

Desilting in focus in clean Yamuna drive

DJB Told To Push Progress In Trunk Sewer Lines

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena on Tuesday directed the Delhi Jal Board to expedite the desilting of the 200km of trunk sewer lines, expressing concern that the choked water passages, due to “years of neglect”, were the biggest hurdle in the cleaning of the Yamuna.

At the third meeting of the NGT-constituted High-Level Committee for Yamuna Cleaning, the LG asked all stakeholders to complete the work of tapping all 480 drains that channel water to the river – directly or indirectly – at the earliest.

The meeting was held at Asita East, a green public space developed on the floodplains of the Yamuna near Vikas Marg by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). The officials said the LG took stock of the progress made so far in cleaning the Yamuna and the way ahead.

The LG’s office said choking of 200 km of trunk sewer lines had emerged as one of the biggest hurdles to cleaning of the Yamuna.



File photo

THE WAY AHEAD

“Gross inaction and neglect on the part of the Delhi Jal Board, which had not undertaken desilting work for the past 8-10 years had resulted in the sewer lines getting choked,” said an official, adding 90% of the lines were choked.

“Apart from the sewage waste, the lines are full of debris and municipal solid waste due to manholes being left open and unattended,” the official said.

While 90 km of sewer lines are likely to be cleaned by June 2023, the desilting work on the remaining 110 km is expected to be completed by September 2023. Officials said the LG described the task as “difficult” due to “legacy neglect”, but achievable.

Officials said the pollution

level on various parameters in the Yamuna had gone down in the last 2-3 months, especially due to the interventions in the Najafgarh drain.

The LG directed officials to achieve the goal of treating 100% sewage generated in the city by expediting the installation of sewage treatment plants and asked various agencies concerned to tap 242 drains that are on record and another 238 drains that were not on record.

Provision of sewage network in unauthorised colonies and JJ clusters, industrial effluent management, cleaning and regulation of the Yamuna floodplains, utilisation of treated wastewater and environment management of the Najafgarh lake were also discussed.

“The works on various fronts are being undertaken in a time-bound manner to make considerable progress by June 30 when the NGT will take stock of the improvements,” said an official.

A senior Raj Niwas official said Saxena exhorted officials to ensure the implementation of the decisions taken on a mission mode.