

The Times of India- 24- September-2023

# Yamuna Woes Head For Zonal Meet

## Delhi May Highlight Industrial Effluent, Sand Mining Issues from Other States

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi Jal Board (DJB) wants the Delhi government to raise the issue of release of pollutants by Haryana and Uttar Pradesh into the Yamuna at the next north zone council (NZC) meeting scheduled to take place in Amritsar on September 26.

Officials said industrial effluents from Haryana's Sonapat, Panipat and Rohtak districts and UP's Ghaziabad and Noida districts continue to pollute the Yamuna. The pollutants from Haryana also contaminate raw water collected in the Wazirabad pond for various water treatment plants, often affecting the supply of potable water.

With representatives of all states and Union territories of north India assembling in Amritsar next week for the NZC meeting chaired by Union mi-

nister Amit Shah, officials said it would be the right time to discuss Delhi's water woes.

The North Zone Council comprises Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. LG VK Saxena and a minister from CM Arvind Kejriwal's cabinet are likely to attend the meeting.

A senior official said Haryana's drains number 2 and 6 carry toxic industrial pollutants, which fall into the Yamuna. Due to frequent discharge of industrial waste, the level of ammonia in raw water rises, forcing the DJB to shut down water treatment plants till pollutants are washed away from the Wazirabad pond.

"Delhi has been raising this issue at various forums but it has received no positive response so far. Recently, ammonia touched the highest le-

File photo



TROUBLE CONTINUES

vel of 10.8 mg/L at Wazirabad pond, which shows high contamination from industrial effluents," said an official.

Sources said former deputy CM Manish Sisodia had raised the issue in a meeting in Jaipur last year and Shah had given assurance to form a committee under the chairmanship of ho-

me secretary Ajay Bhalla to resolve the issue, but nothing concrete had taken place.

Officials said that illegal sand mining in the Yamuna riverbed between Hathnikund in Yamunanagar district of Haryana, 200 km upstream, and the Delhi border is another issue that con-

cerns authorities.

"Sand mining makes Delhi prone to floods. The central government has filed an affidavit with the National Green Tribunal on the issue," said an official. Another senior official said that apart from the ITO barrage, there are several other irrigation canals in the capital that are controlled by the Haryana government and Delhi should take them over.

The population of Delhi has increased from 1.1 crore in 1994 to 2.1 crore in 2022, but its water allocation has remained the same. Officials said the issue should be discussed at the council meeting.

"Delhi has been requesting an increase in allocation to fulfil its drinking water needs, while other states are utilising this water for agriculture and industrial needs, where recycled water can be used," said an official.

Millennium Post- 24- September-2023

CALL FOR BENGALURU BANDH ON TUESDAY

# Agitation continues in K'taka against Cauvery water release

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**MANDYA:** The protest against the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu continued in Mandya, the Cauvery heartland, on Sunday as well.

Farmers and various pro-Kannada organisations staged a sit-in demonstration at Sanjay Circle here demanding justice.

Holding placards and banners, the protesters raised slogans asking the state government to stop the release of water to the neighbouring state.

They alleged that there is inadequate water in the Krishna Raja Sagar Dam for drinking water supply, let alone to meet the irrigation requirements of farmlands in the agriculture dominated district.

The Karnataka Rakshana Vedike and Cauvery Water



Pro-Kannada activists during a protest against CWMA over its decision to ensure a flow of 5,000 cusecs of river water to Tamil Nadu PTI

Rakshana Horata Samiti spearheaded the agitation from the morning. The protests have been happening for the past few days and intensified on Saturday when Mandya Bandh' was observed.

Various farmers and pro-Kannada outfits have given a

call for a Bengaluru Bandh on Tuesday against the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

Last week, the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) had directed Karnataka to continue releasing 5,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for another 15 days, after

## Highlights

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the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) made such a recommendation last week.

The Supreme Court too refused to interfere with orders of the CWMA and CWRC, following which protests erupted in different parts of the state.

Karnataka has been maintaining that it is not in a position to release water, taking into account its own requirement for drinking water and irrigation of standing crops in the Cauvery basin areas, as there has been water scarcity due to deficit monsoon rains.