The Times of India-20- December-2022

Untreated Sewage Continues To Suck Life Out Of Yamuna

Just 3 Of 28 Major Drains Following Prescribed Norms: DPCC

Kushagra.Dixit @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has released a report on the state of the Yamuna showing that the overall treatment of all the sewage generated and collected within the city is falling short by over 25%, which is about 198 million gallons per day. It also stated that the minimum flow in the river is below the required flow to sustain ecology.

The report stated that of an estimated 768 MGD sewage generated within the city, only 570 MGD could be treated. 160 MGD is being treated within prescribed standards. The report also pointed out that over 242 MGD sewage flowing via drains was yet to be tapped, while 238 MGD being treated under the Delhi government's interceptor sewer project.

According to the report, only three out of the 28 major drains in the city are following the prescribed norms. "Three out of 28 drains complying with prescribed standards w.r.t. BOD 30 mg/l. They are Metcalf House, Tughlaqabad and Drain No. 14," it stated.

Since 2017, the condition of the river has been worsening exponentially in terms of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), which is the minimum dissolved oxygen (DO) required by a river to decompose organic matter. For a healthy river system, BOD must be 3mg/l or less and DO IN A STATE OF NEGLECT

> The total stretch of the river in Delhi is about 48 km from Palla to Okhla barrage

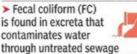
> 22km-long urban stretch from Wazirabad barrage to Okhla barrage is the most polluted

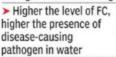


EGLECT				
	Data from November 2022	DO (min 5 mg/l)	BOD (max 3 mg/l)	Fecal coliform (max 2,500; desired 500 MPN/100ml)
	Palla (In)	9.1	2	1,100
	Wazirabad	5.4	8.0	1,700
;	ISBT Bridge	Nil	50	2,10,000
	Azgarpur (Out)	Nil	750	6,80,000

CRITERIA

> BOD is the minimum oxygen required to treat or break biological/organic pollutants in water





> DO is the presence of life in water









red to meet desired water quality levels in the river for bathing purpose, which is BOD less than 3 mg/l and DO more than 5 mg/l. To assess minimum required e-flow of the river for the stretch between Hathini Kund to Okhla, a comprehensive study was assigned by NMCG to National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee on December 24, 2018. As per the final draft report submitted, e-flow of 23 cumecs (437 MGD) in lean season (May) has been recommended," the report as-

serted. Between Hathnikund and Okhla Barrage, the e-flow is approximately 10 cumecs (190 MGD) currently.

Early construction and completion of dams or canals like Renuka Dam project, etc, and the water sharing agreement of 1994 among riparian states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, UP, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi, which is due for revision only in 2025, could be possible reasons behind the low e-flow, according to the report.

4mg/l or more, while the river has nil DO as it traverses through the city. Its BOD has reached over 70 mg/l.

The report further stated that the sewage treatment capacity shall be enhanced to over 925MLD by December next year. It also pointed out the poor state of minimum environmental flow (e-flow) of the river, which is the flow required to sustain and preserve its ecosystem.

"Minimum e-flow for dilution of polluted water in the Yamuna in Delhi is requi**Hindustan Times- 20- December-2022**

COP15 vows to protect 30% land, water by '30

Javashree Nandi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: In what some experts call the "Paris moment" for biodiversity, 196 countries (excluding, significantly, the US) signed a historic deal to protect 30% of the world for nature by 2030, reduce environmentally harmful subsidies by at least \$500 billion a year, and restore at least 30% (by area) of degraded ecosystems, at the UN Biodiversity Summit (COP15) in Montreal.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework aims to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

However, demands from the global South, including India, for a new fund were fulfilled only partially by the agreement, which said one would be created within the Global Environment Facility or GEF, the United Nations' existing biodiversity financing fund, although it said a separate fund could be discussed at future summits. Developed countries said they would provide \$30 billion a year to the least developed countries towards protecting biodiversity by the end of the decade.

While India has reason to be disappointed at the lack of consensus on a new fund, the agreement's nuanced phrasing of the target on subsidies, the fact that it avoided asking that pollution continued on →13

Paris moment for nature

The UN Biodiversity Summit has approved a landmark deal to protect nature and direct billions of dollars towards biodiversity conservation. Highlights of the deal

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework contains threats to 23 action-oriented targets, which have been divided in three broad categories:

Reducing biodiversity Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefitsharing

Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

KEY TARGETS



Conserve area: At least 30% of terrestrial, inland water, and coastal, marine areas, are conserved



Restore ecosystems: At least 30% of areas of degraded ecosystems are under restoration



Reduce harmful subsidies: Identify, and eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity



Officials at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal.

DIVERGENCES REMAIN: Division over how to fund efforts led to intense negotiations, with China, chair for COP15, disregarding objections from the delegation of the DRC

COP15 VOWS TO ...

be reduced to zero, and its mention of an "ecosystem-based approach" are all in sync with the country's stance on protecting biodiversity.

"The Global Biodiversity Framework sets out to respond to several assessments that provide ample evidence that, despite ongoing efforts, biodiversity is deteriorating worldwide at rates unprecedented in human history. This framework outlines an ambitious plan to implement broadbased action to bring about a transformation in our societies' relationship with biodiversity by 2030 and ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled." Union environment minister Bhupender Yaday said on Monday.

"India had negotiated strongly and had discussions with the COP Presidency and the CBD Secretarist prior to placing the final Global Biodiversity Framework for adoption. The suggestions from India for keeping all the goals and targets, globally, was accepted, along with other propositions. The most significant contribution of the Indian interventions was that all the targets are kept as global in nature and countries will be free to adopt them as per their circumstances, priorities and capabilities. India could also successfully negotiate that the Ecosystem based approaches should be given due place in all mitigation processes," he explained.

"The concept of Life style for environment was also given the due place and it was recognised that for achieving the goals of biodiversity conservation enhancing and effective implementation of all the action concept of behavjoural change, sustainable lifestyles is important," he said referring to a target on sustainable consumption. With four main goals and 23 targets for 2030, the landmark agreement covers various aspects of biodiversity loss. It agreed that at least 30% of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity are effectively conserved by 2030. This was one of the most contentious targets discussed by 196 countries and is also known as the 30x30 target.

To be sure, the agreement was not without controversy, with several African nations led by the Democratic Republic of Congo claiming that it was pushed through by the COP15 Presidency. China, despite opposition from it and other African countries. although UN officials maintained there had been no formal opposition to it. "This is a challenge with the UN process which follows a principle of consensus. It delays the process but it makes sure all countries are treated equally irrespective of their size and economies," explained Harfeet Singh, head of global political strategy with Climate Action Network.

The framework also agreed to

ensure urgent management action to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species; reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services; identify and eliminate or reform incentives, including subsidies that are harmful for biodiversity by 2025; reduce the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half; and ensure that people are encouraged to make sustainable consumption choices.

"These are global targets and each party as per their national circumstances and priorities will strive to achieve them. India understands the importance of biodiversity conservation and will take the required steps to implement the GBF," said Vishalsh Uppal, director of governance, law and policy at World Wildlife Fund (WWF) India, who attended COPIS. To support the implementation of the framework, parties have agreed that financial resources from all sources will be increased in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to support national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

The framework has agreed to mobilise at least \$200 billion per year by 2030. This will be done by increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, official development assistance, and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed countries (in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States) to at least \$20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least \$30 billion per year by 2030.

The passage of the agreement comes after almost four years of work on the Global Biodiversity Framework at different meetings of the UN's Convention on Biological Diversity. COP15 started on December 7 in Montreal with over 10,000 delegates including official representatives of 196 countries participating in the negotiations, which Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, executive secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. described to be the "Paris moment for nature", alluding to the landmark 2015 Paris climate pact where all countries unanimously agreed to limit gobal temperature rise within 2 degrees Celsius compared with pre-industrial times and make efforts to keep it within 1.5 degrees. Themain objective of COP15 was to acopt an ambitious and balanced global biodiversity framework to replace the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which expired in 2020and were considered a failure by many experts.

Nature's 'Paris' moment

Biodiversity experts from around the world welcomed the deal. "Unlike the World Cup, there isn't just one winner at COPIS. People and nature should both be better off thanks to the deal...Now it's done, governments, companies and communities need to figure out how they'll help make these commitments a reality. That's the only way to win the ultimate goal: a healthy planet for us all," said Georgina Chandler, Senior International Policy Advisor, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

"Extinction doesn't negotiate the science is clear that we need to protect at least half the Earth by 2030. This text is a step forward from where we are, but nature needs a giant leap. Governments should scale up protections, and deliver a clear plan for the full \$1 trillion a year that is needed to make this agreement real." Oscar Soria, Campaign Director, Avaaz in a statement. 'Tonight, together we take a bold step forward to protect nature, to protect the air we breathe and the water we drink...," said Steven Guilbeault, Canada's environment minister during the closing plenary.

Many issues flagged by India seemed to have been addressed in GBF though India's support for a new global biodiversity fund remained unmet. India was against a numerical target to eliminate harmful subsidies. That has been partially addressed: "Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively

reducing them by at least 500 billion United States dollars per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives," the text stated giving room for developing nations to phase out these subsidies gradually.

"The subsidies provision is not just about eliminating but about repurposing. It is to encourage positive steps say in agriculture. India is already working on soil health and encouraging adoption of organic agriculture," added Uppal.

India was also against a numerical goal of cutting pollution to zero. The text called for reducing pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030 to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions. India was of the view that GBF should focus on an ecosystem-based approach rather than nature-based solutions. The text spoke of both approaches.

Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously benefiting people and nature, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature. But several experts feel the term is vague and can go against the rights of indigenous populations and forest dwellers.

Bhupender Yadav, Union environment minister, on Saturday had called for an ambitious and equitable deal. "The goals and targets set in the global biodiversity framework should be ambitious, yet realistic and practical. Conservation of biodiversity must also be based on common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as climate change processes affect biodiversity," he said during the plenary on Saturday.

The Hindu- 20- December-2022

CM to open 82 NABL-accredited water quality testing labs tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Water Authority (KWA) is set to formally unveil a network of 82 water quality testing laboratories certified by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will formally inaugurate the NABL-accredited labs at the KWA headquarters here on Wednesday.

The labs were developed and obtained NABL accreditation under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), a Centrally assisted scheme for equipping rural homes with tap connections by 2024. Up to 2% of the JJM allocation can be spent on water quality monitoring and surveillance.

Prior to the JJM, the KWA operated a State Referral Institute for Water Quality (SRI) at Nettoor, Ernakulam, 14 district laboratories, and 32 sub-district labs.

The SRI had obtained NABL accreditation in 2017. Thirty-eight more sub-district laboratories were started under the JJM scheme, taking the total number of labs to 85. During the period when the JJM was under way, 82 of the labs gained NABL accreditation.

File No.T-74074/10/2019-WSE DTE

The Hindu- 20- December-2022

Mullaperiyar water level inches close to 142 ft

The water level in the Mullaperiyar dam inched closer to the maximum level of 142 ft on Monday. The water level recorded at 1 p.m. on Monday was 141.60 ft. While the tunnel discharge was 250 cusecs, the average inflow was 250 cusecs. The maximum storage level as per the Supreme Court order is 142 ft. Tamil Nadu issued the second flood warning when the water level crossed the 141-ft mark on December 14 and the first warning when it touched 140 ft on December 3. Meanwhile, the water level in the Idukki reservoir reached 2,380.18 ft on Monday, which was 74% of the total storage level.

The Hindu- 20- December-2022

Poondi continues to get Krishna water; discharge from Red Hills stopped

Andhra Pradesh to take up maintenance work on Kandaleru-Poondi canal, informs T.N. government that water supply in the canal is likely to be stopped between January and April

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

he Water Resources Department closed the floodgates of Red Hills reservoir on Monday afternoon as inflow dipped to minimal. As the inflow into other reservoirs is also dipping, the department has decided to allow Krishna water flow for a few more weeks.

Northeast monsoon is in its last phase over the State. But there is space to store one more feet of water in Poondi. Similarly, the storage has been maintained at two feet lower than full level in Chembarambakkam and Red Hills lakes, anticipating floodwater runoff during monsoon, said the officials.

The five waterbodies that are the main sources of drinking water to the city had a combined storage of 10.07 tmcft, which is nearly 86% of their capaci-



Comfortable level: Storage in Red Hills reservoir was 2.79 tmcft against its capacity of 3.3 tmcft on Monday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

ty as on Monday.

"We have decided to accept Krishna water from Kandaleru reservoir in Andhra Pradesh till January end to match the daily drawal and boost the storage. About 500 cusecs is drawn daily for city water consumption," said an official.

Andhra Pradesh had informed Tamil Nadu that water release during next spell (January-April) would not be possible as it proposed to take up maintenance work on the Kandaleru-Poondi canal.

The Red Hills reservoir now has a storage of 2.79 tmcft against its capacity of 3.3 tmcft. Officials said the shutters were closed after about 10 days as inflow from the catchment areas had dropped to 130 cusecs.

The department plans to close the shutters of the Chembarambakkam reservoir in one or two days. Similarly, floodgates of the waterbody in Poondi would be closed once runoff dips further. "Water released cannot be considered as wastage. It has helped maintain the ecology and recharge water table," the official said.

The flow of Krishna water would help in maintaining optimum storage in the reservoirs and sustain daily water supply for one more year without hassles. The Kandaleru-Poondi canal on the Tamil Nadu-Andhra Pradesh boundary in Uthukottai, Tiruvallur district, received nearly 360 cusecs of Krishna water on Monday.

At present, the water supply in the city is maintained at 1,007 million litres daily (mld). Of this, nearly 979 mld is provided to domestic consumers in the city and merged areas through the pipeline and water tankers.

The Tribune- 20- December-2022

Over 2 cr household toilets constructed

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat informed the Rajya Sabha more than two crore individual household latrines and were constructed between 2019 to December 14, 2022. TNS

Business Standard- 20- December-2022

COP15 adopts plan to save 30% of land, water by 2030

After a delay of two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a new global agree-ment to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 got the final nod on Monday during the last day of the United Nations (UN) Biodiversity Conference (COPIS) in

to protect biodiversity.

The draft calls for raising \$200 billion by 2030 for biodiversity from a range of sources and working to phase out or reform subsidies that could provide another \$500 billion for nature.



Mint- 20- December-2022

COP15 adopts '30 by 30' deal; covers indigenous land rights

The 2030 conservation target aims to save 30% of land, inland water and marine areas

Reuters

feedback@livemint.com

MONTREAL

ndigenous leaders hailed a major breakthrough in a new global biodiversity pact adopted early Monday morning in Montreal, as the headline target of protecting at least 30% of the planet by 2030 includes an explicit recognition of indigenous land rights.

Indigenous representatives at the COPI5 UN summit said that could prove crucial in protecting communities from the effects of extractive industries and conservation efforts that have historically pushed them off their traditional lands.

"Now they are recognising that indigenous people can also make contributions to biodiversity conservation," said Viviana Figueroa, a representative of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

"For us, it's like a change of paradigm," she said.

"They are recognising this important role that was invisible."

Delegates agreed to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework after two weeks of negotiations, including the "30 by 30" conservation target to protect land, inland water and marine

areas, which is seen as crucial to reversing biodiversity loss.

Destruction from human activities like industrial farming and fishing threatens up to one million plant, insect and ani-

mal species with extinction, according to a 2019 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

Indigenous communities play a key role in safeguarding nature, as their lands contain about 80% of earth's remaining plant and animal species, according to the World Bank.

Delegates agreed to the Kunming-

Montreal Global Biodiversity

Framework after two weeks of

negotiations

Disagreements over finance threatened to derail the talks, but last-minute haggling saw a package agreed that includes at least \$30 billion per year by 2030 from rich nations to fund nature protection efforts in developing countries.

Indigenous rights have been included in one-third of the new pact's targets but the third target on "30 by 30" was seen as the most significant, given a history of protected

areas displacing indigenous communities from their lands. "We were afraid that if we did not have any inclusion in target three, we could suffer human rights violations in the name of conservation," said Figueroa, who is from the Omaguaca-Kolla indigenous peoples of northern Argentina.

Hindustan- 20- December-2022

राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन के तहत 224 परियोजनाएं पूरी

राज्यसभा

- क्या सरकार वन नेशन वन गैस ग्रिंड के तहत प्राकृतिक गैस पाइपलाइन नेटवर्क बिछाने की योजना है।
- प्रभाकर रेड्डी, भारत राष्ट्र समिति। पेट्रोलियम व प्राकृतिक गैस विनियामक बोर्ड (पीएनजीआरबी) ने राष्ट्रीय गैस ग्रिंड के तहत देश में कुल 33,603 किलोमीटर प्राकृतिक गैस पाइपलाइन को प्राधिकृत किया है। -रामेश्वर तेली, पेट्रोलियम राज्य मंत्री।
- देश में 100 साल से अधिक पुराने कितने बांध हैं।
 -अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह, कांग्रेस।
 केंद्रीय जल आयोग के राष्ट्रीय रिजस्टर 2019 के अनुसार भारत में 5334 कार्यशील बांध हैं। 411 निर्माणाधीन चरण में हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त 227 बड़े बाध हैं जो कि 100 साल से अधिक पुराने हैं।
 -बिश्वेश्वर टूडू, जल शक्ति राज्य मंत्री।

 राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन (एनएमसीजी) द्वारा कुल परियोजनाएं शुरू की गईं हैं और उनकी क्या स्थिति है।

मी याज्ञनिक, कांग्रेस। राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन (एनएमसीजी) द्वारा कुल ४०६ परियोजनाएं शुरू की गई हैं। इनमें से 224 परियोजनाएं पूरी कर ली गई हैं। -बिश्वेश्वर दूडू, जल शक्ति राज्य

 देश में कम आय वाले प्रवासी कामगारों के लिए नई आवास नीति क्या है।

-एमएम अब्दुल्ला, डीमएके प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना-शहर (पीएमएवाई-यू) 12 .12 .2022 की स्थिति के अनुसार 1 .20 करोड़ आवास स्वीकृत किए गए हैं। इसमें 1 .06 करोड आवास निर्माणधीन हैं। और 65 लाख आवास पूर्ण किए जा चुके हैं।

-कौशल किशोर, आवासन, शहरी कार्य राज्य मंत्री

Rashtriya Sahara- 20- December-2022

जैव विविधता पर ऐतिहासिक समझौता

जल-जमीन बचाने के लिए गरीब देशों को मिलेगा धन

मॉन्ट्रियल (भाषा)। चार साल तक चली जटिल वार्ता के बाद भारत सिहत लगभग 200 देशों ने सोमवार को कनाडा के मॉन्ट्रियल में जैव विविधता के संरक्षण के लिए संयुक्त राष्ट्र सीओपी15 शिखर सम्मेलन में पेरिस शैली के एक ऐतिहासिक समझौते को मंजुरी दे दी।

समझौते को सम्मेलन के अंतिम सत्र में गहन चर्चा के बाद स्वीकृति दी गई। समझौता दुनिया में भूमि व जल के संरक्षण और विकासशील देशों को जैव विविधता को बचाने के लिए धन मुहैया कराने की दिशा में एक

 चार साल तक चली वार्ता के बाद भारत सहित 200 देशों ने समझौते को स्वीकृति दी महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। एकत्रित प्रतिनिधियों की जोरदार तालियों के बीच, सीओपी15 जैव विविधता शिखर सम्मेलन के अध्यक्ष एवं चीनी पर्यावरण मंत्री हुआंग रुनिकंड ने कुर्निमंग-मॉन्ट्रियल समझौते को अपनाने की घोषणा की। यह सम्मेलन सात दिसम्बर को शुरू हुआ था। अध्यक्ष ने कांगो के

अंतिम मिनट के कदम को नज़रअंदाज़ करने के लिए तरकीब से काम किया, जिसने मसौदा पाठ का समर्थन करने से इनकार कर दिया था और समझौते के हिस्से के रूप में विकासशील देशों के लिए अधिक धन की मांग की थी। इस समझौते का उद्देश्य भूमि, महासागरों और प्रजातियों को प्रदूषण, क्षरण तथा जलवायु परिवर्तन से बचाना है।

डब्ल्यूडब्ल्यूएफ की लिविंग प्लैनेट रिपोर्ट (एलपीआर) 2022 के अनुसार, निगरानी वाली वन्यजीव आबादी (स्तनधारियों, पिक्षयों, उभयचरों, सरीसृप और मछिलयों) की संख्या में 1970 के बाद से औसतन 69 प्रतिशत की विनाशकारी गिरावट देखी गई है। वार्ताओं में सबसे विवादास्पद मुद्दों में से एक विश्वस्तर पर और विशेष रूप से विकासशील देशों में संरक्षण प्रयासों का समर्थन करने के लिए वित्त पैकेज था। समझौते में 2030 तक सभी खोतों से वित्तीय संसाधनों के स्तर को उत्तरोत्तर बढ़ाने और प्रतिवर्ष 200 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर जुटाने की प्रतिबद्धता जताई गई है। इसकी बड़ी उपलब्धि 2025 तक अंतरराष्ट्रीय वित्त प्रवाह में 20 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर और 2030 तक 30 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर की प्रतिबद्धता भी है।