

Times of India 06-January-2021

Joint panel to study high ammonia levels in Yamuna

New Delhi: A joint study group and surveillance team comprising officials from Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Delhi Pollution Control Committee and the irrigation and water resources department of both Delhi and Haryana was constituted on Tuesday to check the recurring issue of increase in the ammoniacal nitrogen in the Yamuna.

In a meeting convened on Monday by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the issue and the possible reasons, including the discharge of untreated sewage from upstream towns in Haryana, industries units, common effluent treatment plants and sewage treatment plants, were discussed. The illegal discharge from unsewered colonies was also looked at.

"The group will review uniform monitoring protocol and requirement of strengthening monitoring mechanism, analyse past data and carry out field surveys to identify critical hotspots as well as period of high ammonia levels," said CPCB. TNN

Asian Age 06-January-2021

Heaviest Jan. rain in Chennai in 100 yrs

Normal life severely affected ■ MeT department predicts light to moderate rains in next 24 hours

AGE CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 5

Normal life was affected in Chennai and surrounding districts after incessant heavy rain on Tuesday, resulting in waterlogging and inundation in low-lying areas. The authorities also released surplus water from the city reservoirs, including Chembarambakkam lake.

According to weather expert Pradeep John, Chennai city has received a record rainfall in 100 years and it is the heaviest in January since 1915. He said "there is no cyclone,

no depression and no low pressure. Yet we have seen heavy rainfall in Chennai and by January standards the rainfall is just 20 mm yet we have got over seven times in January rain in less than 15 hours."

Chennai and adjacent regions witnessed heavy-to-very heavy rainfall under the influence of an easterly trough, a senior Regional Meteorological Centre official here said. On Tuesday, Chennai city recorded 6 cm of rain, much more than the expected 3.7 cm.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has



Vehicles wade through a waterlogged road after heavy rains in Chennai on Tuesday. — PTI

predicted cloudy weather with light to moderate rains in the next 24 hours.

Moderate rainfall is likely in several northern districts on Wednesday with

Villupuram, Cuddalore and other neighbouring districts expected to receive isolated heavy showers. The sudden downpour prompted officials to release surplus water from the reservoirs around Chennai. Initially, 500 cusecs of water were released from the Chembarambakkam dam and later stepped up to about 3,000 cusecs.

Similarly, 1,500 cusecs were released from the Puzhal lake, and 2,970 cusecs from Poondi, PWD officials said. These reservoirs are the primary resources of Chennai's drinking water needs.

The Statesman 06-January-2021

Continued snow, rain disrupt power, essential services in J&K



Snow-covered CRPF vehicles. ■ SNS

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 5 JANUARY

Electric supply and other essential services were disrupted across Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday due to snowfall and rains during the past three days. Extreme cold and bad weather resulted in overloading of the power system, causing frequent breakdowns since last night adding to the woes of people.

Kashmir's administration has ordered rationing of petrol, diesel and LPG as fresh supplies were not reaching the Valley due to continued closure of the strategic Jammu-Srinagar highway due to accumulation of about 4 ft of snow at the Jawahar Tunnel and landslides ahead of Udhampur. Traffic police has ordered closure of the highway for the fourth day on Wednesday. Flights to Srinagar from New Delhi, Jammu and other places remained suspended for the third day due to snow on the runway of Srinagar's airport and poor visibility. Shooting stones and mudslides were reported at Samroli, Dalwas, Cafeteria Morh, Sitaram Passi, Panthyal, Magerkot, Gangroo and Salad. Met Department has announced that inclement weather will stretch till Wednesday. Srinagar admin-

istration made an appeal to the public to avoid using private cars and other non-essential transportation for the time being to facilitate unhindered snow-clearance operation.

J&K is under the influence of Western Disturbance, according to IMD. There has been heavy snowfall in South Kashmir for the past three days. Almost all parts of Kashmir are witnessing moderate to heavy snowfall since this morning. Prompted by heavy snowfall, the J&K Disaster Management Authority issued medium and low-level avalanche warning for the upper reaches of avalanche-prone areas of Jammu and Kashmir. Over 250 stranded vehicles, mostly carrying passengers, were cleared after the arterial road was briefly opened for one-way traffic between Banihal and Qazigund. Over 100 Jammu-bound trucks were cleared from Jawahar Tunnel area after BRO managed to clear the road of accumulated snow on Monday evening. Dozens of passengers, including three cancer patients, were provided food and shelter by the local residents of Tathaar-Nowgam village of Banihal.

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The Statesman 06-January-2021

World Bank loan to improve inland waterways in Bengal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 JANUARY

The Government of India, the Government of West Bengal and the World Bank today signed a \$105-million project to improve the inland water transport infrastructure in Kolkata, West Bengal.

In a Press statement, the finance ministry informed that the project will facilitate passenger and freight movement across the Hooghly river; undertake spatial planning to improve accessibility in the Kolkata metropolitan area; enhance the quality of life of its residents; and contribute to the growth of the state's logistics sector.

The agreement was signed by C S Mohapatra, additional secretary, department of economic affairs, ministry

of finance on behalf of the Government of India, Rajdeep Dutta, deputy resident commissioner, on behalf of the Government of West Bengal; and Junaid Ahmad, country director, India, on behalf of the World Bank.

"The inland waterways are now emerging as a cost-effective and an environment friendly option for passenger and freight movement. This project will help improve the river transport infrastructure in West Bengal and help in the economic development of the state by connecting the hinterland with markets and job centres in Kolkata's metropolitan area," said C S Mohapatra.

The project - the West Bengal Inland Water Transport, Logistics and Spatial Development Project - will

cover the five most populous districts of southern West Bengal, including its urban agglomeration - the Kolkata metropolitan area (KMA) where around 30 million people or one-third of West Bengal's population live.

"This operation will allow the state to invest in Kolkata's economic productivity by making its waterways and ferry services part of an efficient and safe urban mobility strategy," said Junaid Ahmad, World Bank country director in India. "Importantly, given Kolkata's strategic location, the project is also ensuring that the metropolitan area emerges as a transport and logistics hub for the sub-region, leveraging the EDFC and connecting to the North-east and the landlocked countries of Nepal and Bhutan."

Chennai gets its wettest January in decades

'In 15 hours, the city got seven times the entire month's rainfall'

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, January 5

Chill weather is the norm for Chennai in January. But, this year, the city was off to a wet start with incessant rain pounding Tamil Nadu's capital since Monday night. It was the heaviest rainfall in January in decades for Chennai, say experts.

The heavy rainfall led to waterlogging in several parts of the city. People stayed indoors and there was limited public transport throughout the day. Many of the offices declared holiday on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority said that among the 11 Taluks in the city, Guindy recorded the highest rainfall of 155



Excess water being discharged from the Redhills reservoir after the heavy rain on Tuesday JOTHI RAMALINGAM

mm; followed by Mam-balam (143.60 mm); Ayanavaram (125.20 mm); Sholinganallur (120 mm); Perambur (116); Mylapore (115.40 mm) Alanthur (105 mm); Tondiarpet (104 mm) and the rest below 100 mm.

"No cyclone, No Depression, No Low pressure. Yet,

what rainfall we have seen in Chennai and by January standards our rainfall is just 20 mm, yet we have got over 7 times the January month rainfall in less than 15 hours," said independent weather watcher Pradeep John, a weather blogger.

With all the Chennai

reservoirs nearing around 90 per cent of full storage capacity, there is high alert in the city as water was let out from both Chembarambakkam and Red Hills lakes in the afternoon.

An advisory by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Re-

sources, said that most of the Chennai reservoirs have reached near full storage capacity — Poondi (97.03 per cent; Cholavaram (81.50 per cent); Red Hills (97.5 per cent) and Chembarambakkam (92.29 per cent). High alert may be given to authorities downstream.

Meanwhile, the Public Works Department opened the shutters of Chembarambakkam and Red Hills reservoirs. In the afternoon, the PWD released 2,000 cusecs from Chembarambakkam and 500 cusecs from Red Hills.

More rain expected

Heavy rainfall with lightning and thunderstorm is expected over the city suburbs in the next two days.

A stream of easterlies is seen converging along the coast, particularly from Chennai to Karaikal.

With inputs from Vinson Kurian, Thiruvananthapuram

ASKS CPCB TO IDENTIFY SOURCES OF POLLUTION

High ammonia in Yamuna: After DJB complaints, NGT takes cognizance of issue

ROUSHAN ALI

NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal-appointed Yamuna Monitoring Committee has asked the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to identify 'point sources' of pollution leading to high levels of ammonia in the river in Delhi and submit a report by January 10.

The directions from the two-member green panel came after the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) alleged that Haryana has not yet stopped discharging industrial pollutants in the river despite repeated reminders, and urged the CPCB to take immediate remedial measures.

The committee cited a media

report that said ammonia levels in the Yamuna at Wazirabad rose to 7 parts per million (ppm) against the permissible limits of 0.8 ppm. It has also been reported that the reason primarily is the industrial effluent/untreated domestic sewage entering river Yamuna through drains number 6 and 8 and through the Rohtak regulator, the panel, comprising former Delhi Chief Secretary Shailaja Chandra and retired NGT expert member B S Sajwan, said.

The incidence of high ammoniacal nitrogen concentration is sporadic in nature and is generally reported during the winter months of December-February almost every year, the committee said.

Considering the recurring nature of the problem, it is incumbent upon the CPCB and Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) to put in place a robust surveillance system, particularly during the critical winter months, for monitoring the activities of the industries and the functioning of STPs and also take coercive action against the defaulting units, it said.

The panel asked the CPCB to associate with HSPCB and depute a team to identify point sources of pollution leading to high levels of ammoniacal nitrogen in the Yamuna and submit a report by January 10.

According to United States Environmental Protection Agency, a point source is a sin-

gle, identifiable source of pollution, such as a pipe or a drain.

The YMC has also taken up the matter with the Chief Secretary of Haryana, requesting him to direct authorities to take immediate action to prevent flow of untreated sewage and industrial effluent from Haryana into river Yamuna.

The DJB had recently said it will consider moving court against the "apathetic" Haryana government as it is yet to stop the discharge of pollutants in the Yamuna which affects drinking water supply in the national capital. The utility said it will soon start work to install ozonation units at the Chandrawal and Wazirabad plants to treat high levels of ammonia.

Snowfall, rain recorded in North India

Nearly 4,500 vehicles, mostly trucks carrying essentials to Kashmir, are stranded

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Snowfall was recorded in higher reaches of North India on Tuesday and rain was witnessed in the plains, with Kashmir remaining cut-off from the rest of the country for the second consecutive day as the arterial Jammu-Srinagar national highway and Mughal road remained closed due to accumulation of snow.

There was fresh snowfall in the higher reaches of Uttarakhand, and intermittent light showers and cold winds in the lower areas of the state.

Snowfall began in the higher hills of Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudrapur and Pithoragarh districts late on Monday night and continued at most of the places in these districts on Tuesday.

Gangotri and Yamunotri temples, dozens of villages in Harshil valley, hilly areas of Mori and Badkot in Uttarkashi district got covered in snow. Yamunotri recorded a minimum temperature of minus six degrees Celsius, while Gangotri recorded a minimum of one degree.

Overcast conditions prevailed in the plains, including Dehradun, which was swept by cold winds and intermittent drizzling.

Kashmir was cut off from rest of the country for the



Vehicles covered under snow at a parking area during heavy snowfall in Srinagar on Tuesday
PIC/PTI

second consecutive day as the arterial Jammu-Srinagar national highway and Mughal road remained closed, while air traffic was suspended due to snowfall across the valley.

Nearly 4,500 vehicles, mostly trucks carrying essentials to the valley, are stranded along the highway at various places. Mughal Road, which connects the valley to Jammu division through Shopian-Rajouri axis, has been closed for several days due to heavy snowfall in the region.

The officials said south Kashmir's Kulgam district received highest snowfall with three to four feet of snow accumulated at some places.

Anantnag district has also received heavy snowfall, they said. Srinagar city has witnessed moderate snowfall for

the past three days but snow clearance operations have ensured that traffic movement was going on.

The flight operations to and from Srinagar remained suspended for second consecutive day due to poor visibility, the officials said.

The minimum temperature improved in most places in the valley due to the snowfall but still stayed below the freezing point, the officials said.

Srinagar city -- the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir -- recorded a low of minus 0.8 degrees Celsius -- up from the previous night's minus 0.9 degrees Celsius, they said.

The Jammu-Srinagar national highway remained closed for the third consecutive day following heavy snowfall and multiple landslides, even

as over 250 stranded vehicles, mostly carrying passengers, were cleared after the arterial road was briefly opened for one-way traffic between Banihal and Qazigund, officials said.

The 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was closed for traffic on Saturday night after Jawahar Tunnel, the gateway to Kashmir, experienced snowfall that left over 4,500 vehicles, mostly trucks stranded on either side.

With no let up in the snow in and around Jawahar Tunnel coupled with multiple landslides, mudslides and shooting of stones from the hillocks overlooking the highway at various places between Samroli and Banihal, the strategic road was closed for vehicular traffic since Sunday, the officials said.

However, they said over 100 Jammu-bound trucks were cleared from Jawahar Tunnel area after the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) managed to clear the road of over three feet of accumulated snow on Monday evening.

The officials said a mudslide which had struck the highway near Samroli in Udhampur district due to overnight rains was cleared around 2 pm Tuesday, thus paving the way for resumption of traffic on Jammu-Kishtwar-Doda

highway.

Meanwhile, Jammu and other plains were lashed by heavy rains, while high altitude areas in the region experienced intermittent snowfall for the third day on Tuesday.

Cold weather conditions continued in Punjab and Haryana even as minimum temperatures stayed above normal levels in most parts of the states. Light to moderate rain accompanied with lightning and thunderstorm were observed at isolated places over western Uttar Pradesh while very light rain and thunder-showers occurred at isolated places over eastern parts of the state.

Meanwhile, heavy rains lashed Chennai and its suburbs on Tuesday, inundating houses in some low lying areas and affecting normal life, while authorities released surplus water from the city reservoirs, including Chembarambakkam.

The incessant rains, which returned to the city after a break of several weeks, led to water logging in many roads and motorists and office-goers faced a tough time reaching their destinations. Chennai and adjacent regions witnessed heavy to very heavy rainfall under the influence of easterly trough, a senior Regional Meteorological Centre official here said.

Hindustan 06-January-2021

यमुना में अमोनिया बढ़ने का मुख्य स्रोत बताएं

नई दिल्ली | प्रमुख संवाददाता

यमुना नदी में हर साल दिसंबर से फरवरी के बीच अमोनिया की मात्रा में बढ़ोतरी पर नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल द्वारा गठित निगरानी समिति ने गंभीरता से लिया है। यमुना निगरानी समिति ने केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (सीपीसीबी) को नदी में अमोनिया बढ़ने के मुख्य स्रोत (कारण) का पता लगाने और सुधार के लिए समुचित कदम उठाने को कहा है।

दिल्ली सरकार के पूर्व मुख्य सचिव शैलजा चंद्रा और एनजीटी के पूर्व

विशेषज्ञ सदस्य बीएस साजवान की समिति ने सीपीसीबी से इस बारे में 10 जनवरी तक रिपोर्ट पेश करने को कहा है। समिति ने उस खबर पर संज्ञान लेते हुए यह आदेश दिया है, जिसमें कहा गया है कि वजीराबाद के पास यमुना नदी में अमोनिया का स्तर बढ़कर सात पीपीएम हो गया, जबकि तय मानक के हिसाब से यह 0.8 पीपीएम से अधिक नहीं होना चाहिए। दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने भी आरोप लगाया है कि हरियाणा ने औद्योगिक इकाइयों से निकलने वाले गंदे पानी रोकने को कदम नहीं उठाया।

