

# LG Vows Visible Change In Yamuna in 6 Months

## Launches A Cleaning Operation At Qudsia Ghat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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**New Delhi:** Promising a visible change in the quality of the Yamuna in Delhi within next six months, lieutenant governor VK Saxena launched a cleaning operation at Qudsia Ghat on Thursday.

Qudsia Ghat is one of the most polluted stretches of the river in the city. A few major drains meet the river here. An intensive campaign to clean the Yamuna floodplain was launched in the wake of the recent orders of National Green Tribunal.

Saxena also inducted a company of Territorial Army into the Yamuna cleaning operations in Delhi to ensure that the stretch that has been cleaned is not encroached again. The Territorial Army will take over the operations from Friday, February 17.

“We ensure that there will be some visible changes in the river in the next six months. Several drains, particularly Najafgarh drain, are among the major sources of pollution in the river. We have tapped 13 major drains and several additional ones. We are already getting some results,” said the LG.

He added that to remove the garbage floating in the river, a conveyor belt would be installed and an innovative technique used to reduce the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) of the river. BOD is the sign of self-healing power of a river and



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it's the level of oxygen required by a river or a waterbody to decompose the organic matter. The lesser the BOD, the healthier is a waterbody.

The LG stated the river would be cleaned in a phased manner. Under the first phase, the stretch from Qudsia Regulator to ITO will be taken up and later on, the floodplain up to Okhla Barrage will be cleaned.

“The agencies, under the guidance of the LG, will also introduce an innovative technique under which pieces of stones and limestones will be put along the drains falling into the Yamuna at short distances. These stone pieces will absorb the heavy particles, prevent

them from falling into the river and oxidise the water, which in turn, will reduce the BOD level of the water at that particular point,” stated officials from the LG office.

“The agencies will also install a floating boom and conveyor system at the Qudsia regulator floodplain to collect and remove garbage from the river,” officials said.

The LG appealed to all stakeholders, including government agencies and people, to make concerted efforts towards cleaning the Yamuna.

East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir and Fashion Design Council of India president Sunil Sethi were also present at the ghat during the launch.