

The Times of India- 18- November-2023

# 10 Stations For Real-Time Data On River Health

## DPCC Also Plans To Buy Mobile Lab Vans To Monitor Samples

Priyangi Agarwal  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Delhi Pollution Control Committee will install 10 online continuous monitoring stations (OLMS) on the Yamuna to collect real-time data on water quality.

Currently, water samples are collected manually and analysed once a month. DPCC plans to procure a mobile laboratory van to monitor water samples at various locations. The OLMS will help in determining the quality of water at a given time.

In Delhi, the 22-km urban stretch of the river from Wazirabad to Okhla is the most polluted and is responsible for nearly 75% of the total pollution.

During a board meeting of DPCC on December 14, it was decided that the 10 OLMS and one mobile laboratory would be set up. "This will be adequate to monitor the quality of the water, whether it is improving or not," the minutes of meeting said.

Though there was initial plan of installing the OLMS at 53 locations, the board felt these were too many. "As such monitoring in such large number of places... would be waste of resources. The board advised that OLMS may be installed at 10 places. One

mobile laboratory may also be procured for monitoring the Yamuna river at various locations and also for collection and analysis of samples from various locations. Manual monitoring may continue as is now being done. It will detect more parameters what OLMS may offer," said the board according to the minutes of the meeting.

The DPCC member secretary told the board that a committee with officers of DPCC, Delhi Jal Board and Central Pollution Control Board has been formed for finalising the terms and conditions and specifications of the monitoring systems to be purchased before placing an order. "The water laboratory of the DPCC should speed up the process," the minutes said.

At present, water samples are manually collected every month from eight locations — Palla, Wazirabad, ISBT Bridge, ITO Bridge, Nizamuddin Bridge, Okhla Barrage, Agra Canal at Okhla Barrage and River Yamuna at Asgarpur — for pH, chemical oxygen demand, biochemical oxygen demand, dissolved oxygen and fecal coliform. In the last two months, DPCC has analysed phosphate and surfactant that cause froth.

**75%**  
OF POLLUTION IN  
YAMUNA IS  
BECAUSE OF THE  
WAZIRABAD TO  
OKHLA STRETCH

File photo



**MORE TEETH TO CLEAN-YAMUNA DRIVE**

Millennium Post- 18- November-2023

# Heavy rain pounds southern Tamil Nadu

**CHENNAI:** Heavy rains under the influence of a cyclonic circulation lashed southern Tamil Nadu on Sunday, inundating several areas in districts including Kanyakumari.

Since the Thamirabarani river is in spate, Chief Minister M K Stalin directed authorities to release surplus water into the Kannadian channel, marking a dry run under a river-linking project in southern Tamil Nadu. Stalin deputed Ministers to rain-hit districts to oversee and carry out relief work.

A Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) bulletin said a cyclonic circulation is now seen over the Comorin area and its neighbourhood, extending up to mid tropospheric levels.

On Sunday, heavy rains lashed Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Tenkasi districts. Some regions recorded very heavy rainfall.



Since Saturday, light to moderate rainfall was recorded at most places of southern Tamil Nadu. Surplus water is being released from Pechiparai, Perunjani and Papanasam dams and alert messages (SMS) have been sent to over two lakh local people.

Water entered houses in low-lying areas and vehicles were stranded in view of flooding. Water logging was also reported on the premises of a couple of state-run hospitals.

Several regions in such southern districts witnessed inundation which was heavy in a string of areas and authorities declared a holiday for schools and colleges. National and State Disaster Response Force teams have been deployed.

Local authorities and police made arrangements for evacuating people from flooded and vulnerable areas to relief centres.

In the meanwhile, the government appointed four senior

IAS officers to speed up relief work in the four districts and coordinate with all departments. Four other officials have also been deputed for related work.

Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena held a virtual meeting with district collectors of southern districts and tasked them to take appropriate preventive steps to tackle the situation due to rains.

An official release here said Stalin has ordered release of surplus water into the Kannadian channel which will carry flood water to arid regions in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts, benefitting farmers.

The release of surplus water is a preparatory exercise under the Thamirabarani, Karumeniyaru and Nambiyaru (in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts of Tamil Nadu) river-linking project, which is nearing completion.

PTI



Hindustan Times- 18- November-2023

# DPCC to begin collecting real-time data of quality of water in Yamuna

**Jasjeev Gandhiok**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) will soon begin installing online continuous monitoring systems (OCMS) at 10 locations across the Yamuna, allowing real-time data collection of the quality of the river water, according to documents seen by HT.

At present, water samples are collected manually from seven locations once a month. Officials said that to collect real-time water quality data from the remaining points, a mobile water testing lab will also be procured and the plan was approved during the latest DPCC board meeting in October.

A senior DPCC official said the proposal initially was to install OCMS at 53 locations across the river, including at outfall drains, but this was updated to cover only 10 points owing to the high financial costs involved.

"This will provide real-time data on the water quality of the river and reduce the need for manual sample collection. We can, at any time, analyse which drains are more polluting and the points at which pollution spiked more than others in the



**The latest data showed that only one of the seven spots met the biological oxygen demand.**

HT PHOTO

river," said an official requesting anonymity. In the minutes of the meeting, dated November 14, DPCC said a committee was formed to complete the process, comprising the Delhi Jal Board, Central Pollution Control Board and DPCC officials.

"...this has been constituted for finalizing the terms and conditions and specifications of the monitoring systems to be purchased, before placing the order. The water lab of the DPCC should speed up the process at the earliest," said the minutes.

A National Green Tribunal

(NGT) appointed monitoring committee on the Yamuna had found that a 22-km stretch of the river, falling in Delhi, contributes to around 76% of the water's total pollution.

DPCC currently lifts water samples manually once a month from seven locations across the Yamuna — including Palla, where the river enters Delhi, Wazirabad, ISBT Kashmere Gate, ITO bridge, Nizamuddin bridge, Okhla barrage and Asgarpur, after which the river exits Delhi. The latest monthly water data from November 2023

showed that out of the seven spots from where samples were collected, only one spot — Palla — was meeting the biological oxygen demand (BOD) standard of 3 mg/l.

BOD shows the amount of oxygen required by aquatic life and organisms in the river to survive. The higher the value, the greater this demand, which means aquatic life is unlikely to survive in the water.

Despite this, a report submitted by Delhi chief secretary Naresh Kumar to NGT earlier this week said there has been an improvement in the water quality of the river from January to November 2023 compared to the corresponding period last year.

Bhim Singh Rawat, a Yamuna activist, and member of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP) said such technology has existed but now needs to be proactively installed and worked with. "The National Mission for Clean Ganga had launched a 'PRAYAG' portal — a Platform for Real-time Analysis of Yamuna, Ganga and their Tributaries but we are yet to see states either install online systems or make such data public. This is an important step, to fix the Yamuna" he said.