

Ammonia in Yamuna five times over limit

POLLUTED Experts say lack of ecological flow causing pollution, call for action against industrial units in Panipat, Sonapat



■ The level of ammonia in Yamuna was five times above the acceptable limit at 2.5 parts per million between last Wednesday and Saturday.

RAVI CHOUDHARY/ HT FILE

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NEW DELHI: In August last year, Union water resources minister Uma Bharti and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had agreed to set up a special purpose vehicle for cleaning up and rejuvenating the Yamuna. A month later that year, the Delhi Jal Board chairperson had said: "I will bathe in a clean Yamuna 36 months from now."

Three months later, far from being any cleaner, the extremely high levels of pollution — especially ammonia — in the Yamuna has forced water treatment plants in Delhi to shut down operations.

The level of ammonia in Yamuna was five times above the acceptable limit at 2.5 parts per million between last Wednesday and Saturday. The acceptable limit is 0.5 parts per million.

The primary reason behind the recurrent problem is the failure to ensure ecological flow in the river.

Ecological flow — which is described as the minimum amount of water that should flow throughout the river at all times to sustain underwater and estuarine ecosystems and human livelihoods — must be maintained at 10 cumecs (cubic meter per second) at all times. This was finalised in a memorandum of understanding signed between the governments of Haryana and Delhi in 1994.

"Haryana has interpreted this MoU erroneously. Ten cubic meters per second of flow means that this should be the flow in the river at any given time. This means that even if the state has to release 20 cumecs of water to maintain that flow, it should do that. Haryana, however, does not maintain the flow," said a senior Delhi Jal Board official.

Shutting of water treatment plants due to the accumulation of pollutants — particularly ammonia — has become very common over the past three-four years as the minimum river flow cannot

be maintained.

"There is barely any release of water in the river. As a result the bed is running dry and pollutants are getting deposited. After this, unless ecological flow is maintained, the water will become tough to clean," the official said.

The problem, experts however say, is with industrial units operating in Panipat and Sonapat.

"The pollution levels in water increase in winters. The pollution from industrial units in Haryana becomes apparent during this time. A stringent check on these units along with maintaining the river's ecological flow is the need of the hour. Leave the river alone. It will clean itself," said Yamuna activist Manoj Misra.

According to Delhi water minister Kapil Mishra, talks between the state government and the Centre is in progress. "I have asked DJB to prepare a plan to ensure that even if the pollution level in the river goes up, the water supply to the city is not affected," Mishra said.

Air quality in Capital shows 'very poor' level

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, 27 January

The air quality in the national capital today is in the 'very poor' category. The levels of Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5, for six stations under Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), were three to four times higher than the safe limit.

The safe Indian standards of PM2.5 and PM 10 are 60 and 100 respectively, according to DPCC.

Real-time readings of DPCC stations put PM pollution multiple times above the safe limits. At Anand Vihar, PM 2.5 and PM 10 were at 260 and 561 at 6.30 pm. Whereas at Mandir Marg, R K Puram, Punjabi Bagh and Civil Lines, PM 2.5 were at 207, 194, 246 and 196.13 respectively. The levels of PM 10 were also four to five times higher across the stations.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO), PM 2.5 which measures less than 2.5 microns is considered as the best indicator of the level of health risks from air pollution.

Air quality is considered 'very poor' by DPCC 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 crosses 250, 421 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ respectively.



Besides, the air quality dipped severely on 67th Republic Day. At least four AQI stations recorded severe levels of air pollution, with particulate matter (PM) 10 and 2.5 shooting up across air quality monitoring stations on the R-Day. On 26 Jan morning, Mandir Marg, R K Puram, Anand Vihar, Punjabi Bagh all recorded PM 2.5 levels between 400 and 500 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), according to the DPCC's real time ambient air quality data.

The air pollution can be attributed to various factors such as vehicular emissions, burning of wastes, industrial plume and many more. An analysis carried out by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) shows that air pollution is back with a vengeance. The first three working days after the completion of odd and even scheme have seen rapid worsening of air quality.

There has been more than 57 per cent jump in PM2.5 levels on the first working day, and it has stayed elevated at severe levels, said CSE.

"Without the moderating influence of emergency action, pollution levels are building up more rapidly. The odd and even scheme has proved that the city needs curbs on high traffic volume to pull down peaking of pollution, reduce congestion that further increase emissions, and cut direct exposure to toxic vehicular fumes. Delhi government should expedite action for more systemic solutions," said CSE in its statement.

According to health experts, prolonged exposure to severe air pollution will lead to serious illnesses such as asthma, skin allergies etc. CSE's analysis has found that the odd and even scheme, although limited in scope and ambit, could still slow down the peaking of pollution even when weather was hostile such as no wind, lower temperature and western disturbance in the northern region.

Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Monday that the 'Odd-Even' scheme will be implemented in the city again after taking into consideration the suggestions and feedbacks of Delhi residents.

Clean Ganga mission to rope in gram panchayats

The Times of India (New Delhi edition) · 28 Jan 2016 · 12 · TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With the aim of cleaning and rejuvenating the Ganga river through active participation of rural population, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is organising ‘Swachh Ganga-Gramin Sehbhagita’ — a national level stakeholder consultation and sensitisation programme — here on January 30.

The ‘pradhans’ (heads) of 1,649 gram panchayats, many Union ministers and chief ministers of Jharkhand and Uttarakhand will attend the meet where the stakeholders will discuss whether they can replicate a couple of successful models, operational in some rural areas, to treat sewage in all the 1,600 villages located on the banks of the river Ganga.

These models include the one used in Punjab’s Seenchewal village (Jalandhar) for treatment of sewage. A detailed presentation on the Seenchewal model will be made on the occasion.

Under the Seenchewal model, sewage is collected in a pond in a village. After being treated in a natural way, water is used for irrigation.

“Aimed at bringing all the stakeholders on a single platform, the one-day consultation and sensitisation programme is a national dialogue on Ganga to facilitate interaction with various stakeholders,” said the water resources ministry in a statement on Wednesday. For the full report log on to

[Wwww.timesofindia.com](http://www.timesofindia.com)

Floating human bodies polluting Ganga in UP: NGT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 27 January

Human and animal corpses are being recklessly dumped in Ganga at various locations across Uttar Pradesh, aggravating pollution in the river, a lawyer told the National Green Tribunal today.

He also submitted pictures of corpses floating in Ganga in Varanasi and claimed no action was being taken to stop such corpses from being disposed in the river.

"The deponent wish to draw the attention of this Court on the issue of floating dead bodies in Ganga in the districts of Uttar Pradesh. That one of the photos show a half burnt dead body of a human being and a dead animal floating in the river," an affidavit filed by advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal said.

"Further, it is also important to mention here that the deponent has learnt from the reports published/aired on various electronic and print media that in the month of January, 2015, more than 100 decaying dead bodies surfaced in the Ganga near Pariyar between Kanpur and Unnao," the affidavit added.

The affidavit was filed in pursuance to the green panel's January 18 direction asking the lawyer to file proper documents after he alleged that bodies of humans and animals were being dumped in the river and the authorities were not taking any action.

Taking note of his submissions, NGT had slammed the Centre and UP government over pollution in Ganga at Varanasi and observed that their slogans were contrary to actions.

GOVT REPORT SOUGHT ON ARSENIC-PRONE AREAS

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Kolkata 27 January

Directing immediate sealing of the sources of arsenic contamination of water in the state and supplying potable water to the residents of the arsenic-contaminated areas of North-24-Parganas, Kolkata Bench of National Green Tribunal (NGT) today expressed displeasure at the state chief secretary's report on arsenic poisoning.

Going through reports NEERI, West Bengal Pollution Control Board and Central Ground Water Board, which reported widespread arsenic poisoning during the day, the Kolkata Bench expressed surprise at the report.

Results of the sample survey of chief engineer of public health engineering department without specifying the sources from where the samples were drawn were enclosed but reported few areas of contamination.

While the NEERI report drew water samples from Gaighata and Teghoria reported 13 cases of contamination out of 15 samples, there were no trace of arsenic in the nine samples out of 12 in the chief secretary's report. Only two had traces of arsenic while its marginal presence was traced in one sample drawn from unspecified area of North-24-Parganas, the chief secretary's report stated.

28-1-16

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स्नोजिला : अमरीका में बर्फ ने रोके रास्ते

न्यूयॉर्क @ पत्रिका. अमरीका के न्यूयॉर्क शहर में मैनहट्टन किसी धुवीय टापू की तरह नजर आ रहा है। यहां चारों तरफ बर्फ की चादर बिछी हुई है। रास्ते पूरी तरह जाम हैं। तूफान 'स्नोजिला' का असर कम होने के बाद लोग घरों से बाहर निकल रहे हैं, लेकिन उनके पास पैदल चलने के अलावा कोई विकल्प नहीं हैं। रास्तों और वाहनों पर जमी बर्फ हटाने के लिए बड़ा अभियान चलाया गया है। वहीं वर्जीनिया प्रांत को तूफान का सबसे ज्यादा असर डोलना पड़ा है। यहां 42 इंच बर्फबारी हुई है। दशकों बाद ऐसी स्थिति बनी है जब किसी तूफान की वजह से साढ़े आठ करोड़ लोगों प्रभावित हुए हैं। तीन लाख घरों में बिजली नहीं है। प्रशासन की मुस्तेदी के बाद प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में तेजी से सफाई और राहत अभियान चलाया जा रहा है।



गंगा नदी किनारे लगे हुए हैं कैम्प

11 JAN
28-1-18

नई दिल्ली, (वार्ता): गंगा नदी पर कौडिलया से ऋषिकेश तक तट पर पर्यटकों के लिए कैम्प लगाए जाने के आरोपों को उत्तराखंड सरकार द्वारा खारिज करने के एक सप्ताह बाद एक स्वयंसेवी संस्था ने राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण (एनजीटी) को आज बताया कि गंगा नदी किनारे कैम्प लगे हुए हैं और राज्य सरकार न्यायाधिकरण को भ्रमित करने की कोशिश कर रही है।

स्वयंसेवी संस्थान सोशल एक्शन फोर फॉरेस्ट एंड एनवायरमेंट (सैफ) ने एनजीटी अध्यक्ष न्यायाधीश स्वतंत्र कुमार की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ को बताया कि क्षेत्र में करीब 10 कैम्प लगे हुए हैं और ये गंगा नदी की सहायक नदियों पर अस्थायी शिविर बनाने के काम

में भी शामिल हैं। सैफ ने एक हलफनामे में कहा, "याचिकाकर्ता ने पाया कि कुछ कैम्प नदी किनारे शिविर के रूप में अस्थायी निर्माण में शामिल हैं।

राज्य सरकार के हलफनामे में दिए गए तथ्यों की जांच के लिए याचिकाकर्ता ने 19 जनवरी को क्षेत्र का दौरा किया और पाया कि गंगा नदी तट पर दो कैम्प और हैमेल नदी किनारे कई कैम्प लगाए गए हैं।" उत्तराखंड सरकार ने 18 जनवरी को एनजीटी को बताया था कि कौडिलया से ऋषिकेश तक गंगा नदी के किनारे कोई कैम्प नहीं है लेकिन साथ ही यह स्वीकार किया गया कि नववर्ष का जश्न मनाने आए पर्यटकों ने वहां तेज आवाज में संगीत बजाया।

जयललिता ने मेटूर बांध से पानी छोड़ने के निर्देश दिए

4518-28-1-16

चेन्नई, (भाषा): कावेरी डेल्टा के कुछ हिस्सों में खेती में हुई देरी और अगले माह कुंभकोणम में होने वाले 'महामहम' उत्सव के मद्देनजर तमिलनाडु की मुख्यमंत्री जे. जयललिता ने 28 जनवरी से 25 फरवरी के बीच मेटूर बांध से 6,000 घनमीटर (क्यूसेक) पानी छोड़ने के निर्देश दिये हैं। जयललिता ने कहा कि उन्हें किसानों की ओर से इस संबंध में अनुरोध प्राप्त हुये हैं। हालांकि पहले 28 जनवरी तक ही पानी छोड़ना प्रस्तावित था। उन्होंने कहा कि नौ अगस्त 2015 के बाद कावेरी डेल्टा से सिंचाई के लिए पानी छोड़े जाने से धान की पैदावार में बढ़ौतरी हुई है। उन्होंने कहा कि कुछ हिस्सों में धान रोपाई में देरी हुयी है और अभी भी पानी की आवश्यकता है। इसके अलावा 12 साल में एक बार होने वाला 'महामहम' उत्सव इस बार 22 फरवरी को पड़ रहा है। जयललिता ने एक विज्ञप्ति में कहा, "इसलिए, करीब 70,000 एकड़ के लिए पानी उपलब्ध कराने और लोगों के लिए



जे. जयललिता

'महामहम' उत्सव को खुशहाल बनाने के लिए मैंने 28 जनवरी से 25 फरवरी के बीच मेटूर बांध से 6,000 घन मीटर पानी छोड़ने के निर्देश दिये हैं।' 'उन्होंने बताया कि जनता से उन्हें महामहम उत्सव को एक विशेष पर्व के रूप में मनाने संबंधी अनुरोध प्राप्त हुये हैं।

गंगा सफाई के लिए प्रधानों का सम्मेलन

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

तैयारी दि-28-1-16

गंगा सफाई अभियान में गांवों की सहभागिता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए केंद्र सरकार शनिवार को गंगा किनारे वाले 1649 गांवों के प्रधानों का सम्मेलन करने जा रही है। इस सम्मेलन का उद्देश्य गंगा सफाई में ग्रामीण सहभागिता को बढ़ाना है। इस मौके पर गंगा विचार मंच के नाम से एक पोर्टल भी शुरू किया जाएगा।

केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्रालय के तहत राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन (एनएमसीजी) के बैनर तले होने वाले स्वच्छ गंगा-ग्रामीण सहभागिता के इस विशेष सम्मेलन में गंगा किनारे के राज्यों उत्तराखंड, उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, झारखंड व पश्चिम बंगाल के गांवों के प्रधान हिस्सा लेंगे। इस कार्यक्रम में गंगा की

- 1649 गांवों के प्रधान होंगे इस सम्मेलन में शामिल
- 2500 लोग लगभग बैठक में सम्मिलित होंगे

सफाई के साथ उसके किनारों पर भी पर्यावरण अनुकूल पेड़ पौधे लगाने पर विचार विमर्श होगा। कार्यक्रम में पतंजलि के आचार्य बालकृष्ण गंगा किनारे औषधीय पौधे लगाने की जानकारी देंगे।

सम्मेलन में उत्तराखंड के मुख्यमंत्री हरीश रावत व झारखंड के मुख्यमंत्री रघुवर दास शामिल होंगे। कार्यक्रम में झारखंड और

उत्तराखंड सरकार के साथ एक समझौता पत्र पर भी हस्ताक्षर किए जाएंगे। इनके अलावा केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री उमा भारती, मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी, परिवहन एवं जहाजरानी मंत्री नितिन गडकरी, ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री बीरेंद्र सिंह, पर्यटन मंत्री महेश शर्मा, खेल मंत्री सर्वानंद सोनोवाल, आयुष मंत्री श्रीपद नाईक द्वारा इस बैठक को संबोधित किए जाने की संभावना है। दिनभर चलने वाली इस बैठक में लगभग 2500 लोग सम्मिलित होंगे जिनमें गैर सरकारी संगठनों के प्रतिनिधि और प्रमुख नीति-निर्माता शामिल हैं।

जल संसाधन मंत्रालय के सचिव शशि शेखर ने मिशन में विभिन्न मंत्रालयों की भागीदारी सुनिश्चित की। सभी को लगभग एक महीने पहले ही एक स्थान पर लाया गया।

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ONLY FILTH TO FEED ON

With all sorts of waste being dumped into the Yamuna, the river has become unsuitable for supporting life. With little fresh to eat, these migratory birds have been forced to become scavengers

