

Water crisis in city, Bharadwaj blames illegal Yamuna sand mining in Haryana

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: It's not summer yet, but the national capital is already facing the problem of low water level in the Yamuna, leading to restricted supply in many areas. Delhi Jal Board (DJB) vice-chairman Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged on Tuesday that the key reason for it was not the rising temperature but rampant illegal sand mining in the Yamuna on the Haryana side.



Bharadwaj & others at Wazirabad plant, which is currently running at 63% of its capacity

Bharadwaj claimed that 32 points could be identified near the Tajewala barrage on the

Haryana side on the Google map where illegal mining was on. It has drastically reduced the water flow in the Yamuna from Haryana, affecting the water treatment capacity at the Wazirabad and Chandrawal plants that supply water to central, north and south Delhi, he said. Ammonia level in the water at Wazirabad had increased to 3.1ppm against the treatable level of 0.8ppm.

►Plants below capacity, P 2

2 water treatment plants running below capacity

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Two major water treatment plants in the city were running between 60% and 80% of capacity due to a drop in the Yamuna level, for which DJB vice-chairman Saurabh Bharadwaj blamed illegal sand mining in Haryana.

According to DJB officials, the Wazirabad plant daily produces 131 million gallons per day (MGD) of water. Now, it is currently producing 82.7MGD due to the shortage of water. Similarly, the Chandrawal plant has a capacity of 100MGD, while it's now producing only 78MGD.

"The sand mafia has stopped Yamuna water released for Delhi at an area some 7-8km from Yamunanagar in Haryana. Sand is being mined indiscriminately and they have made temporary bridges in the middle of the Yamuna for illegal mining and movement of trucks," Bharadwaj said.

"In 2019, too, there were reports of illegal sand mining at Tajewala. We are communicating with the water and irrigation department of the neighbouring state, but it has had minimal effect. This needs to be taken

Anindya Chattopadhyay



An official checks ammonia content in a water sample at Wazirabad

Times View

Summer hasn't even begun and a water crisis looms in the capital due to an illegal sand mafia. Authorities should deal with the menace quickly and firmly to stop the problem from escalating.

up between the two governments," he added.

Though sand mining is illegal as per court orders, the Haryana government is ignoring the issue, Bharadwaj alleged.

He also requested the public to not use a lot of water during the festival of holi.

Water minister Kailash

Gahlot also met DJB officials to discuss the summer plan. According to weather experts, the city may see a longer period of heatwaves, escalating the demand for drinking water. To handle the situation at the macro level, Gahlot has decided to periodically meet officials and frequently visit water treatment plants.

To augment water supply in Delhi, DJB is working on various measures for ground-water augmentation, including installation of tubewells in high water table areas, recharging good quality treated effluents in lakes, and installing RO plants at six locations.

Hindustan Times- 08- March-2023

Illegal mining in Haryana impeding Yamuna flow, says Delhi in fresh row

Paras Singh and
Leena Dhankhar

paras@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Construction of bunds and illegal sand mining in Haryana is impeding the flow of water in the Yamuna towards Delhi, leading to water supply crisis in several parts across north, south and central Delhi, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) said on Monday even as the Haryana government rejected the charges and denied any illegal activity in the river.

DJB vice-chairperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said the water crisis is "unprecedented" since the current water levels in the Yamuna are usually seen in May.

"This year, the water levels started dipping around February 23, three months before the usual lean summer period, and if the similar situation persists, the water supply crisis will become uncontrollable in the summer months," Bharadwaj said.

Giving a presentation to reporters about the ongoing crisis on Tuesday morning, Bharadwaj showed PowerPoint slides with satellite pictures and maps displaying bunds on the Yamuna. He claimed that dredging was going on in at least 32 locations along the river in Haryana districts of Yamunanagar and Sonapat.

For the past two weeks, water supply to Moolchand, South Extension, Greater Kailash, Kalkaji, Govindpur, Tugalkabad, Sangam Vihar, and Ambedkar Nagar in south Delhi; and Civil lines, Model Town, Kamla Nagar in north and Karol Bagh, Paharganj in central Delhi has remained disrupted. Jal board officials have maintained that low water levels in the Yamuna has hit treatment of fresh water at two (Wazirabad and Chandrawal) of the agency's nine water treatment plants.

According to DJB, the Yamuna water level was at 671.5 feet on Tuesday compared to the standard 674.5 ft at Wazirabad barrage — considered the standard for the river stretch in the Capital.

The Haryana government hit back at DJB, saying the state was supplying water in excess of the water-sharing agreement between the two states. It said that the sand mining was being carried out legally by creating temporary pipe crossings without obstructing the

Behind the water crisis in the Capital

Delhi has alleged that illegal sand mining in Haryana has led to low levels of water in the Yamuna

ISSUES ACCORDING TO DJB

Dredging

According to Delhi Jal Board, dredging and sand mining are taking place on at least 32 sites between Yamunanagar and Sonapat, such as Memarpur and Machroal (Sonapat) and Amadapur (Yamunanagar)

DREDGING SPOTS

Check-dams

Illegal bunds and check-dams have been developed to stop the flow of the river

Pollution

Delhi is only getting polluted water from drain 2 (Panipat drain) and drain 8 (Sonapat drain) that carry industrial effluents

At Wazirabad pond

Normal pond level at Wazirabad

674.5 ft

671.5 ft

Level at Wazirabad on March 7

Haryana says

We are supplying water in excess of the agreement between the two states. Sand mining is being carried out legally without obstructing the river flow

MAJOR GAP BETWEEN DEMAND AND SUPPLY

1,380
MGD
Demand

998
MGD
Peak supply

Action taken

Rationalisation by diverting water from Haiderpur WTPs to minimise impact

Water pressure reduced all over the Capital

AREAS AFFECTED

Sources of water for Delhi

share in %

40.8

Yamuna via river channel, CLC and DSB canals

26.5

Ganga via Upper Ganga Canal

23.1

Bhakra storage (Ravi-Beas)

9.6

groundwater aquifers

Source: Economic survey

Locations and photos shared by DJB

river flow.

Bharadwaj, however, alleged that share of Yamuna in Delhi's overall water generation has gone down from "40% to 5%". He also alleged that with industrial pollutants being released from Panipat and Sonapat, the ammonia levels in raw water have gone up to 3.5

parts per million (ppm) — 3.5 times the maximum treatable limit. "Delhi is only getting drain water and Yamuna has been essentially stopped using a series of bunds," he added.

Jawahar Yadav, officer on special duty (OSD) to Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar,

said on Tuesday that Delhi has a drinking water share of 719 cusecs from Yamuna and Ravi-Beas waters against which Haryana is delivering 1,050 cusecs of water to the Capital. Yadav also said that sand mining in the river was done legally in "non-monsoon season" in accordance with the govern-

ment mining policy. "For this, temporary pipe crossings are provided so that there is no obstruction to river flow. We are not obstructing any natural river flow. Regular checking is being done by the mining department to curb illegal mining if any," he added.

Meanwhile, Delhi water minis-

ter Kailash Gahlot reviewed preparedness for meeting the water demand in summer. "In the water deficit areas in Delhi, DJB supplies water through 1,200 tankers. In order to augment the water supply, DJB is working on boosting extraction of ground water in high water-table areas."

Hindustan Times- 08- March-2023

{ **NSSO REPORT** } MULTIPLE INDICATOR SURVEY

Survey shows India's progress on UN SDGs

Abhishek Jha

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: 95.7% people were living in households with an improved drinking water source, 63.1% (92% in urban areas) households had access to clean fuel for cooking, and 82% people had access to hand-washing facility with soap or detergent within the household's premises and an improved toilet.

These findings, all related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are from a new Multiple Indicator Survey (MIS) conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in 2020-21, the report for which was released on March 7. The data shows how close or far India is from achieving select SDGs. Adopted by the UN in 2015, SDGs are a set of 17 inter-related goals on developmental issues.

While this particular survey does not show progress over time, the level of achievement of different indicators that the NSSO survey shows is comparable to other surveys, which have shown progress. The survey also collected data on some miscellaneous indicators, such as migration and working knowledge of using computers.

The MIS was conducted by the NSSO across 276,409 households between January 2020 and August 2021. It has collected data on only select indicators of SDGs. Four key indicators on which data was collected are: access to improved source of drinking water, access to latrine, access to handwashing facility with soap and water within the household's premises, and access to clean fuel for cooking.

The four key indicators covered by the MIS are similar to those covered by the National Family Health Survey (NFHS). The numbers reported by MIS



95.7% people were living with an improved drinking water source in the MIS. HT ARCHIVE

for 2020-21 are also similar to the numbers reported by the 2019-21 NFHS for two of these indicators. For example, 95.7% people were living in households with an improved drinking water source in the MIS, compared to 95.9% in the 2019-21 NFHS. Similarly, 63.1% (92% in urban areas) households had access to clean fuel for cooking in MIS, compared to 58.6% (89.7% in urban areas) in the NFHS.

The access to handwashing facility with soap or detergent within the household's premises and an improved latrine diverges more across these two surveys. MIS data shows 82% people had access to the former compared to 71% in NFHS. The difference between the two surveys is largely on account of the difference in the access reported by rural areas: 77% in MIS compared to 64% in the NFHS. The divergence in access to improved sanitation shown by the two surveys is bigger. The MIS reports 83% access to improved sanitation facility compared to 70% in the NFHS. The difference in this indicator is also not very lopsided. The MIS numbers are bigger than NFHS numbers by 15 and 12 percentage points in urban and rural areas.

To be sure, some of the differ-

ences in the access to sanitation reported by the two surveys could be due to definitions, the method of sampling, or the sample itself, which need to be examined closely. For example, accurate rural-urban classification has become difficult because a census has not been conducted, Himanshu, an associate professor of economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University told HT earlier. However, because the MIS data's estimates are either close to higher than the NFHS for all these indicators, it is safe to assume that the progress shown on these indicators in the NFHS is not because of faulty data.

Apart from the data on SDGs, the MIS has also collected data on other miscellaneous indicators that are not usually collected by the NSSO or other large government surveys. For example, the MIS survey found that 29.1% of Indians are migrants. While this is similar to the number reported by the 2020-21 PLFS (28.9%), MIS additionally asked working migrants how their income changed after migration: 56% such people reported an increase while 22% each reported a decrease and no change. To be sure, migrants to urban areas reported an increase more than the average migrant. 68% of urban migrants reported an increase in income, while incomes decreased and remained the same for 12% and 20% of such migrants.

Data from the MIS report also shows that country, including a large share of the relatively young, is ill prepared to completely shift work and education online. Only 15.6% of those in the 15 years and above age group could send emails with attached files. This number improved to only 27.5% among the younger 15-25 years age group.

The Indian Express- 08- March-2023

AROUND 40% OF SUPPLY IN DELHI HAS BEEN HIT: BHARADWAJ

Yamuna drying because of illegal mining in Haryana: DJB

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

DELHI Jal Board (DJB) vice-chairman Saurabh Bharadwaj has alleged that the low level of water in the Yamuna at Wazirabad in Delhi is on account of "sand mining" upstream in Haryana.

Bharadwaj said the situation this year was unprecedented with the shortage that is usually seen in May being witnessed from February 23 onwards.

The water level at the Wazirabad pond was 671.7 ft against a normal of 674.5 ft, hitting production mainly at the Chandrawal and Wazirabad water treatment plants, which rely on the river for raw water. The Wazirabad water treatment plant is now producing 82.69 MGD (million gallons per day) against a capacity of 131 MGD. Production at Chandrawal plant has also fallen from 100 MGD to 78 MGD, according to the DJB.

Bharadwaj said water is being diverted from the water treatment plant at Haiderpur to Wazirabad and that altogether, around 40% of the supply in Delhi has been hit.



Bharadwaj pointed to bridges of sorts built across the river and trucks close to the river from locations including one near Sonipat. *Gajendra Yadav*

Areas that are affected include parts of Central, South and North Delhi — Jahangirpuri, Burari, Defence Colony, Punjabi Bagh, Sarojini Nagar, Janpath, RK Puram, Vasant Vihar, Cantonment area, Karol Bagh, Civil Lines, Jhandewalan, Daryaganj, Delhi Gate, Timarpur, Model Town and Malkaganj.

Bharadwaj, who visited the Wazirabad water treatment plant Tuesday, claimed that the water visible in the river at

Wazirabad is "industrial waste" reaching Delhi through two drains — DD8 and DD2. The level of ammonia in the water is high and it can only be diluted and used to an extent, he said. On Monday, the level of ammonia was 3.1 ppm (parts per million), which is above the 1 ppm that the DJB's water treatment plants can treat.

"The water that is reaching Wazirabad is from these drains and not the river from Tajewala.

This is because the flow of the Yamuna has been stopped upstream. Once the Yamuna water leaves Tajewala, it has been stopped in places through bunds made by the sand mining mafia... this is a historical problem, the smuggling of mined sand used to happen at small levels earlier, now it's on a larger scale," Bharadwaj said.

He referred to what he said were images from Google Maps pointing to dredging of the river, bridges of sorts built across the river and trucks close to the river from locations including one near Sonipat.

"If the Yamuna was dry because of natural reasons, we can accept that. But this is because of greed that sand is being mined for several kilometres in broad daylight resulting in drying up of the river," he said.

On what communication he had with officials in Haryana, Bharadwaj said, "We are always in contact with their officials. But this is a matter that needs to be dealt with at the government level, not just by the water department here.

No response was available from the Haryana government.

Deccan Chronicle- 08- March-2023

GOVT. TO DRAW GODAVARI WATER TO MEET DEMAND

MADDY DEEKSHITH I DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

The city's water authority decided to draw an additional 50 million gallons a day (MGD) of water from the Godavari to meet the rising demand, over repeated complaints of water shortage across the city.

The state government instructed the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) to ensure sufficient water supply, including for consumption, during the summer.

■ **Page 5: Water board told to map areas with potable water**

Water board told to map areas with potable water

From page 1

Sources said that the government wants to ensure there is no water crisis, because of the Assembly elections set to be held this year-end.

"Since this is the election year, the government wants to ensure the uninterrupted water supply to citizens in the city. Government has asked to draw an additional 50 MGD to the city and conduct a study on water deficient areas in this regard. Additional 50 MGD water would be drawn from the Manjira and Singur water sources," a senior water board official said. Asked why HMWS&SB was

drawing only 387 MGD, when normal demand was 516 MGD, and where the additional water meant for the city was supplied, the official refused to comment.

While water board officials claim they have been drawing water from Sripada Yellampally (86 MGD), Singur (75 MGD) and Manjira (45 MGD), the HMWS&SB website states that 30 MGD is drawn from Manjira, 56 MGD from Sripada Yellampally and 75 MGD from the Singur reservoir. Highly placed sources in the water board said that the remaining water, over the years, was diverted through Mission Bhagiratha pipelines

to other areas, especially where by-polls were held, resulting in the acute water crisis in various parts of the city even before peak summer. Areas of Karkhana, Trimulgherry, Bolaram, Vasavi Nagar and West Marredpally under the Secunderabad Cantonment and Hafeezpet, Madinaguda, Deetisrinagar and Manikonda have been among the worst hit. Residents said they have been hiring tankers since November 2022 to meet their water demands.

A few pockets in Nallagandla, Chandannagar and other municipalities in the city outskirts, especially Jalpally, are also facing water shortages.

Dainik Bhaskar- 08- March-2023

राजधानी में होली पर जल संकट रेत माफियाओं की वजह से नहीं मिल रहा है पानी

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली में हरियाणा के जल माफियाओं के द्वारा यमुना नदी में रेत खनन के लिए छोटी-छोटी बांध बना देने के कारण होली पर दिल्ली में जल संकट उत्पन्न हो गई है। यमुना के रास्ते दिल्ली आ रहे पानी को रेत माफिया बांध बनाकर रोक रहे हैं, जिससे राजधानी को पानी पर्याप्त रूप से नहीं पहुंच रहा है। अब दिल्ली में यमुना में महज एक से डेढ़ फिट पानी है, जिसमें अमोनिया की मात्रा ज्यादा होने के कारण इस्तेमाल में नहीं लिया जा सकता है। दिल्ली सरकार के जल मंत्री कैलाश गहलोत ने घटते जलस्तर को लेकर यमुना का मंगलवार को दौरा किया। उन्होंने बताया कि दिल्ली के सिंधु बॉर्डर से महज 5 से 10 किलोमीटर के दायरे में यमुना नदी से लगातार हरियाणा इलाके में रेत की तस्करी हो रही है। खनन माफिया पूरी तरह से सक्रिय हैं और लगातार यमुना से रेत का खनन कर इसका स्टॉक कर रहे हैं। खनन माफिया ने इसके लिए जगह-जगह बांध बनाकर पानी को रोका हुआ है।

गूगल से ली गई फोटो से यह साबित हो रहा है रेत माफियाओं का कारनामा

गहलोत ने बताया कि दिल्ली जल बोर्ड और फ्लड विभाग के अधिकारी हरियाणा स्थित यमुना क्षेत्र में गए जहां पर देखा गया कि बड़े पैमाने पर नदी में बांध बनाकर रेत का खनन हो रहा है साथ ही कई जगह बड़े-बड़े स्ट्रेच लगाकर पानी को रोका गया है। गूगल से ली गई फोटो से यह साबित हो रहा है कि हरियाणा में दिनदहाड़े खनन माफिया रेत की तस्करी कर रहे हैं। वहीं हरियाणा सरकार पर आरोप लगाते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि चुनाव होने वाले हैं जिसको लेकर पहले ही लूट की राजनीति की जा रही है। बता दें यमुना का जलस्तर 671 है जबकि 674 से ऊपर यमुना का जलस्तर होना चाहिए। यदि हरियाणा सरकार की ओर से हथिनी कुंड बैराज के द्वारा यमुना में पानी नहीं छोड़ा गया तो दिल्लीवासियों को होली जैसे त्योहारों पर भी जल संकट का सामना करना पड़ेगा। जल मंत्री ने लोगों से अपील की है कि वह होली पर कच्चे रंगों का इस्तेमाल करें ताकि पानी की बर्बादी ना हो।

आमोनिया की मात्रा बढ़कर 31 हुई

जल मंत्री ने कहा है कि हथिनीकुंड बैराज से भी पर्याप्त पानी नहीं छोड़ा जा रहा है। पानीपत के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र से डीडी2 और डीडी8 से नाले का पानी आ रहा है। जिससे अमोनिया की मात्रा 8 बढ़कर 31 हो गई है जिस कारण इसे प्रयोग में नहीं लाया जा सकता है।