

# Govt wants ministries to do their bit for Ganga

framework for the new institution in consultation with the University Grants Commission and the All India Council of Technical Education. The ministry has been put in charge of developing knowledge and skills, and spreading awareness and "environmental literacy" among people.

Existing institutions or universities that have bilateral exchange or networking programmes with foreign institutions are also being encouraged to develop courses or generate data related to river rejuvenation and pollution abatement through their international tie-ups.

When the government had launched the Ganga cleaning exercise, it had talked

about setting up a Ganga University to create knowledge in the area. It is not yet clear whether the job given to the HRD Ministry is the implementation of the same idea, or if a separate Ganga University will also be set up.

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has been asked to prioritise its initiatives to establish open defecation-free gram panchayats along the banks of the river. It has also been told to create solid and liquid waste management facilities in rural areas and develop model villages or Ganga grams.

Similarly, the Tourism Ministry is being made responsible for promoting eco-

friendly tourism activities by providing suitable amenities and transport facilities in order to avoid unwarranted pollution from tourists. The Shipping Ministry has been entrusted with the job of developing sustainable shipping and river transport infrastructure.

Many other ministries have also been asked to make contributions to the Ganga cleaning exercise (see box). Last month, the Railway Ministry offered to buy treated water from some of the sewage treatment plants (STPs) being set up in towns along river Ganga. Creating a market for the treated water is seen as an important step in making the STPs sustainable in the long run.

# Not just Water, other depts roped in for Ganga cleanup

RITIKA CHOPRA &  
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NEW DELHI, JANUARY 26

THE HUMAN Resource Development Ministry has been asked to help set up a national-level institution or a university that offers courses on applied river sciences in order to create expertise in cleaning and rejuvenating the Ganga and other rivers.

HRD is one of the several ministries being asked to assist in the government's Namami Gange programme.

A number of ministries are being assigned tasks, in line with their responsibilities and area of work.

The Water Resources Ministry, overseeing the Namami Gange programme, is in the process of signing MoUs with other ministries to accomplish these objectives.

The HRD Ministry has been told to develop a suitable course

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## HRD TO SPORTS, RURAL TO TOURISM

### HRD Ministry

- Set up a new institution to create expertise in river sciences
- Spread education, awareness about need to keep rivers clean

### Rural Development

- Prioritise implementation of PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) programme in villages along the Ganga
- Use NREGA to support activities of Namami Gange programme

### Drinking Water and Sanitation

- Prioritise open defecation-free villages along the river
- Create waste management facilities in

those villages

### Tourism

- Take steps to minimise pollution from tourist activities

### AYUSH

- Develop conservation plan for medicinal plants in Gangetic region
- Ensure medicinal biodiversity

### Shipping

- Create shipping and river transport infrastructure

### Youth Affairs and Sports

- Encourage youth, volunteers and sportspersons to engage in activities related to Ganga cleaning
- Promote awareness and public outreach activities

## यमुना में फिर अमोनिया गहराया पेयजल संकट

नई दिल्ली, (ब्यूरो) : राजधानी दिल्ली के तीन हिस्से में कड़ाके की सर्दी में गहराया पेयजल संकट अभी कम नहीं हुआ है। दो दिन पहले यमुना से अमोनिया की मात्रा कम हो गई थी, लेकिन एक बार फिर यमुना के कच्चे पानी में अमोनिया बढ़ने के कारण दिल्ली जल बोर्ड को वजीराबाद व चंद्रावल चल उपचार संयंत्रों में पेयजल उत्पादन की 25 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा कटौती करनी पड़ी है। विशेष बात यह है कि इस समस्या के हल के लिए जल मंत्री व डीजेबी अध्यक्ष कपिल मिश्रा ने केंद्रीय जलसंसाधन मंत्री उमा भारती को दो दिन पहले पत्र लिखा है। प्रजाव-26-1-16

## कश्मीर में लोगों को शीत लहर से मिली हल्की राहत

श्रीनगर, (भाषा): लद्दाख क्षेत्र सहित कश्मीर डिवीजन के अधिकांश स्थानों पर न्यूनतम तापमान में बढ़ौतरी दर्ज की गई है जिसके कारण आज लोगों को जबर्दस्त ठंड से राहत मिली। साथ ही घाटी में इस सप्ताह के आखिर में बारिश होने की संभावना है। मौसम विभाग के एक अधिकारी ने यहां पर बताया कि जम्मू-कश्मीर की ग्रीष्मकालीन राजधानी श्रीनगर में पूर्ववर्ती रात के मुकाबले रात के न्यूनतम तापमान में दो डिग्री सेल्सियस की बढ़ौतरी दर्ज की गई और यह शून्य से 3.3 डिग्री नीचे दर्ज किया गया। कश्मीर घाटी के प्रवेश द्वार शहर काजीकुंड में न्यूनतम तापमान शून्य से 3.9 डिग्री सेल्सियस नीचे दर्ज किया गया। अधिकारी ने बताया कि दक्षिण कश्मीर में पहलगाम के पहाड़ी रिसोर्ट का न्यूनतम तापमान शून्य से 5.9 डिग्री सेल्सियस नीचे दर्ज किया गया।

प्रजा-26-1-16



# 70 सालों में जम्मू में रही सबसे सर्द रात

जम्मू, (भाषा): जम्मू में कल रात पिछले 70 सालों का सबसे कम तापमान रिकार्ड किया गया जिसके कारण कल की रात 'सबसे सर्द रात' रही। कल रात जम्मू का न्यूनतम तापमान 0.05 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। इसके साथ ही शहर में घना कोहरा छाया रहा। मौसम विभाग ने जम्मू और कश्मीर के पहाड़ी इलाकों में 29-30 जनवरी को बर्फबारी होने की संभावना व्यक्त की है।

जम्मू-कश्मीर मौसम विभाग के निदेशक सोनम लोटस ने बताया, "कल रात जम्मू का न्यूनतम तापमान 0.05 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया जिसके कारण कल की

रात पिछले 70 सालों की सबसे सर्द रात रही। इससे पहले 11 जनवरी 1945 को न्यूनतम तापमान 0.06 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया था।" लोटस ने बताया, "हमने 29-30 जनवरी से जम्मू एवं कश्मीर के पहाड़ी इलाकों में बर्फबारी होने और इसी समयावधि में जम्मू क्षेत्र के मैदानी इलाकों में बारिश होने का अनुमान लगाया है।" कल का अधिकतम तापमान 8.6 डिग्री सेल्सियस और न्यूनतम तापमान 0.05 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया था। साथ ही जम्मू में घना कोहरा छाया हुआ था। उन्होंने बताया, "जम्मू के क्षितिज पर घने कोहरे के कारण रात सर्द रही।"

# फिर बढ़ा अमोनिया, घटेगी वॉटर सप्लाई

■ विशेष संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

एक बार फिर से यमुना में अमोनिया की मात्रा बढ़ गई है। यमुना में अमोनिया की मात्रा तय मानकों से ज्यादा बढ़ने के कारण दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने दो वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट्स वजीराबाद और चंद्रावल का उत्पादन 25 फीसदी तक घटा दिया है। माना जा रहा है कि उत्पादन कम होने से मंगलवार को नई दिल्ली, सेंट्रल दिल्ली और पुरानी दिल्ली के कई इलाकों में पानी की किल्लत हो सकती है।

एक सप्ताह के अंदर यह तीसरा मौका है, जब यमुना में अमोनिया की मात्रा बढ़ी है। सोनीपत और पानीपत की फैक्ट्रियों की गंदगी सीधे यमुना में बहा दिए जाने के कारण आए इस पानी में अमोनिया की मात्रा बढ़ जाती है। अमोनिया की मात्रा बढ़ने से दिल्ली वालों का पानी की दिक्कत का सामना करना पड़ता है। मानकों के मुताबिक पानी में अमोनिया की मात्रा 0.2 पीपीएम से ज्यादा नहीं होनी चाहिए। लेकिन पिछले काफी दिनों से लगातार अमोनिया की मात्रा इस तय मानक से ज्यादा चल रही है। इस मामले को लेकर दिल्ली सरकार ने हरियाणा सरकार को पत्र भी भेजा था। हाल ही में दिल्ली सरकार ने इस संबंध में केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री उमा भारती से फोन पर बातचीत भी की थी। बाद में एक लेटर भी उमा भारती को लिखा था। उसके बावजूद दिल्ली के पानी में अमोनिया की मात्रा कम होने का नाम नहीं ले रही है।

यमुना के पानी को दिल्ली के वजीराबाद

और चंद्रावल वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट में साफ किया जाता है। वजीराबाद बैराज से यमुना का पानी उठाकर इन दोनों प्लांटों तक लाया जाता है। दोनों प्लांट मिलकर करीब 200 एमजीडी से पानी का उत्पादन करते हैं। आए दिन वजीराबाद बैराज में अमोनिया की मात्रा बढ़ रही है, लिहाजा ऐसे में इन प्लांटों का बार बार बंद करना पड़ रहा है। जल बोर्ड से मिली

पुरानी  
दिल्ली, नई  
दिल्ली और सेंट्रल  
दिल्ली में हो सकती है  
पानी की किल्लत

जानकारी के मुताबिक जिन इलाकों पर असर पड़ेगा, उनमें एनडीएमसी एरिया, नॉर्थ दिल्ली, नॉर्थ वेस्ट दिल्ली, साउथ दिल्ली के कुछ इलाके, चांदनी चौक, जामा मस्जिद, सिविल लाइंस, सुभाष पार्क, मुखर्जी नगर, शक्ति नगर, आदर्श नगर, मॉडल टाउन, जहांगीरपुरी, वजीरपुर औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, पंजाबी बाग, गुलाबी बाग, हिंदू राव, इंडेवाला नगर, मोतिया खान, पहाड़गंज, करोल बाग, नया बाजार, ईस्ट एंड वेस्ट पटेल नगर, मलका गंज व आसपास के इलाके शामिल हैं।

## 'यमुना में अमोनिया बढ़ने पर क्या किया?' एनजीटी ने दिल्ली जल बोर्ड से मांगी स्टेटस रिपोर्ट

■ वस, नई दिल्ली

नैशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (एनजीटी) ने यमुना में अमोनिया के बढ़ते लेवल को लेकर दिल्ली जल बोर्ड (डीजेबी) को फटकार लगाई। अमोनिया बढ़ने की वजह से वजीराबाद और चंद्रावल ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट्स को बंद करना पड़ा है।

एनजीटी अध्यक्ष जस्टिस स्वतंत्र कुमार की अगुवाई वाली बेंच ने इस संबंध में दिल्ली जल बोर्ड को स्टेटस रिपोर्ट दखिल करने का निर्देश देते हुए कहा कि रिपोर्ट्स से साफ है कि यमुना में अमोनिया लेवल बहुत बढ़ गया है। आपका क्या कहना है और आपने इस



संबंध में क्या एक्शन लिया है? इस समय यमुना में अमोनिया का लेवल 2 से 2.5 पीपीएम (पाटर्स पर मीलियन) के बीच बना हुआ है। इसी के महेनजर दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष कपिल मिश्रा ने केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री उमा भारती को यमुना में पानी की क्वालिटी में गिरावट के बारे में लेटर लिखा है। लेटर में मिश्रा ने कहा कि यदि कच्चे पानी में अमोनिया की मात्रा 0.5 पीपीएम और इससे ज्यादा हो जाए तो पानी के ट्रीटमेंट की प्रक्रिया रोकनी पड़ती है, क्योंकि ऐसे पानी के

क्लोरीन से मिलने पर ट्राइहेलामिथेन पैदा हो जाता है, जिससे कैंसर होने की संभावना रहती है।

एनजीटी ने इस मुद्दे पर 28 जनवरी को केंद्रीय पर्यावरण एवं जल संसाधन मंत्रालय, दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के सीईओ और अन्य अधिकारियों की मीटिंग बुलाई है। एनजीटी ने पिछले साल एक प्रिंसिपल कमिटी गठित की थी, जिसे 'मैली से निर्मल यमुना रीवाइटेलाइजेशन प्रोजेक्ट 2017' को लागू करने की जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गई थी।



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# Air pollution exposure may up risk of preterm birth

PTI | Jan 27, 2016, 10.30 AM IST



*Air pollution exposure may up risk of preterm birth (Getty Images)*

**E**xposure to high levels of small particle air pollution is associated with an increased risk of premature birth, a study has found. Researchers at the US Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Centre and the University of Cincinnati, identified a 19% increased risk, with the greatest risk when exposed to air pollution during the third trimester of pregnancy.

"Decreasing the amount of particulate matter in the air below the US Environmental Protection Agency's standard threshold could decrease preterm birth in women exposed to high levels of small particulates by about 17%, which corresponds to a 2.22% decrease in the preterm birth rate in the population as a whole," said Emily DeFranco, a professor.

The researchers studied birth records in Ohio between 2007 and 2010. The population included nearly 225,000 singleton live births. Of these, more than 19,000 births were preterm, that is birth before 37 weeks of pregnancy. The birth records were linked to average daily measures of fine particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less in width. The majority of births, 97%, occurred in highly urbanised areas.





**The Times of India****Title : Powered by Sun****Author :****Location :****Article Date : 01/27/2016****As solar power generation capacity crosses 5,000 MW mark an era of clean energy has started in India**

The country's grid-connected solar power generation capacity has crossed the 5,000 MW mark, with Rajasthan on top, followed by Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The cumulative installed capacity has reached 5,130 MW with installed capacity of 1,385 MW in current financial year. Rajasthan leads the list with 1,264.35 MW capacity, followed by Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The government has set an ambitious target of generating 100 GW of solar power by 2021-22 under the National Solar Mission. It is envisaged to generate 60 GW ground mounted grid-connected solar power and 40 GW rooftop grid interactive solar power to meet the target. The ministry has also fixed yearwise targets to monitor the solar power generation in the country. The target for the current year is 2,000 MW and 12,000 MW for the next year. The ministry is putting all efforts through various Central and state governments schemes to achieve the target. It has also initiated several schemes for development of solar parks and ultra mega solar power projects. Tenders for around 18,000 MW of solar projects are expected to be issued by March 31, 2016, it said.

**LOW TARIFF**

The Centre is set to realize Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clean energy vision, with solar power tariff hitting a record low Rs 4.34 a unit. "Through transparent auctions with a ready provision of land, transmission and the like, solar tariffs have come down below thermal power cost. We are moving rapidly towards realising the clean energy vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said power and coal minister Piyush Goyal. The solar power tariff fell to an all-time low, with Finland-based energy firm Fortum Finnsurya Energy quoting Rs 4.34 to bag the mandate to set up a 70-mw solar plant under NTPC's Bhadla Solar Park tender. This (Rs 4.34 a unit) is the lowest solar tariff so far in India. This has happened because of confidence in the balance sheet of NTPC and solar parks that come with all clearances and confidence in the market. In November last year, the solar power tariff had slid to an all-time low of Rs 4.63 following aggressive bidding by the US-based SunEdison, the world's biggest developer of renewable energy power plants.

**SOLAR POWER@2030**

Solar energy is expected to account for 18 per cent of total power generation capacity in India by 2030 from one per cent at present, playing a key role in the country's efforts to achieving 40 per cent installed power capacity from renewable energy. In its recently-submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) ahead of the crucial climate change conference in Paris from November 30 to December 11, India has committed to achieving 40 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from nonfossil fuel based energy resources by 2030. From the current power generation capacity of one per cent, solar energy mix will be scaled up to 18 per cent, official sources said as they gave a break up for how India intends to achieve its INDC commitments.

Also, by 2031-32, wind energy generation will be at 10 per cent from the current nine per cent while nuclear power would remain at 2 per cent, as at present. Generation of hydro-electric power will, however, decrease from the present 17 per cent to nine per cent, the sources said. Coal power accounts for around 61 per cent of the electricity generation today, but would be reduced to 57 per cent in 2031-32, they said. Noting that renewable energy generation today accounts for 28 per cent of the total capacity, the sources said that if India is going to meet energy needs of all by 2030, the total installed renewable capacity would be in excess of 8,00,000 MW from the present 2,60,000 MW.

## Solar iCon-2016

Solar iCon-2016 is a flagship event of Solar Energy Society of India which bring together all the stakeholders of India's Renewable Energy plans to lead towards more efficient and effective RE development path by availing opportunities and by meeting challenges in RE sector. The 13th International Congress Solar iCon 2016 on the topic “Make in India Opportunities & Challenges in Solar Sector“ is to be held between 28-30 January, 2016 at Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. The Conference is aimed to focus on Manufacturing of Hardware required to meet a target of 100 GW Solar Power by 2022 and another target is 70 GW of Wind Power. The debate will revolve around manufacturing component for Photovoltaic both for Crystalline and Thin Film Technology. The Conference will also discuss the fields of Policy, Technology and Finance to achieve the targets. The Entrepreneurs, Professionals, Nodal Agencies, Ministries, Engineering Colleges, Embassies, NGO's, State Industries and Electricity Board can be the participants for the above Conference and I extend an invitation to all of them to be part of this Conference. It is hoped that enough participation comes for this International Conference which will also evolve ideas for green jobs, smart cities and give boost to India's economic growth. The ideas thus shared will pave way for a vision of a successful future as we are expecting participant from Japan, Europe, USA, Switzerland, Spain and other countries apart from India.



## Govt now plans to clean the Ganga — differently — with a little help from the corporates

Written by **Amitabh Sinha** | New Delhi | Published: January 12, 2016 5:26 pm



Allahabad: Hindu devotees take holy bath in the Sangam of rivers, the Ganga, the Yamuna and mythical Saraswati early in the morning in Allahabad on Friday. (Source: PTI Photo)

By inviting corporate companies to take up the work of urban sewage management in the towns and cities along the Ganga, the government hopes that its renewed effort to clean the river does not meet the same fate as the previous attempts of several decades.

Over the last 30 years through the Ganga Action plan, the government has spent more than Rs 4,000 crore on cleaning the river without any visible improvement in its condition. Pollution has only worsened in all these years.

Not surprisingly, the government wants to do things differently this time. A couple of reasons for the failure of the Ganga Action Plan have been very evident. Almost the entire emphasis was on sewage treatment, and the sewage treatment plans were centered around specific cities. So there was a plan for Varanasi, another one for Kanpur and yet another one for Allahabad, and so on. These were executed with different timelines and in different phases. A holistic plan for the entire stretch on Ganga was missing.

The other serious problem with the Ganga Action Plan was that while a lot of sewage treatment infrastructure was created, there wasn't enough emphasis on operation and maintenance of this infrastructure. As a result, many sewage treatment plants (STPs) became non-functional after some time or were being run well below their capacities. Lack of reliable power supply was one of the major problems ailing the STPs.

The corporate intervention in urban sewage management, in the manner that has been designed, is expected to take care of these two very obvious problems. First, sewage along the Ganga river will be treated not just in the big towns and cities. So the corporates have been invited to bid for each of the 118 urban centres along the Ganga and set up and operate STPs.

Secondly, the corporates will be mandated to maintain and operate the STPs for a minimum of 15 years. The government will pay them only in annual installments, because of which it is hoped, that the corporate will not exit midway. If the corporates are also able to create a market for the treated water, as is envisaged, there can be added incentive for them to keep the project going even beyond the 15-year period.

In fact, the market-based mechanism is something that the government hopes will transform the manner in which the water resources are managed in the country. The long-term desire is to ensure that except for drinking purposes, water usage should be charged, as is done in most other countries. There should also be restrictions on the use of fresh water. The government wants to move in the direction in which fresh water would not be allowed to be used for industrial purposes, or even for bathing, gardening or cleaning.

# NGT slams DJB over high ammonia in the Yamuna

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, 25 January

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) today slammed Delhi Jal Board (DJB) over rising ammonia levels in the Yamuna which has left its water beyond treatment, forcing the closure of Wazirabad and Chandrahal plants.

"There is a report of increase in ammonia levels. What is your stand on it and what action have you taken in this regard," a bench

headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar asked while directing Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to file a status report in this regard. The order assumes significance as high levels of ammonia ranging between 2-2.5 ppm (parts per million) was traced in the river after which Delhi Water Minister Kapil Mishra wrote a letter to Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti about the "deteriorating" water quality in the Yamuna.

"If the quantum of ammonia in raw water increases to 0.5 ppm and beyond, the operation of treatment of raw water has to be suspended as ammonia with the treating agent chlorine gives

rise to trihalomethane, which is carcinogenic in nature," Mishra had said in his letter to Bharti.

The green panel also convened a meeting of officials of the Ministries of Environment and Forests and Water Resources, the DJB CEO and other concerned officials on January 28.



The Tribunal in January last year had constituted a "Principal Committee" which would be responsible for the implementation of the 'Maili se Nirmal Yamuna Revitalisation Project 2017'.

The committee consists of secretary of the ministry of environment and forests (MoEF), joint secretary of the ministry of water resources, chief secretary of Delhi, vice-chairman DDA, commissioners of all corporations and the state secretaries of Haryana, UP, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

On November 3 last year, the NGT had asked DJB to explain how much money it has spent on construction of sewage network and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) while expressing surprise over its annual budget of over Rs 1,400 crore and restrained it from spending more than Rs 50 crore.



# Air quality was severe on Republic Day, expect dense morning fog today

**POISON IN AIR** Pollution shoots up at all monitoring stations, 30 trains delayed, 46 cancelled due to fog but no flights affected



**HT Correspondent**

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**NEW DELHI:** Delhi's air quality on Republic Day was 'severe' with monitoring stations showing high levels of pollutants across the city.

After a marginal improvement in air quality over the past week, data at all four monitoring stations on the National Air Quality Index that record both particulate matter 2.5 and 10 fell under the severe category on Tuesday when the Republic Day celebrations were in progress.

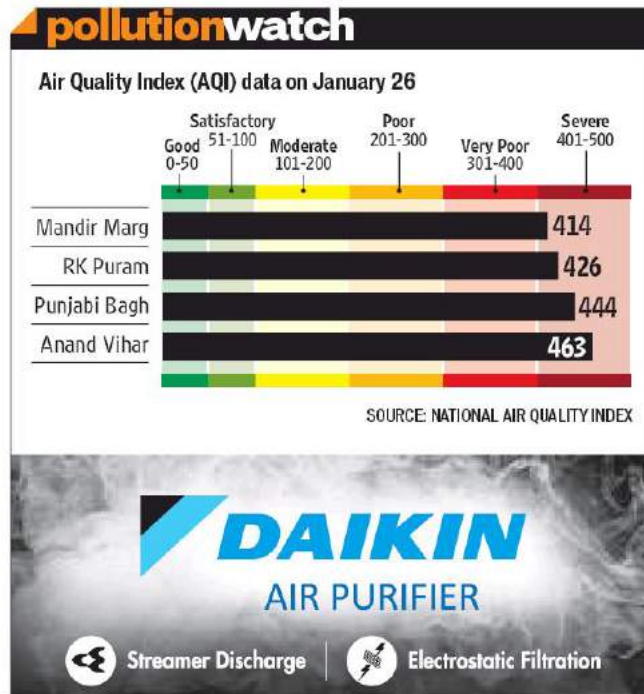
Air quality is considered 'very poor' by Indian authorities when level of PM 2.5 ranges from 120 to 250  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . It is 'severe' when PM 2.5 and PM 10 cross 253 and 421  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  respectively.

The primary pollutant at the Mandir Marg, RK Puram and Punjabi Bagh stations was PM 2.5 while at Anand Vihar it was PM 10.

This was despite higher temperature on Tuesday as compared to the previous week. Lower temperature helps aid the concentration of pollutants.

The PM 2.5 levels, calculated as an average for the entire city, was recorded at 201.4 and fell under 'very poor' category. The four stations in the city have not seen a single good or moderate air quality day this January.

Last year in January, it had rained a couple of days before Republic Day, clearing up the air and improving air quality. Concerns about air quality were on top of everyone's minds before last year's Republic Day celebrations as reports had suggested that US President Barack Obama,



who was the chief guest at last year's celebrations, was planning to curtail his outdoor visits because of poor air quality.

This year's air quality was poorer as compared to last year and has remained so for most of the month as January has not seen a single rainy day so far.

According to records for the past decade, January usually sees 2-3 rainy days. This year, the count is zero.

According to the weatherman, rain is not expected this month. A western disturbance is expected to bring in thundery conditions on Saturday but rain will elude the city.

On Tuesday, the maximum temperature was recorded at

21.2 degrees Celsius, a degree below normal while the minimum was recorded at 6.8 degrees Celsius, two degrees below normal.

On Wednesday, the city is expected to see dense fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be recorded as 20 degrees and 8 degrees Celsius.

The city has also been in the grip of dense fog over the past fortnight, disrupting air, road and rail traffic. Some respite is expected from Saturday.

According to railway officials, 30 Delhi-bound trains were delayed and 46 remained cancelled as announced earlier.

However, flight operations remained normal at Delhi airport. The visibility which dropped to 200 meters at 8.30am due to fog, improved to 600 metres at 11.30am and further to 800 metres at 2.30pm. It was recorded 100 metres at 5.30pm. The humidity in air oscillated between 100 and 61 per cent.

**ACCORDING TO RECORDS FOR THE PAST DECADE, JANUARY USUALLY SEES 2-3 RAINY DAYS. THIS YEAR, THE COUNT IS ZERO**

**NATIONAL**

Published: January 26, 2016 23:05 IST | Updated: January 26, 2016 23:05 IST New Delhi, January 26, 2016

**Cold wave relentless in north India**

- PTI

*Parts of Kashmir Valley get snowfall; Leh registers - 9.5 deg C*

Many areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall while plains experienced intermittent rains as cold continued its grip over parts of north India, with Leh shivering at a low of minus 9.5 degrees Celsius.

Fresh snowfall in parts of the higher reaches of Kashmir, including at Peer Ki Gali on Mughal Road in Shopian, Sonamarg, Amarnath Cave Shrine, Razdan Pass, Sadhna Top and Gurez and intermittent rains in plains, broke the long dry spell in the region.

**Improvement**

The hill resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir, which serves as the base camp for annual Amarnath Yatra, received light snowfall and there was an improvement of four notches in the minimum temperature which settled at minus 1.9 degrees Celsius, an official of the MeT Department said.

Most of the areas in the plains, including summer Capital Srinagar, experienced intermittent rains, the official said.

Meanwhile in Delhi, chilly morning failed to dampen the spirit of people who thronged the majestic Rajpath to be part of the 67th Republic Day celebrations.

Meanwhile, cold wave conditions continued to persist across Punjab and Haryana today, with Amritsar reeling at 2.6 degrees Celsius.

In Rajasthan, there was no let up in the cold wave condition since January 15 as people in Pilani shivered at the lowest temperature of 4.3 degrees Celsius last night, and dense fog disrupted normal life and vehicular traffic in north-east of the State, a MeT official said on Tuesday.

Dense fog appeared in north-eastern region of Rajasthan covering Alwar, Bharatpur, Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh, Bikaner, and parts of Jaipur district, and rail and road services were affected.

**Train movement affected**

North Western Railway's eleven trains were running late from 1 hr 15 mins to 10 hrs 30 mins, its CRPRO Tarun Jain said.

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Printable version | Jan 27, 2016 4:11:31 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cold-wave-relentless-in-north-india/article8155118.ece>

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**The Times of India**

**Title : Diversion of water must stop to curb Ganga's pollution: Report**

**Author : Vishwa Mohan**

**Location :**

**New Delhi:**

**Article Date : 01/27/2016**

**Ministries Differ On Construction Of New Dams**

Grappling with the mammoth task of cleaning the Ganga, the water resources ministry has flagged how “heavy abstraction“ of water has become a key concern in its efforts to rejuvenate the river at a time when it has already moved to handle pollution through multiple measures.

The ministry made a detailed presentation over the issue in the Prime Minister's Office early this month, flagging how water is diverted from Ganga to meet demands of agriculture, industries, domestic consumption and power generation through 784 dams, 66 barrages, 92 weirs and 45 lift irrigation schemes on the country's national river and its tributaries.

In its 86-page presentation -Challenges and Required Interventions -the ministry also made a case for maintaining minimum flow of water in Ganga as the river has a self-cleansing ability, provided it has uninterrupted flow of water round the year. Uninterrupted flow of water is possible only if the river gets its ecological flow (e-flow). The e-flow of a particular river refers to quality, quantity and timing of water flows required to maintain the functions, processes and resilience of aquatic eco-systems.

The PMO was also briefed over the differences of opinion of two ministries over the issue of construction of dams on Ganga and its tributaries. While the water resources ministry does not want any new dam so that Ganga gets its e-flow, the environment ministry has recently conditionally allowed five new dams on its tributaries in Uttarakhand and filed an affidavit in this regard in the Supreme Court.

“You cannot clean the river only by setting up sewage treatment plants and asking industries to stop discharging untreated water. If you don't deal with abstraction of water, the Rs 20,000 crore plan would go down the drain the way the Centre had lost nearly Rs 5,000 crore in the past,” an official said.

Even a letter by water resources minister Uma Bharti to environment minister Prakash Javadekar failed to cut the deadlock. Though the environment ministry has put a condition while specifying how much minimum water should be enough to maintain uninterrupted flow in Ganga, the water ministry does not appear to be convinced.

“To take care of irrigation needs of farmers, the government has planned to promote drip irrigation and other methods for optimum utilisation of water under its ‘per drop, more crop’ goal,” said the official.

# CLEANING THE RIVER

HEAVY ABSTRACTION OF WATER THROUGH DAMS & BARRAGES ON DIFFERENT RIVERS IN GANGA BASIN (River Ganga and its tributaries)



**DAMS** **784**  
(158 out of 784 dams are included in the National Register of Large Dam; a large dam is classified as one with a maximum height of more than 15 metres from its deepest foundation to the crest)

**BARRAGES** **66**

**WEIRS** **92**

**LIFT SCHEMES** **45**

**States/UTs in Ganga Basin:**  
UP, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bangal and Delhi

**14 rivers (Ganga & its tributaries):**  
Ganga, Yamuna, Betwa, Chambal, Damodar, Gandak, Ghagra, Gomti, Hindon, Kali, Khan, Kosi, Kshipra and Ramganga

**MAJOR DAMS AND BARRAGES ON RIVER GANGA**

Tehri Dam, Vishnuprayag Dam, Bhimgauda Barrage, Pashulok Barrage, Bijnor Barrage, Narora Barrage, Kanpur Barrage, Farakka Barrage