

I/174309/2024

Hindustan Times— 04 June- 2024

# SC asks Centre to set up Yamuna body meet to tackle Capital's water concerns

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**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday urged the Centre to convene an urgent meeting of the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) on June 5 to address the pressing issue of severe water crisis in Delhi amid unrelenting summer heat and soaring demands, even as it added that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government should take proactive steps to ensure water is not wasted in the national capital and that leakages are detected.

"There shall be an emergent meeting of Upper Yamuna River Board on June 5, 2024, to address the issues agitated in this petition and all other connected issues in right earnest so that problems of scarcity of water for the citizens of Delhi should be properly addressed. Post this matter on Thursday (June 6) along with the minutes of the meeting and the suggested steps," ordered a vacation bench of justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and KV Viswanathan.

The court was hearing a petition moved by the Delhi government last week for a directive for the state of Haryana to release surplus water provided by Himachal Pradesh through the Wazirabad Barrage. The petition highlighted Delhi's arrangement with Himachal Pradesh, which has agreed to share its surplus water with Delhi. However, since Himachal Pradesh does not share a physical boundary with Delhi, this water must be released through the Wazirabad barrage, located in Haryana.

To be sure, the targeted supply of the city under its summer action plan is 1,000mgd, but the estimated demand according to the Delhi economic survey 2023-24 is 1,290mgd, based on supplying at least 60 gallons per day per capita. The demand-supply gap widens further during peak summer.

Representing the AAP government, senior counsel Abhishek Singhvi began by saying that the plea is not adversarial and that the endeavour of the government is to mitigate the water crisis through a one-time measure of using additional water that

the Himachal Pradesh has agreed to share with the Capital.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the Haryana government pointed out that the same issue was pending before the UYRB, which has asked the Himachal Pradesh to give details of the additional water that the state was willing to supply to Delhi.

Responding, the bench said that a high-level meeting must be called as soon as possible to consider the Delhi government's plea as well as all other measures necessary to ameliorate the water crisis. "Why can't there be a joint meeting of all the stakeholders? Let there be a high-level meeting today or tomorrow. As an emergency measure, convene a meeting as soon as possible," the bench told the SG, who accepted the court's suggestion but emphasised that the meeting ought to happen before the UYRB, which happens to be the statutory body to deal with such issues. Set up in 1995, UYRB is an interstate body established to regulate the allocation and management of the water resources of the Upper Yamuna Basin. The Board was constituted based on a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on May 12, 1994, signed by Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi.

While the bench highlighted the urgent need for collaborative efforts, Mehta flagged concerns regarding substantial water losses significantly exacerbating the crisis. "As per the figures placed before the Board, of every 100 litres of water that Delhi gets, only 48.65 litres reach the people in the Capital. 52.35% of it is lost due to leakage, tanker mafia and theft by industrial units. The government will have to tighten it," Mehta said.

Agreeing with the SG, the court opined that addressing these internal inefficiencies is as crucial as securing additional water supplies from neighboring states. "What he (Mehta) is saying is also right. There should not be any wastage of water. We will look into this also at a subsequent stage," said the bench.

It then proceeded to record a joint statement of the parties



## Delhi seeks to cool off

Water supply (in mgd)

May 11	1,001.58
May 22	981.89
May 23	984
May 24	983.2
May 25	980.73
May 26	969.32
May 27	966.16
May 28	978.05
May 29	976.53
May 30	990.61
May 31	993.76
June 1	994.96
June 2	998.91
June 3	1,002.61

WATER TANKERS IN SERVICE

811

TO BE ADDED

150

100

6,000-litre tankers

50

8,000-litre tankers

that a meeting of UYRB will be convened on June 5 for determining the immediate steps needed to alleviate the water scarcity in Delhi and that the outcome of the meeting shall be places before it within 24 hours.

The Delhi government's petition, filed on May 31, highlighted the acute heatwave and red alert conditions in Delhi. The petition said: "This unprecedented surge in temperature has led to an excessive water demand, which is not being met by supply from neighbouring states, precipitating a full-fledged water crisis."

The plea said due to increased demand, the water levels at the Wazirabad barrage have critically reduced, putting the health and well-being of Delhi's 25 million residents at grave risk.

"The Government of NCT of Delhi has taken all administrative measures to ensure optimisation, rationing and targeted supply of water in the national capital; yet, the shortage of water remains acute and it is clear, by all indicators, that the NCT of Delhi is in dire need of additional water," it maintained.

Pointing out that the excess water that Himachal Pradesh has agreed to share with Delhi can come through the Wazirabad barrage, located in Haryana, the plea ruled that Haryana's cooperation is not forthcoming.

"Be that as it may, by way of the instant petition, the Petitioner-Government does not intend

to shift the blame on the State of Haryana or any other state, and only prays for an immediate resolution of the ongoing water crisis in the national capital through the release of the surplus water — including but not limited to surplus water being provided by the State of Himachal Pradesh in the Wazirabad barrage, by the State of Haryana," stated the plea.

The petition said the Delhi government does not intend to set a precedent that would require any state government in the future to provide the nation's capital with an increased volume of water by pleading for the release of excess water.

"The petitioner seeks this surplus release of water by the State of Haryana as a one-time solution to redress the present emergency and resolve the ongoing water crisis in the NCT of Delhi," said the Arvind Kejriwal government in the top court.

Citing a 1996 Supreme Court order (Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking Vs State of Haryana), which directed Haryana to ensure supply through the Yamuna during a similar crisis, the Delhi government said the present situation is much more severe. The plea urged the Court to intervene in the public interest to prevent a severe health crisis. The petition said that access to water is a fundamental human right and essential for sustaining life.



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Telangana Today- 04 June- 2024

# Monsoon makes early entry into State

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

In a clear case of the rainy season advancing into Telangana sooner than expected, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), New Delhi, on Monday acknowledged that the southwest monsoon entered several regions of Telangana State.

While the advent of southwest monsoon in Telangana is usually associated with second-half of June, the Indian Meteorological Department said: "Southwest Monsoon advanced into some parts of Central Arabian sea, some parts of Karnataka, Rayalaseema, Coastal AP, some parts of Telangana and



People take a boat ride at Durgam Cheruvu on a cloudy afternoon in Hyderabad on Monday. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

some of parts of Westcentral and Northwest Bay of Bengal today, the 3rd of June." Thanks to the swift change in weather patterns, under its influence, the max-

imum daytime temperatures changed drastically in Hyderabad and districts in Telangana. Till Sunday, the maximum temperature in Hyderabad hovered close to

41 degrees Celsius and by Monday, the maximum daytime temperatures plummeted to 32 degrees Celsius, a 9 degrees Celsius drop in just a day.

The IMD-Hyderabad, in its 5-day forecast on Monday, said that a majority of districts in Telangana will receive a significant amount of rain in the coming days. It issued a yellow alert, which means widespread thunder-showers accompanied by rain, lightning and gusty winds in almost all the districts of Telangana.

Experts in Hyderabad involved in tracking the movement of rain-bearing clouds said that they were expecting southwest monsoon to hit Telangana between June 8 and June 10. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Monsoon makes early entry into State

However, due to windy conditions, the monsoon has already become active and is expected to cover the entire Telangana in the coming two to three days. Not only in Hyderabad but almost all the districts of Telangana, which were under the influence of a severe heat wave till Sunday, with the mercury hovering between 44 degrees Celsius and 46 degrees Celsius, have reported significant drop, up to 40 degrees Celsius and even less, in regions like Hyderabad. The nighttime temperature, which remained at a higher level of 30 degrees Celsius in Hyderabad and surrounding regions dipped to 23 degrees Celsius.

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Millennium Post— 04 June- 2024

# El Nino ending; at least 60% chance of La Nina developing during Jul-Sep: WMO

*La Nina promises plentiful monsoon rainfall, crucial for India's agriculture & water reservoirs*

NEW DELHI: The 2023-24 El-Nino event, which drove record-breaking temperatures and extreme weather around the world, is predicted to transition to La-Nina conditions later this year, according to a new update from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

The world experienced the warmest April ever and the 11th consecutive month of record-high temperatures this year. Sea-surface temperatures have been record-high for the last 13 months, according to the WMO. The WMO said this is happening due to the naturally-occurring El Nino -- unusual warming of waters in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean -- and the additional energy trapped in the atmosphere and ocean by greenhouse gases from human activities. Amid a prevailing but weakening El Nino, millions of people in South Asia, including India and Pakistan, endured brutal heat in April and May.

The latest forecasts from the



IMD predicts above-normal monsoon rains PIC/REPRESENTATIVE

## Closer Look

- » The world experienced the warmest April ever and 11 consecutive months of record-high temperatures, with sea-surface temperatures also at record highs for 13 months
- » El Nino's unusual warming of Pacific waters, combined with greenhouse gas emissions, has led to extreme heat, affecting millions in South Asia, including India and Pakistan

WMO Global Producing Centres of Long-Range Forecasts give equal chances (50 per cent) to either neutral conditions or a transition to La Nina during June-August. The chance of La-Nina conditions increases to 60 per cent during July to September and 70 per cent during August to November. The probability of El Nino redeveloping is negligible during this time, the WMO said.

While El Nino is associated with weaker monsoon winds and drier conditions in India, La Nina -- the antithesis of El

Nino -- leads to plentiful rainfall during the monsoon.

Last month, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had forecast above-normal rain in the monsoon season in India, with favourable La-Nina conditions expected to set in by August-September.

Monsoon is critical for India's agricultural landscape, with 52 per cent of the net cultivated area relying on it. It is also crucial for replenishing reservoirs critical for drinking water, apart from power generation across the country.

"Every month since June 2023 has set a new temperature record and 2023 was by far the warmest year on record. The end of El Nino does not mean a pause in long-term climate change as our planet will continue to warm due to heat-trapping greenhouse gases. Exceptionally high sea-surface temperatures will continue to play an important role during the next months," WMO Deputy Secretary-General Ko Barrett said. The last nine years have been the warmest on record even with the cool-

ing influence of a multi-year La Nina from 2020 to early 2023.

El Nino peaked in December 2023 as one of the five strongest on record.

"Our weather will continue to be more extreme because of the extra heat and moisture in our atmosphere. This is why the 'Early Warnings for All' initiative remains the WMO's top priority. Seasonal forecasts for El Nino and La Nina and the anticipated impacts on the climate patterns globally are an important tool to inform early warnings and early action," said Barrett, who is leading a WMO delegation at the UN Climate Change session in Germany's Bonn. La-Nina conditions generally follow strong El-Nino events, and this is in line with recent model predictions, although high uncertainty remains regarding its strength or duration. According to the WMO, above-normal sea-surface temperatures in all areas are expected to persist outside the near-equatorial eastern Pacific Ocean. **AGENCE**

Navbharat Times-04 June- 2024

# यमुना के लेवल में खास बढ़ोतरी नहीं, लेकिन पानी का उत्पादन बढ़ा

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■ यमुना के वॉटर लेवल में कोई खास बढ़ोतरी नहीं हुई है। यमुना में पानी का लेवल 4 फीट से नीचे ही है। लेकिन, वजीराबाद वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट में उत्पादन की क्षमता प्लांट की कैपेसिटी से भी अधिक हो गई है। वजीराबाद वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट में पानी उत्पादन क्षमता 131 एमजीडी है और उत्पादन कैपेसिटी से 0.14 एमजीडी अधिक हो रहा है। प्लांट में पानी उत्पादन बढ़ने के बाद भी इस प्लांट से जिन इलाकों में पानी सप्लाई होता है, उनमें से कई जगहों पर पानी की किल्लत है।

दिल्ली जल बोर्ड की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार हरियाणा के डीएसबी (दिल्ली सब-ब्रांच) नहर से दिल्ली का कोटा 178 एमजीडी और मुनक नहर (करियर लाइंड कैनाल) से 369 एमजीडी है। इसमें से मुनक नहर से दिल्ली को कोटे की तुलना में पिछले कई दिनों से 100 से 105 एमजीडी तक कम पानी मिल रहा है। इसी से यमुना में पानी का लेवल 674.5 फीट से नीचे चला गया था और वजीराबाद वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट में पानी का उत्पादन फुल कैपेसिटी से नहीं हो रहा था। अभी भी यमुना का वॉटर लेवल 3.9 फीट नीचे है। लेकिन, वजीराबाद वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट में पानी उत्पादन कैपेसिटी से अधिक होने लगा है। वॉटर लेवल नीचे होने के चलते वजीराबाद वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट से 110 या 113 एमजीडी पानी उत्पादन हो पा रहा था। 3 जून को वजीराबाद वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट से 134.76 एमजीडी, 2 जून को पानी उत्पादन 131.14 एमजीडी किया गया, जो वजीराबाद वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट में पानी उत्पादन कैपेसिटी से अधिक है। प्लांट की पानी उत्पादन कैपेसिटी 131 एमजीडी है।

AI Image



## पानी का लेवल नीचे होने पर उत्पादन नहीं बढ़ाया जा सकता

दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के एक रिटायर्ड चीफ इंजीनियर का कहना है कि जबतक वजीराबाद बैराज के पास स्थित रिजर्वायर में पानी का लेवल तय लेवल (674.5 फीट) से अधिक नहीं होता, तबतक प्लांट में पानी उत्पादन फुल कैपेसिटी में नहीं हो सकता। दूसरा, यह कि रिजर्वायर का पानी लेवल तबतक नहीं बढ़ेगा, जब तक कि जिन स्रोतों से पानी आता है, उसमें बढ़ोतरी की जाए। हरियाणा से दिल्ली को दोनों नहरों से रोजाना करीब 547 एमजीडी पानी मिलना चाहिए, लेकिन 506 एमजीडी ही पानी मिल रहा है। इस तरह से करीब 40 से 42 एमजीडी पानी कम मिल रहा है। पानी जब कम मिल रहा है, तो वजीराबाद प्लांट में पानी का उत्पादन कैसे बढ़ गया?