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# TN gets 1.1 tmcft of Krishna water from AP

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CHENNAI, DEC. 1

Apart from a bountiful northeast monsoon, Tamil Nadu has also received 1.1 tmc feet of Krishna water from Andhra Pradesh so far this year.

A water resources department (WRD) official told DC that the state started receiving Krishna water from November 18. "Earlier, we had written to the Andhra Pradesh government to suspend release of Krishna water as the monsoon was gain-

ing strength in the state. However, the Andhra government told us that they wanted to carry out maintenance works on some of the canals. So they wanted to release the quota of water for Tamil Nadu immediately. Hence, we asked them to release water in November and they started releasing water from November 18. We expect flow of 4 tmc feet of Krishna water till January," the official said. The official added that the Poondi reservoir has been spruced up after renova-

tion works. "So the storage is low in the reservoir now. The maintenance work began in July. At the 140-ft Poondi reservoir, the biggest in the city, the water level stands at 797 mcft against its full capacity of 3,231 mcft," he said. It may be recalled that the government had suspended supply of Krishna water from Kandaleru reservoir in Andhra Pradesh due to maintenance work at Poondi. Last year, the state received 8 tmc feet of Krishna water; and the reservoir stored a good

amount of rainwater during monsoon.

Red Hills and Chembarambakkam reservoirs, which together meet nearly 550 million litres of water a day of total requirement in the city, have now a combined storage of 5,543 mcft on Thursday.

The total storage of water in all five city reservoirs now stands at 7,115 mcft against the total capacity 11,757 mcft. Last year, the city reservoirs had maintained 9,733 mcft of water in the same period of time.

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## Stop sewage flow into Najafgarh drain: NGT

The National Green Tribunal has sought remedial measures “on a war footing” to stop discharge of sewage from Gurgaon into Najafgarh drain, which feeds the Najafgarh lake on the Delhi-Gurgaon border and is the region’s stormwater channel into the Yamuna. **P 11**

# Sewage in Najafgarh drain, NGT seeks remedy ‘on a war footing’

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**Gurgaon:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday sought remedial measures “on a war footing” to stop the discharge of sewage from the city into Najafgarh drain, which in turn feeds the eponymous lake on the Delhi-Gurgaon border and is the region’s stormwater channel into the Yamuna.

The tribunal’s observations followed an acknowledgement by the Haryana State Pollution Control Board about sewage finding its way into the stormwater drain. In its report, the board noted that 43.4 MLD (million litres per day) sewage from Gurgaon is getting into the Najafgarh drain through three ‘legs’ (drains)—6.6 MLD from Leg I, 6.75 MLD from Leg II & 30.05 MLD from Leg III.

A committee formed by the tribunal to determine the extent of sewage from Gurgaon polluting the drain, meanwhile, reported that all the effluents carried by three drains is accumulating at the confluence of Najafgarh drain—where the lake is located—inundating large tracts of land.

“The accumulation of untreated sewage obviously has caused waterlogging in the area. It is estimated that about 58 acres of land was under submergence during



**DIRTY PICTURE**

1990 and this has gone up to a maximum of 5,678 acres in 2021,” the report stated.

An NGT bench led by chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel and comprising Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert member Dr A Senthil Vel said, “Remedial action so far taken is inadequate. The problem remains, which has to be remedied on war footing.”

According to the board’s report, the number of locations where sewage enters Leg I is 28. Of these, discharge has been intercepted at 17 locations for treatment, according to the report. For Leg II, 41 of the 47 sewage entry points have been similarly intercepted. There’s work still to do in Leg III that has 93 entry points for discharge, of which 61, according to the report, have been plugged by

the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA).

The HSPCB report was filed by regional officer Sandeep Singh. “The committee constituted by NGT requires more information from GMDA, analysis and evaluation of data. Accordingly, a complete report with recommendations will be submitted before the NGT,” Singh stated in his report.

There are five STPs at Behrampur and Dhanwapur that treat sewage generated in the city. Capacity isn’t a problem, going by the numbers. The STPs can together treat 388 MLD. They receive 330 MLD for treatment. But the report pointed out that treated water at the STPs did not have the desired levels of BOD (biological oxygen demand), an indicator of how clear, or not, water is.

The HSPCB said it had issued a notice to the GMDA about the sewage treatment plants not meeting standards.

A GMDA official told **TOI** its STPs were functioning fine. Rajesh Bansal, chief engineer, GMDA, said, “At present, the capacity of STPs to handle the present discharge is sufficient.” The next hearing in this case is on December 7. The NGT is hearing a petition filed by Rao Satvir Singh, a Gurgaon resident.