. However, the rainfall recorded in the city on Saturday alone was 14.8 mm.

A few parts of the city witnessed light drizzles even on Sunday. The area surrounding Kapra GHMC office recorded the highest rainfall of 3.8 mm. The night temperatures in the city have also dropped due to the

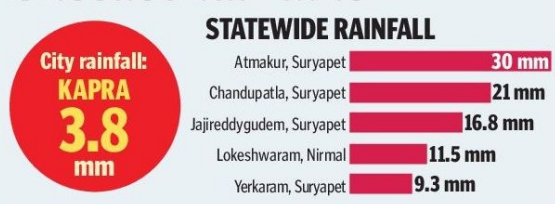
heavy rainfall. The lowest minimum temperature of 18.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Alwal in the early hours of Sunday.

According to the forecast by experts, most parts of the city are likely to receive light drizzles for the next few days. Whereas the central and eastern parts of the city, including Alwal, Begumpet, Amberpet, Hayathnagar, Kukatpally and Falaknuma, are expected to receive moderate showers, on Monday.

After the overnight rains on Saturday, several districts of Telangana continued to receive heavy downpour throughout Sunday. Districts including Nirmal, Jangaon, Siddipet, Hanamkonda, and Yadadri Bhongir received rainfall upto 21 mm.



## Unseasonal rains



Hindustan Times 17-January-2022

# 10 water bodies may be labelled city's first wetlands this March

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**NEW DELHI:** Not a single one of Delhi's 1,043 identified water bodies – each of which has its own unique identification number (UID) – is currently notified as a wetland. This, however, could soon change, with the Capital expected to notify 10 major lakes and water bodies as wetlands by the end of March, according to senior officials aware of the matter.

The Delhi State Wetland Authority (DSWA) is expected to release a draft notification for each water body under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules of 2017. Not only will this ensure legal protection to the water bodies, but each of the notified wetlands will see Integrated Management Plans (IMP) prepared, allowing DSWA to get funds from the Centre to protect and rejuvenate them.

The water bodies identified in the first phase include Sanjay Lake, Hauz Khas Lake, Bhalswa Lake, Najafgarh Jheel, Welcome Jheel, Smriti Van (Vasant Kunj), Smriti Van (Kondli), Pooth Kalan, Sultanpar Dabas and Daryapur Kalan. Another 50 water bodies will be notified in the second phase, officials said.

The Delhi SWA was constituted in April 2019, as part of the Wetlands Rules of 2017, and officials said that they began work on notification of wetlands by the end of 2019.

KS Jayachandran, member secretary, DSWA, said a draft notification for each water body will soon be released to the public, with a 60-day window for feedback, before they are notified.

The notification will detail the geo-coordinates of each water body demarcated as a wetland and the area over which it is spread. These, officials said, will ensure the water body is not encroached in the future.

"In the first phase, 10 major water bodies were identified, but we are already working on the second phase, for which Khasra num-

## A conservation effort

**1,043**  
water bodies  
in Delhi

**50** Wetlands  
to be  
identi-  
fied under  
phase 2

**10**

Sanjay  
Lake,  
Welcome  
Jheel,  
Smriti Van  
(Kondli),  
Pooth Kalan

lands to be  
notified by March  
2. These are:  
Hauz Khas  
Lake,  
Najafgarh  
Jheel, Sultanpar  
Dabas  
Daryapur Kalan  
Smriti Van  
Smriti Van (Vasant  
Kunj), Pooth Kalan lake.



### WHAT CHANGES AFTER BEING DECLARED A 'WETLAND'?

Each water body will have legal protection and its geo-coordinates and total area will be demarcated, allowing the Delhi state wetland authority (SWA) to take action against future encroachments.

The water body will get an integrated management plan, and receive funds from the Centre

bers (land survey number that is assigned to a specific plot or property) for 50 more wetlands are being identified. If a water body is notified as a wetland, the wetland conservation rules allow for an IMP to be prepared, which is a long-term action plan. We will also be applying for funding from the Centre for each of these wetlands," said Jayachandran.

While nine water bodies are currently being considered for notification through the Delhi government, SWA officials say Najafgarh Jheel could be notified as a wetland by the Centre, as it forms part of a National Green Tribunal (NGT) judgment.

In September 2020, the NGT asked the Delhi and Haryana governments to jointly prepare an environment action plan for the lake, which falls in both the states. In their report, the two states said that it will be notified as a trans-boundary wetland by the Centre as it requires management from both the states.

HT has seen a copy of the draft notifications, which mention a zone of influence for each wetland, including its buffer zone, where recreational activities like cycling and walking are permitted, while commercial activities are not.

Suresh Kumar Rohilla, senior director, Urban Water programme at the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), who is part of a

technical committee formed by the Delhi SWA to notify wetlands, said the long-term plans for each water body will be detailed and can plug existing problems such as sewage in-flow and poor maintenance. "Currently, for most water body projects, STPs are being used to provide cleaner water, but there are no action plans on how the water body will be revived and then maintained over a period of time. The IMPs will help do that and also ensure there is legal sanctity for the wetland," he says.

Manu Bhatnagar from Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), who is also part of the Delhi SWA, states most water bodies that are set to be notified as wetlands in Delhi are currently without an adequate catchment area, or a source of water supply, a problem that will be addressed once they are notified. "We will look at plans for each of them," he said.

Diwan Singh, an environmentalist and convener of the Natural Heritage First, says, "Funding is often not an issue for the smaller water bodies, but once we know exactly how many there are, they can be systematically tracked and revived. Most require efforts where they can be connected to a storm water drain or a source of water that sustains them through the year."



Millennium Post 17-January-2022

# Renuka Dam Project to meet 40% of drinking water needs of Delhi

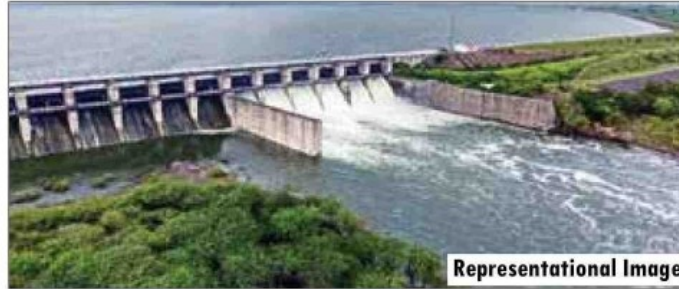
## It will also generate 40 MW electricity

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**SHIMLA:** Renukaji Dam Project in Himachal Pradesh, foundation stone of which was laid by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Mandi during his visit to the State on December 27th, 2021, has been designed to meet 40 per cent of the drinking water needs of NCR Delhi besides generating 40 MW of electricity.

Technical Advisory Committee of the Government of India had approved the cost of the project at Rs. 6946.99 crore in December 2019. In this, total cost of water component is Rs. 6647.46 crore and Government of India will bear 90 percent of expenditure of this component i.e. Rs 5982.72 crore.

The Project envisages construction of 148 meter high rock fill dam, which will store the monsoon discharge leading to formation of a 24 kms long reservoir. The Live Storage of dam will be 498 Million cubic meters which shall be used for supplying drinking water at 23 cubic meters per second to National Capital Territory of Delhi and



Representational Image

it will fulfill about 40 percent of drinking water requirements of Delhi. It will also generate 200 Million units of energy in a surface power house with 40 MW installed capacity which shall be utilized by Government of Himachal Pradesh.

The construction of project is expected to start by December 2022 and will be completed in six years. The Project was conceived as a storage water project on Giri River in Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh. The dam site is about 40 km away from Nahan, near famous Renukaji Shrine. To exploit the power potential of Giri River initial investigation work had been started by the then Government of Punjab way back in 1942. In the year 1964 Government

of Himachal Pradesh started investigation on two projects and work on one of the projects i.e. Giri Hydroelectric Project was started in 1970s and completed in due course of time.

The Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Renukaji dam was accepted by Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of Department of Water Resources in the year 2000 for total price of Rs. 1224.64 crore. However, due to some reasons much progress could not be made on the project. DPR of the project was again accepted by TAC in the year 2015 with estimated cost of Rs 4596.76 crore. However due to non-signing of Interstate Agreement between beneficiary states, the work on project could not be initiated.

Times of India 17-January-2022

# Yamuna Dirtier Than It Was 3 Months Ago

## Faecal Bacteria Levels Up 14 Times: Report

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**New Delhi:** Pollution in Yamuna has worsened with the faecal bacteria level being at a record high of 14 times than what existed three months ago. This has been revealed by the December 2021 water quality status report by Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).

When the river enters the city, dissolved oxygen (DO), biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and faecal coliform are within the permissible limits. However, by the time it exits Delhi, high-level effluents make Yamuna more polluted.

While the faecal coliform level at the entry was 1,400 MPN/100ml (against the maximum limit of 2500 MPN/100ml), the level at the exit was 2,800 times higher than the desired limits and 580 times higher than the maximum permissible limits. At Asgarpur, which is the confluence of Shahdara and Tughlaqabad drains, the faecal level in December was 14,00,000 MPN/100 ml against 4,90,000 in November and 94,000 units in October.

The DO level at Palla station was 14mg/l, while at Asgarpur it was nil against the minimum requirement of 5mg/l. The BOD at the entry was 2.5 mg/l and 77 units at the exit against the maximum limit of 3 mg/l.

"Delhi has many areas that don't have a proper sewer network. Over 20% of the population is yet to get a proper sewer network. Moreover, over 80% of the sewage treatment plants (STP) don't meet the standards," said a DPCC official.

Experts stated that faecal levels were high due to poor sewage treatment and low ambient temperatures. The higher the level of faecal coliform, the higher the presence of disease-causing pathogens in the water. DO depicts the presence of life, while BOD is the minimum oxygen required by the river to break and manage organic matter.

Ecologist Manoj Mishra said, "Presence of faecal coliform shows that the STPs are inefficient. Also, biological activity slows down as tem-



File photo

### NO RESPITE IN SIGHT

perature falls. So, the capacity of the river to clean itself or break the biological components drops during winter."

"The primary question is why is untreated sewage reaching the river? Yamuna also doesn't have any flow. There are six dams on the river before it reaches Delhi and three within the city. How will the river clean itself when there is no flow and untreated sewage is being dumped in it?" asked Mishra.

The analysis by DPCC's Water Laboratory showed there were 41 STPs of Delhi Jal Board of which 35 were operational. However, only eight were complying with the prescribed standards. Sewage generation from 22 major drains was 3,273 million litres a day (MLD), while the installed treatment capacity of STPs was 2,715 MLD. But only 2,182 MLD sewage was being actually treated.