

Central Water Commission
Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

West Block II, Wing No-5
R K Puram, New Delhi – 66.

Dated 2.1.2019

Subject: Submission of News Clippings.

The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings will be uploaded on the CWC website.

Encl: As stated above.

P. Mahendran
2.1.2019
SPA (Publicity)

O/c

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

[Signature]
2/1/2019

Director, WSE Dte.

[Signature]
2/1/19

For information to

Chairman CWC, New Delhi

Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned, uploaded at www.cwc.nic.in

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi) ✓
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

and documented at Bhagirath (English) & Publicity Section, CWC

Ganga water quality has improved, govt. tells RS

Cleaner stretches recorded across all riverine States

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The water quality of the Ganga in 2018 has "improved over last year", according to a written statement in the Rajya Sabha on Monday by junior Water Resources Minister Satyapal Singh.

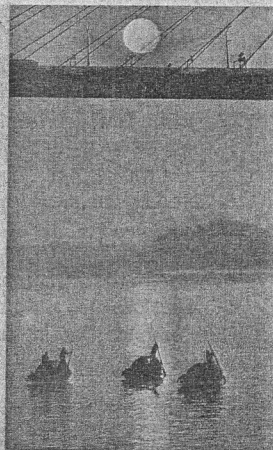
The statement said "dissolved oxygen" levels had improved at 39 locations, and "biological oxygen demand" (BOD) levels and faecal coliform had decreased at 42 and 47 locations respectively. These three parameters are a proxy for both the presence of aquatic life as well as microbes that may be harmful to these biota, and are conventionally used to assess the quality of the river.

These improved stretches of the river included places such as Rishikesh, the Har-Ki-Pauri Ghat at Haridwar; Ranighat in Kanpur; Tarighat in Ghazipur; Narora in Bulandshahr; Kachhla Ghat in Badaun, Aligarh; Buxar, Mokama and Munger – all in Bihar; Uluberia, Dakshinেশ-

Reviving a river

Stretches of the Ganga that have seen improvement:

- Rishikesh
- Har-Ki-Pauri Ghat (Haridwar)
- Ranighat (Kanpur) ■ Munger
- Tarighat (Ghazipur)
- Narora (Bulandshahr)
- Kachhla Ghat (Badaun)
- Aligarh ■ Buxar ■ Mokama
- Uluberia ■ Dakshinেশwar
- Diamond Harbour



war and Diamond Harbour in West Bengal.

Sewage treatment plants

The government said ₹5,100 crore, of the ₹20,000 crore allotted to clean the Ganga, had been spent under the Namami Gange Programme from 2014-15 to 2018-19.

Last year, ₹1,725.86 crore had been spent till December 26, taking the cumulative expenditure to ₹5,187.37 crore.

More than half the funds had been directed towards

making new sewage treatment plants (STP) and effluent treatment plants (ETP), as well as making sub-plant work better. From April 2014 to March 2018, a total of 145 projects were sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹15,074.76 crore.

However, independent experts have said the cleaning efforts were half-hearted and there was little effort to ensure that the river's voluminous flow in the upper stretches of Uttarakhand is maintained downstream.

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune ✓

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

and documented at Bhagirath (English) & Publicity Section, CWC

Test all Punjab hand pumps for arsenic: Study

High contamination confined to flood plains of Ravi covering Tarn Taran, Amritsar and Gurdaspur

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

A blanket testing of hand pumps/tube wells, especially private ones, should be the first step in dealing with public health issues due to arsenic exposure in Punjab, a recent study on the Indus Basin region, covering Indian as well as Pakistani areas, has said.

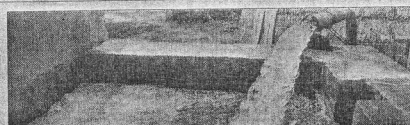
Besides, the Punjab Government needs to concentrate more on northern parts which have "serious" levels of arsenic, along with traces of fluoride and nitrate, in groundwater, said Dr Chander Kumar Singh from the Department of Energy and Environment at the TERI School of Advanced Studies.

The presence of arsenic in groundwater is mostly "natural,

from geogenic sources" and prevalent in Indus as well as the Bengal basin. In fact, it extends to most South Asian countries and several studies have been conducted on problem in the past three decades, including mitigation and reducing exposure. According to Dr Chander, this study, covering 13,000 water sources on the Indian side, is the "first large-scale study of this nature".

Twenty-five researchers, including 15 from India, participated in the research—conducted by Delhi-based TERI in collaboration with Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, and Columbia University of New York—on 30,000 hand pumps/tube wells on both sides of the border.

"The issue needs immediate attention whether by the way of piped water or commu-



INDO-PAK RESEARCH

30,000

hand pumps/wells under study in India, Pakistan

13,000

water sources on the Indian side under study

25 researchers, including 15 from India, conducted the study

HEALTH CONCERNS

■ High arsenic levels in water are leading to slow poisoning, potentially causing skin lesions, damage to nervous system, stomach ailments, diabetes, renal toxicity, cardiovascular diseases and cancer

■ Because of high fluoride content in water, kids are facing dental and skeletal fluorosis, while high nitrate levels are causing gastric cancer, goitre and birth malformations

nity RO systems. The question is whether the mitigation is targeted towards affected areas because we found that

the majority of RO systems are installed in southern parts whereas high arsenic levels were found to be confined to

flood plains of the Ravi river covering Tarn Taran, Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts," Dr Chander, who is the lead researcher of the study, said.

"What the government needs to do is to focus on these areas, test all hand pumps/tube wells and not just those installed by it. Normally, the government only focuses on the facilities and private wells are not tested. But we see a ray of hope in testing each and every well, including private ones. It costs just Rs 20 per test," he said.

The study found that 87 per cent of households that had hand pumps high in arsenic also had access to private hand pump with cleaner water within 100 m. Normally, in a village of 90 to 100 households (on an average), there would be as many tube

wells/hand pumps, but the government would be testing only eight to 10 installed by it.

"Mitigation is only possible if you know the exact level and location of the problem. A similar study in the arsenic-affected region of Bihar found that approximately one-third of the population with high arsenic switched to safe wells in the vicinity as a result of blanket testing," he said.

"Deep wells in Punjab do not look promising in terms of solution as some of these have also been found to have high arsenic levels. We foresee the centralised systems of treated water supply/centralised RO systems as a probable long-term solution, but this should be based on the blanket testing of wells along with proper maintenance."

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 02.01.2019..... in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi) ✓
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

and documented at Bhagirath (English) & Publicity Section, CWC

Cold start to New Year, rain likely this weekend: Met Dept

Moisture-laden winds are likely to bring heavy fog cover; Air Quality Index improves to 'very poor' ^{#2}

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

It was a cold start to 2019 with the minimum temperature settling at 4 degrees Celsius, three notches below normal, on Tuesday.

The Meteorological Department has, however, forecast rain later in the week, which is expected to lead to an increase in the minimum

temperature but a decrease in the maximum temperature. The moisture-laden winds are also likely to bring heavy fog cover.

"Mainly clear sky becoming partly cloudy on Friday with shallow to moderate fog in the morning and haze/smoke thereafter. Generally cloudy sky with very light rain/thundershowers likely

towards evening/night on Saturday," read the forecast from the Met Department.

Moderate rain/thundershowers is expected on January 6 and January 7 as well.

Maximum and minimum temperatures on Wednesday are likely to hover between 24 degrees Celsius and 6 degrees Celsius, respectively.

After staying in the severe

level for the past few days, the Air Quality Index dropped to 'very poor' category on Tuesday.

Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting, which had warned that fireworks and open fires would add to the pollution woes of the city, reported that no additional emissions were added during New

Year's eve celebrations and due to moderate wind speed during the day, pollutants were being dispersed.

According to the CPCB data, the overall AQI in the national capital was 393, which falls in the 'very poor' category. 'Severe' level of pollution was recorded in 16 areas, while 18 areas recorded 'very poor' AQI.