

The Times of India- 23- October-2023

# ‘Yamuna cleaning far from decent’, NGT seeks report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Yogesh Kumar

**New Delhi:** Observing that “cleaning of river Yamuna is far from satisfactory,” National Green Tribunal asked Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to file a fresh report on number of drains still discharging treated, untreated or partially treated wastewater directly into the river affecting its water quality with respect to prescribed standards.

The tribunal has also directed Central Pollution Control Board to verify the facts and figures disclosed by the states and authorities concerned.

While hearing an application on the issue of rejuvenation of Yamuna, a bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava observed that the situation with regard to cleaning of the river is far from satisfactory and the reports submitted by all agencies seem to be deficit on issues. These included details of the drains discharging treated and untreated wastewater and the quantity and quality of the discharge and rejuvenation and restoration of the Yamuna floodplain and associated wetlands.

The tribunal also sought detailed reports from states on sewage treatment plants (STPs) including those const-

**DIRTY PICTURE**

ructed and operational to treat the wastewater discharged from the drains, capacity of existing STPs and the quality of treated wastewater if it is meeting the standards or not, details of upgradation of the existing STPs and details of those areas which have so far not been covered by the sewage network system with timelines for trapping all the sewage generated from authorized and unauthorized colonies and linking to the main drain for treatment and disposal.

NGT also asked the states on steps taken for utilization of the treated wastewater for agriculture, horticulture, construction activities, dust mitigation and other non-

contact purposes.

In a status report filed by Delhi government earlier, NGT noted that the water parameters are still not meeting the norms and the dissolved oxygen was not found in any location. As per the previous status report filed by Haryana government, total quantity of effluent is 1,461 MLD while 921 MLD is treated by 11 STPs and the balance, 540 MLD of untreated sewage is flowing into the Yamuna.

“As per the water quality of river Yamuna in Haryana indicates high level of coliform,” observed NGT, adding that no report after the previous order of the tribunal has been filed by UP.

The Times of India- 23- October-2023

# Set to complete last year, Okhla STP may kick off by December

Siddhanta.Mishra  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Okhla sewage treatment plant (STP), which is expected to play a crucial role in cleaning the Yamuna, may be commissioned by December this year, said officials.

This joint venture project between National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Delhi Jal Board started in 2017, when money required for the work was sanctioned, mostly by the Centre.

According to DJB estimates, the plant is critical to Delhi's sewage treatment network as it will have the capacity of treating 56.4 crore litres of wastewater daily.

Aimed at playing a major role in cleaning the Yamuna, the STP was to be completed by December 2022, but as per the latest status report of the NMCG, around 92% of the work has been done.

Despite the central government monitoring the project closely and Delhi government also investing in it, the commissioning of the plant has been delayed by a year.

Part of the Yamuna Action Plan-III (YAP-3), both the governments came together for the construction of 564 million litres per day (MLD) capacity wastewater treatment plant with the target of effluent standards of BOD – 10mg per litre or better.

According to government officials, the work took a hit due to the construction bans in November and December. Of the total estimated cost, the centre's share is 85% and state's contribution is 15%.

According to Delhi government, the present capaci-

## LONG HAUL



Estimated cost  
**₹665 crore**

### STP capacity

**564 million litres**  
per day (MLD)



### Part of Yamuna Action Plan-III of central government

First deadline  
**DEC 2022**

Second  
deadline  
**JUNE 2023**

Expected  
completion  
**DEC 2023**



Over  
**80%**  
work  
completed

ty of wastewater treatment plants stands at 632 million gallons per day at more than 35 STPs which have different capacities. Under the Yamuna Action Plan-3, three key STPs of Okhla, Rithala and Kondli are being developed which will further augment the treatment capacity of the DJB.

Okhla STP being an integrated project, the sludge management has also been included in the scope of work as per which the sludge will be disposed of in a scientific manner addressing environmental-related issues, according to the government.

Officials in the DJB said for the first time in the city, ultra-violet technology has been employed in an STP, a technique commonly used in RO plants to make water drinkable. The plant's design will be unique, they added, as the primary sedimentation unit's tank will be rectangular instead of circular.



The Hindu- 23- October-2023

# A.P.'s rice bowl reputation at stake as water war heats up

The State's continuing dispute with Telangana over sharing of Krishna river water is giving farmers sleepless nights, particularly in regions already struggling with a severe deficit. The Centre's recent decision authorising a fresh review of the sharing has raised concerns of political motives and potential losses in the State's agriculture sector, reports **G.V.R. Subba Rao**



**Water worries:** (Top) Agricultural labourers plucking paddy seedlings at a nursery at Chodavaram village on the outskirts of Vijayawada. The paddy seedlings will be transplanted in the fields. Farmers are concerned about possible delays in water releases for the Kharif season, as upper riparian States tend to fill their reservoirs before releasing water to Andhra Pradesh. K.V.S. GIM

**G**od alone knows what will happen to those of us who have completed paddy transplantation. There's no water to protect the paddy, which is either in the tillering or stem elongation stage," rues Gouriseti Nageswara Rao, a farmer from Mulaparu village in Bantamilli area of Krishna river in Andhra Pradesh, as he surveys his 12-acre semi-parched paddy field.

Several farmers like Rao, in villages located at the tail end of the Krishna river irrigation system, including Bantamilli, Koduru, and Hamsaladevi mandals, have refrained from undertaking sowing operations. The handful who have managed to complete transplantation, are keeping their fingers crossed – no one knows how much water they will get, or if they will even get any.

Rao points out that water is released to select areas on specific days of the week in what is known as *vaarabandi* (rotation basis). "Farmers close to the sea coast are the worst sufferers as water hardly reaches them under *vaarabandi*. If this is the case now, we dread to think what will happen if Telangana gets a higher share in Krishna river waters," he adds.

He is among hundreds of farmers who fear that nearly 30 lakh acres in the State will be left without essential irrigation, after the Centre's decision to forward Telangana's plea regarding Krishna river water sharing to the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT-II), just ahead of Assembly elections in that State.

Farmers' associations are concerned

that if the matter if referred to KWDT-II, a potential water crisis could impact as much as 15 lakh acres under Nagarjuna Sagar Left and Right canals, 13 lakh acres in the Krishna delta, and 2 lakh acres under the Srisailem Right Branch Canal (SRBC). Another 15 lakh acres in the Rayalaseema region are also likely to be affected, they say.

**High and dry**  
Water holds great significance in Andhra Pradesh, which is often touted as the 'Rice Bowl of India'. However, farmers are concerned that the State may lose this tag, as several regions are struggling with a lack of irrigation water this year. Their apprehension revolves around an uncertain future, if water shortages persist within the current agreement on sharing Krishna waters with Telangana.

Avula Basavaiah, a farmer from Ramakrishnapuram village in the Koduru area, says no one in their village or even those in Nagayalaseema and Hamsaladevi mandals has initiated paddy sowing yet. "Even if, by some stroke of luck, water becomes available in the next couple of weeks, the harvesting season would extend all the way up to January. So there is no hope for a Rabi crop, let alone the possibility of a second crop in this region," he laments.

Farmers and leaders of various political parties have alleged that the Central government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is looking to gain electoral advantage in Telangana at the expense of farmers in Andhra Pradesh, which faces serious challenges as a lower riparian State in the Krishna river basin.

They draw parallels with similar tactics employed by the party ahead of the Karnataka elections, where it declared Upper Bhadra a national project, ignoring Andhra Pradesh's appeals and concerns. Earlier this month, the BJP issued a gazette notification on fresh Terms of Reference (TOR) to resolve the Krishna water dispute that will reallocate water for ongoing and contemplated projects in the two States. The new TOR is in tune with Telangana's demands and such a move, farmers say, would turn Andhra Pradesh lands fallow.

Telangana has initiated multiple construction projects – Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme, Bhaktha Ramadas Lift Irrigation Scheme, Water Grid Project taken up under Mission Bhagiratha, Thummalila Lift Irrigation Scheme, and a few – with plans to use up to 150 thousand million cubic feet (tmcf) of Krishna water.

"This, combined with the extension of ayacuts (area under irrigation) under SRBC and other projects, could potentially result in the unauthorised utilisation of 255 tmcf," says Alla Gopala Krishna Rao, president of Andhra Pradesh State Water Users Associations Federation.

**Agreements and objections**  
The heart of the matter lies in the historical agreements between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, as well as their arrangements through the Krishna River Management Board.

The original agreement, following a joint meeting of officials on June 18, 2015, had allocated 512 tmcf to Andhra Pradesh and 299 tmcf to Telangana out of the total 811 tmcf allocated to the erstwhile composite State.

The minutes of the meeting explicitly

stated that taking into account the Bhachawat Tribunal allocations in 1976 and two adjustments previously implemented by the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh government, 20 tmcf was allocated for the Bheema project in Narayanpet district of Telangana, and 19 tmcf for SRBC project in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

However, the Andhra Pradesh government did not insist on project specific allocation of 299 tmcf to Telangana when the agreement was signed. As a result, Telangana has been constructing lift irrigation schemes on the river course with no account of how much water is being utilised.

For instance, Andhra Pradesh has been raising concerns about the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation scheme in Telangana, claiming that it will jeopardise the interests of its farmers, particularly in Rayalaseema region. According to the AP Reorganisation Act 2014, any new project must be cleared by the apex council, chaired by the Union Jal Shakti Ministry, with the Chief Ministers of both States as members. However, the Centre cleared the decks for approval without the apex council's resolution and without considering Andhra Pradesh's objections.

The Palamuru-Rangareddy project is designed to divert 1.55 tmcf of backwaters from the Srisailem backwaters daily to meet the irrigation needs of Palamuru district in Telangana, amounting to nearly 90 tmcf in a year (or roughly 58 days as backwaters are available only if the flood reaches and fills the Srisailem dam).

Andhra Pradesh has alleged that Telangana intentionally split the project into two phases, one for irrigation and another for drinking water (83.9 tmcf) and also took into account evaporation losses (6.1 tmcf), in order to evade legal scrutiny. These concerns would be resolved if the Krishna Drinking Water Treatment-II (KWDT-II) project were exclusively designated for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. "Andhra Pradesh may not receive water from shared projects like Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar as Telangana would divert the water even before it reaches these projects," claims a farmer.

Farmer leader M.V.S. Nagi Reddy, who is vice-chairman of the A.P. Agricultural Mission, contends that within the Krishna River basin, there are four riparian States. "Then on what basis can the Centre appoint a tribunal exclusively for two States? It should ask the tribunal to thoroughly examine the matter and include the other two states, Maharashtra and Karnataka, too," he says.

Boja Dasaratha Ramji Reddy, president of Rayalaseema Saguneei Sadhana Samithi (RSSS), mirrors his sentiments. "The Centre's decision to change the TOR for two States is meaningless and in viola-

tion of the law. As per Section 5 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act 1956, the tribunal has to conduct a comprehensive study of water utilisation by Maharashtra and Karnataka as well. Considering only A.P. and Telangana is against the law," he says.

He asserts that about 15 lakh acres in Rayalaseema would not get irrigation waters if the present developments were to be considered. For instance, this year, due to uncertainty and lack of proper planning, farmers in the Rayalaseema region are estimated to suffer a loss of ₹6,000 crore to ₹10,000 crore. The farmers had invested ₹40,000 to ₹50,000 per acre this season, but irrigation waters were not available as Telangana allegedly utilised the waters for power generation.

**Polavaram predicament**  
Farmers find themselves in a precarious situation as the State government switched its stance in a month, encouraging farmers to change their crop from paddy to other non-water-intensive crops. This was after farmers had already made their investments. This kind of uncertainty is not new, though. The Centre's recent decision has further

complicated matters for farmers. Allocation of water to Telangana from Polavaram – a multi-purpose irrigation and hydroelectricity project located on the Godavari river in Andhra Pradesh – has come as a blow.

"Telangana's formation was contingent on its acceptance of the Polavaram project without conditions. However, the Centre issued a Government Order allocating 22.5 tmcf to Telangana, although it had no rights to Polavaram waters. The Andhra Pradesh government indirectly supported the move," alleges the RSSS president.

The Polavaram project, which is in Eluru district of Andhra Pradesh, envisages transfer of 80 tmcf of surplus Godavari water to river Krishna to be shared with Karnataka and Maharashtra – 45 tmcf for A.P. and 35 tmcf for the two neighbouring States as per the decision of the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal award.

As for Andhra Pradesh's 45 tmcf, the Central government issued a G.O. allocating half of it (22.5 tmcf) to Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh was left with 22.5 tmcf. However, of the latter's share, 20 tmcf was then allocated to the Bheema project, situated upstream of the Srisailem reservoir in Telangana, effectively leaving Andhra Pradesh with just 2.5 tmcf.

According to Rayalaseema leaders, the problem lies here. They point out that 9 tmcf has to be earmarked for evaporation losses at Pulichintala. But the water available at Andhra Pradesh's disposal is 2.5 tmcf and there-

fore, the State gets -6.5 tmcf. In simple terms, Andhra Pradesh will not get any water. "This means that the water reaching the Pothireddipadu head regulator of SRBC is likely to decrease in the days to come," explains Dasaratha Ramji Reddy.

Rayalaseema farmers fear that bestowing further TOR to the Rajesh Kumar Tribunal, which is looking into the Andhra Pradesh-Telangana Krishna water dispute, might deprive them of irrigation waters and endanger the future of the drought-prone region. They recall the combined Andhra Pradesh government's special leave petition filed in the Supreme Court, which stayed the KWDT-II award in 2010. Despite the court stay order, the Centre cleared the Upper Bhadra project in 2017, ignoring concerns and opinions. Even the Central Water Commission granted technical clearances for 29.90 tmcf in 2020, disregarding Andhra Pradesh's objections. Later, the Upper Bhadra was declared a national project with an estimated cost of ₹16,125 crore. This clearance poses a serious water availability threat to Rayalaseema from the Tungabhadra river, which is the region's lifeline.

Andhra Pradesh Intellectuals Forum convener Chalasani Srinivasa Rao says the Centre allocated ₹5,300 crore for Upper Bhadra in Karnataka for political gains, hurting the interests of farmers in Rayalaseema region.

Rayalaseema Intellectuals Forum convener Purushottam Reddy feels that the Centre should give 'national project' status to Gundrevula like it did in the case of Upper Bhadra. The Gundrevula project is expected to benefit over 2.65 lakh acres.

"Our argument is that water from Polavaram, which is often touted as A.P.'s lifeline, should be allocated to the State itself," he says.

**From boom to bust**

Farmers are also concerned about possible delays in water releases for the Kharif season, as upper riparian States tend to fill their reservoirs before releasing water to Andhra Pradesh this year, the State government released water into the Krishna Eastern canals on June 7, while in the previous year, it was on June 10. Over the past 10 years, the water release date has ranged from June 17 to August 5. These delays in water release are a cause for worry among farmers who fear the negative impact on their crops. As a lower riparian state, Andhra Pradesh is vulnerable to natural calamities. Farmers believe that early release of water would help them combat unseasonal rain or cyclones during the critical harvest period in September-October.

As per government available information, early release of irrigation water for the Kharif season has led to a 15 lakh-tonne increase in agricultural production. The average food grain production has risen to 165 lakh tonnes during 2019-23, compared to 153 lakh tonnes during 2014-19.

The agriculture sector, which had reported a negative growth rate (-11.7%) in 2018-19, rebounded, achieving a positive growth rate of 20.72% in 2022-23. However, with the Centre's recent decision on referring the water dispute to KWDT-II, all progress made in the agriculture sector will be undone, fear farmers. "The Union government's efforts to favour Telangana in this water-sharing issue might lead us down a dark path," says Cheruku Rhyth Sangham leader Mangati Haribabu.

**CLASSIFIEDS MART**  
TO ADVERTISE VISIT  
www.thehinduads.com  
Contact your nearest authorised sales office

**EDUCATIONAL**  
GENERAL

**PRELIMS 2024 TEST SERIES**  
**BATCH 4**  
**39 @3,000 +GST**  
**05th Nov. 2023 TEST**

**36 Months**  
**₹26,999**  
**24 Months**  
**₹22,999**  
**12 Months**  
**₹8,999**  
**PRELIMS + MAINS + INTERVIEW**  
**ENGLISH | HINDI | MEDIUM**

**UPSC FOUNDATION BATCH**  
**PRELIMS + MAINS + INTERVIEW**  
**ENGLISH | HINDI | MEDIUM**  
**MALUKA IAS**  
**99101-33084**  
16-B, OLD RAJINDER NAGAR, DELHI - 60

**Timings**

MONDAY, OCT. 23	
RISE	06:35 SET 19:11
RISE	14:22 SET 00:47
TUESDAY, OCT. 24	
RISE	06:35 SET 19:10
RISE	15:08 SET 01:50
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 25	
RISE	06:36 SET 19:09
RISE	15:49 SET 02:52

**Mumbai Weather**

	max	min
Mumbai Airport	36	26
Pune	33	22
Mumbai City	36	26

**Mumbai Today**  
37°C The weather will be dry Morning will be pleasant. Day will be very warm and uneasy afternoon. Night also will be comfortable.

**Mumbai Tomorrow**  
36°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be pleasant. Day will be very warm and uneasy. Night also will be comfortable.

© Copyright Starred Weather 2023  
All rights reserved.

**THE HINDU**  
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and double-check the information appearing in this advertisement. The publisher is not responsible for any loss or damage caused by the use of the information contained in this advertisement. The publisher is not responsible for any loss or damage caused by the use of the information contained in this advertisement.

**THE HINDU**  
Surcharge:  
Ahmedabad – Rs. 5.00

**EDUCATIONAL**  
**GENERAL**  
**DIA'S**  
**PHYSICS OPTIONAL**  
Dr. R.K. SINGH  
Dr. P. V. JAYARAJ  
Dr. R.K. SINGH  
Dr. P. V. JAYARAJ  
**CHEMISTRY OPTIONAL**  
Dr. R.K. SINGH  
Dr. P. V. JAYARAJ  
**MATHEMATICS**  
**GS FOUNDATION**  
NEW BATCHES  
5th Nov 2023  
www.diasindia.com  
91-830934622  
91-40079000

**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJWAL", Mahanagar Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763568  
CIN No. U40101UP201811SC022866 Website: www.ujvn.com

**e-Tender Notice**  
Office of the EE (Solar), "Ujwal" Mahanagar Bagh, G.M.S Road, UJVN Ltd, Dehradun, invites Online tariff based competitive bids (RFI) from interested parties. Summary of bid (RFI) document are given below:  
Bid Identification Nos.: (i) T-03/EE(Solar)/2023-24 (ii) T-04/EE(Solar)/2023-24 (iii) T-05/EE(Solar)/2023-24 (iv) T-06/EE(Solar)/2023-24  
**Name of the Work:**  
(i) Setting-up of 7.75 MW Ground Mounted Grid Connected Solar PV Plants at Aungli near Maneri District-Uttarakashi, Uttarakhand.  
(ii) Setting-up of 4.0 MW Ground Mounted Grid Connected Solar PV Plants near Bhatwari District-Uttarakashi, Uttarakhand  
(iii) Setting-up of 4.0 MW Ground Mounted Grid Connected Solar PV Plants near Dharasu HEP Chinyalisaur District- Uttarakashi, Uttarakhand.  
(iv) Setting-up of 1.5 MW Ground Mounted Grid Connected Solar PV Plants at Gadga Colony, Hathiyari near Vyasi HEP District-Dehradun, Uttarakhand.  
Date for availability of bid document on the portal : 30-10-2023 upto 16:00 Hrs.  
Last Date /Time of Receipt of bid on the portal : 28-11-2023 till 16:00 Hrs.  
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://ukitenders.gov.in.  
Executive Engineer (Solar)  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder**  
Call our toll free number  
**1800 102 1878**  
Or write to us at  
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

**THE HINDU businessline**  
BUSINESS SPORTSARTS



Jansatta- 23- October-2023

# अलकनंदा नदी प्रदूषण मामला एनजीटी ने जल शक्ति मंत्रालय को नोटिस जारी किया

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो  
नई दिल्ली, 22 अक्टूबर।

राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (एनजीटी) ने उत्तराखंड में अलकनंदा नदी के प्रदूषण से संबंधित कार्रवाई रपट सौंपने के अपने पहले के आदेश पर अमल के लिए केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्रालय को नोटिस जारी किया है।

एनजीटी उस याचिका पर सुनवाई कर रही थी, जिसमें दावा किया गया है कि उत्तराखंड में बद्रीनाथ के मास्टर प्लान पर अमल करते हुए नदी में मलबा बहाया जा रहा है, जिससे जल निकाय प्रदूषित हो रही है। एनजीटी अध्यक्ष

न्यायमूर्ति प्रकाश श्रीवास्तव की पीठ ने कहा कि अधिकरण ने इस साल 29 मई को अपने पहले आदेश में जल शक्ति मंत्रालय (एमओजेएस) को दो महीने के भीतर अपनी प्रतिक्रिया और कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट पेश करने का निर्देश दिया था।

पीठ में न्यायिक सदस्य न्यायमूर्ति सुधीर अग्रवाल और विशेषज्ञ सदस्य ए सेंथिल वेल भी शामिल थे, जिन्होंने हाल ही में जारी आदेश में कहा कि केंद्रीय मंत्रालय की ओर से अभी तक कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं आई है। अधिकरण ने कहा कि उनत्तीस मई के आदेश में निहित निर्देश के अनुपालन के लिए जल शक्ति मंत्रालय के सचिव को ताजा नोटिस भेजा जाए।