

# Pollution level in Yamuna on rise, treatment affected

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The level of ammonia pollution in the Yamuna is on the rise because of which the Wazirabad water treatment plant (WTP) has reduced its processing capacity by 50%, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) officials have said.

“As the level of ammonia is more than 1 ppm, we had to reduce production capacity at the Wazirabad water treatment plant. We are hoping that the situation improves in the next one or two days,” a senior DJB official said on Wednesday.

At present, water treatment plants are forced to shut down when ammonia levels exceed their processing capacity.

For the last three days, the ammonia level is on average between 3ppm to 1.7ppm. DJB is unable to treat raw water having more than 1ppm of ammonia.

Sources said a wall between two drains — DD6 and DD8 — has broken, which is allowing dirty water to mix with the river water. This was increasing the ammonia level at Wazirabad.

The pollution has happened for the last three days, but no official alert has been issued by DJB on the matter, which is not the usual practice

for the agency.

The problem is likely to affect VIP areas of NDMC, Delhi and south Delhi.

DJB is responsible for supplying potable water to Delhi, for which it is dependent on the supply of raw water received through the drains of the Yamuna, which passes through territory in Haryana.

For the past few days, the ammonia level in the river has fluctuated frequently causing problems for DJB. High levels of ammonia mean a large quantity of untreated industrial chemicals and sewage has entered the river and polluted the raw water supply chain.

An increase in ammonia in the Yamuna has been noticed earlier too due to which production of drinking water at various water treatment plants got adversely affected. Since last year, the water utility has been complaining about high levels of ammonia in the Yamuna from the Haryana border.

The reason for the latest bout of water pollution — the wall breach that has leaked impurities into the river — has happened where dirty water is generated in Haryana. Last month, too, the ammonia levels increased causing problems for the common man.