

# Banking on rain: More catchment reservoirs along river to help ensure taps don't run dry

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File photo



**HEALTHY START:** According to a Delhi Jal Board official, the pilot project of storing the excess water in Palla had shown positive results

While one reservoir would come in a 460-acre area on the western bank of the river north of the Wazirabad reservoir, a smaller 20-acre reservoir would be built slightly away from the Yamuna but within its catchment area.

“The bigger reservoir will be able to store 1735 million gallons of floodwater

while the smaller one will have the capacity of approximately 220 million gallons, as it will be much deeper,” said a Delhi government official privy to the project, adding that it will have minimal or no adverse impact on the river ecology.

Officials said the excess floodwater reaching the Delhi part of the Yamuna

## A GOVT OFFICIAL SAYS

**The bigger reservoir will be able to store 1,735 million gallons of floodwater while the smaller one will have the capacity of approximately 220 million gallons**

would be stored and purified in these reservoirs, which will eventually help in augmenting the supply in the capital. While there is a projected demand of 1,236 million gallons per day, the supply is estimated at around 935MGD, with a clear shortfall of 300MGD water. Storage of excess rainwater will solve Delhi's mounting water crisis.

According to a DJB official, the pilot project of storing the excess water in Palla had shown positive results. The Palla project was started in 2019 by digging a shallow pit over 45 acres of land to store excess rainwater. It was observed that in the first year, the groundwater level increased between 1-1.3 metres, while the second year saw it swelling between 0.5 metres to 2 metres during the monsoon flooding cycle, said an official.