

Yamuna More Polluted In Dec Than It Was In Jan

2022 SHOCKER: Untreated Domestic Sewage Major Reason

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New Delhi: The condition of the Yamuna worsened through 2022 with the river being more polluted in December than it was in January.

According to data from Delhi Pollution Control Committee's monthly reports, the presence of faecal coliform in the Yamuna also increased last year. Faecal coliform is found in excreta that contaminates water through untreated sewage. This depicts that untreated sewage continues to flow in the river.

The level of dissolved oxygen (DO), which is a marker of presence of life in the river, remained nil and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) also increased. BOD is the minimum oxygen required for a river to decompose organic matter. Compared with the ideal range of 3-5 units, it was 60 units in January and 73 in December.

The worst pollution in the river occurred between Wazirabad and ISBT Bridge. By the time the river reached the city's exit point in Asgarpur, the pollution level had risen exponentially. While

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	DO (min 5 mg/l)	BOD (max 3 mg/l)	Fecal coliform (max 2,500, desired 500 MPN/100ml)	
IN (Palla)				
Jan	8	2	1,200	<p>> The total stretch of the river in Delhi is about 48 km from Palla to Okhla barrage</p> <p>> 22 km-long urban stretch from Wazirabad barrage to Okhla barrage is most polluted</p> <p>> The best water level was in August and September due to monsoon</p>
Aug	10	2	1,100	
Dec	9.4	2.2	1,400	
OUT (Asgarpur)				
Jan	NIL	60	8,40,000	
Aug	NIL	75	6,80,000	
Dec	NIL	73	8,10,000	

File photo



the river showed signs of life at its entry at Palla Station, levels of DO decreased as it crossed the city.

A comparison of the river's water quality in January, August and December showed that by the time the Yamuna exited the city, the faecal coliform levels had

reached 1,360 times higher than the desirable limit and at least 272 times higher than the standards.

The river, while entering the city, had DO hovering between eight and 10, BOD around two units and the faecal coliform level around 1,000 to 1400 units –

all within limits. After the river crossed ISBT Bridge, DO became nil, BOD increased from 2-3 units to around 50 units, and the faecal coliform level increased by over 2,00,000 units. By the time the river reached Asgarpur, the faecal coliform level and BOD doubled while DO became nil.

Recently, National Green Tribunal had expressed its dissatisfaction with the work done so far to control pollution in the river. It also formed a new committee under LG. However, experts assert that it's the flow of the river that holds the key to rejuvenation. They blame untreated domestic sewage as a major reason behind the river's increasing pollution load.

"Flow is the basis of the Yamuna rejuvenation, but since the revival of the flow is not part of this new committee formed, it is difficult to anticipate its success... Every year, it's the same story. The Yamuna rejuvenation is not just about water quality but also about biodiversity, people involved, floodplain restoration and the river's flow upstream and downstream," said environmentalist Manoj Mishra.