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Delhi missing 2023 deadline to treat all sewage makes 2025 Yamuna cleaning goal challenging

According to a new report by Delhi Pollution Control Committee

NEW DELHI: Having missed the December 2023 deadline to treat all the sewage generated in the city, a crucial step towards cleaning the Yamuna, the Delhi government now strives to achieve the target by March this year, according to a new report prepared by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).

The delay means that cleaning the Yamuna to bathing standards by February 2025, a key promise made by the AAP government, has proven to be more challenging than the government had expected.

According to the report presented on January 10 before the High-Level Committee on Yamuna Rejuvenation, set up by the National Green Tribunal, Delhi has increased its sewage treatment capacity by 35 million gallons a day since January 2023.

The city generates 792 million gallons a day (MGD) of sewage, only 667 MGD of which can be technically treated by the 37 Sewage Treat-



Representational image *

ment Plants, or STPs, set up in the capital.

At present, these STPs utilise only 71 per cent of their installed capacity, treating only 565 MGD of the 792 MGD sewage, with the rest flowing into the Yamuna river untreated.

Only 237 MGD of the treated wastewater meets the prescribed standards, according to which, BOD (biological oxygen demand) and TSS (total suspended solids) in the treated wastewater should be less than 10 milligrams per litre.

BOD, an essential parameter for assessing water quality, is the amount of oxygen required by aerobic microorganisms to decompose organic material present in a water body. BOD levels less than 3 milligrams per litre are considered good.

The Delhi government had previously set a target of treating 100 per cent of sewage generated in the capital to the prescribed standards by December.

It aimed to increase Delhi's sewage treatment capacity to

Key Points

- » At present, these STPs utilise only 71 per cent of their installed capacity, treating only 565 MGD of the 792 MGD sewage, with the rest flowing into the Yamuna river untreated
- » The Delhi government had previously set a target of treating 100 per cent of sewage generated in the capital to the prescribed standards by December

814 MGD by December 2023 and 965 MGD by June 2024 to accommodate the expected future increase in sewage generation. According to the Delhi Jal Board's estimates, the capital will be generating 925 MGD of sewage (80 per cent of 1,156 MGD water supply) by 2025.

The deadline to achieve the treatment capacity of 965 MGD has now been extended to March 2025.

The 22-kilometre stretch of the Yamuna between Wazirabad and Okhla in Delhi, which is less than 2 per cent of the entire river length, accounts for around 80 per cent of its pollution load. Untapped wastewater from unauthorised colonies and jhuggi-jhopri clusters, along with the poor quality of treated wastewater discharged from sewage treatment plants and common effluent treatment plants (CETPs), is the main reason behind high pollution levels in the river.

The river can be considered fit for bathing if BOD is less than 3 milligrams per litre and dissolved oxygen (DO) is greater than 5 milligrams per litre. The NGT-constituted committee has identified seven major action points to rejuvenate the river.

These are 100 per cent treatment of all sewage generated in the capital, trapping of all drains, connecting all 1,799 unauthorised colonies and 639 jhuggi-jhopri clusters to the sewer network. AGENCIES

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Telangana Post - 21- January-2024

Krishna projects: BRS for all-party delegation to Delhi

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

Demanding that the State government take an all-party delegation to the Centre to pressure the Jal Shakti Ministry for restoration of its rights over Krishna basin projects, BRS leader and former Minister S Niranjan Reddy on Saturday said by conceding both the NSP and Srisailem projects, along with 15 outlets under them, to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), the State government had put at stake the interests of the State that were safeguarded by BRS government for 10 years.

Addressing a news conference with MLA K Venkatesh, MLC MS Prabhakar and others at Telangana Bhavan, he said the Congress government, by conceding the operational control of the projects to the KRMB, had left the State with its throat slit. Though the government was coming out with lame excuses now, its decision was a serious setback and would amount to meting out gross injustice to the districts of erstwhile Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda and Khammam.

If the Jal Shakti Ministry, which held the high-level meeting with the irrigation secretaries and officials of the two States on January 17 in New Delhi, wrongly recorded the minutes of the meeting, the State officials should have issued a clarification immediately.

The Congress never stood for the interests of the State. It did not oppose when seven revenue mandals were merged with Andhra Pradesh. It did not raise its voice even when the State was deprived of the Lower Sileru Hydel project. Despite being a national party, it failed to play a decisive role when the State, under the BRS rule, was fighting for its due.

The BRS government defied the diktats of the Centre to protect the State's interests. It did not yield even on the issues pertaining to the riparian share of the State in the Krishna and Godavari waters. The State government's decision to hand over the control of the Krishna basin projects to the KRMB would impact its entitled drawls from PRLIS and Kalwakurthy. They may have to forego their right on low-cost power.

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The Hindu - 21- January-2024

Kaveripakkam tank in Ranipet district may become a drinking water source for the city

Spread over 1,605 hectares, this irrigation tank is the biggest among 519 tanks in the undivided Vellore district; a study has been initiated to check feasibility of rejuvenating the tank; the WRD plans to desilt the tank and also increase its height by two feet to enhance storage by nearly 1,000 mcf

K. Lakshmi
CHENNAI

Kaveripakkam tank, the largest waterbody in Ranipet district, may be tapped as a drinking water source for the city with the Water Resources Department studying the possibility of improving the tank to reduce floods at source and also transfer water to Chennai.

Spread over 1,605 hectares, this irrigation tank is the biggest among 519 tanks in the undivided Vellore district that includes Ranipet and Tirupattur districts. Its massive size reminds onlookers of large waterbodies like Veeranam and Chembarambakkam.

Officials of the WRD said that a study has been initiated to check feasibility of rejuvenating the tank based on a revenue model on the lines of other waterbodies, such as Madurantakam. A final draft of the study and detailed project report is expected to be submitted by a Chennai-based consultant in February.

The tank's original storage capacity is 1,474 million cubic feet. However, it has reduced to nearly 947 mcf due to silt that had got deposited over the years. The department plans to desilt the tank and also increase its height by two feet to enhance the storage by nearly 1,000 mcf.



Massive reservoir: Officials of the WRD said that a study has been initiated to check feasibility of rejuvenating the tank.

"We are also planning foreshore reclamation wherein desilted sand will be used to level up lands in the foreshore area that would otherwise be marooned under water when

the tank's height is raised," said an official.

The efforts to augment the tank's capacity would also reduce floods at source level, prevent inundation in downstream

areas, and conserve resources for irrigation and drinking water. Moreover, plans are being considered to transfer water to Chennai either through Kosathalaiyar river or Cooum river. Water from Kaveripakkam reaches Kesavaram anicut from where it branches out to the Cooum river as well. About 400-500 mcf of surplus water could be sent to Poondi reservoir located 60 km downstream or Chembarambakkam reservoir, said an official.

The tank is a major source of water for agriculture as it had an ayacut area of nearly 2,541 hectare and about 37 villages, including Sirukarambur

and Panniyur, benefitted as the waterbody helped in recharging groundwater level.

Deepening of the irrigation tank would benefit many paddy farmers dependent on it for cultivation of at least two crops in a year. Surplus water can be discharged into nearby waterbodies that would help avoid inundation during monsoon, said K. Paramasivam, a farmer in Kaveripakkam.

The department is also scrutinising revenue model by assessing commercial demand for silt to cover partial project cost, officials added.

(With inputs from D.Madhavan)