

# Lay pipelines to rejuvenate lakes with STPs' treated water, says NGT

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**New Delhi:** Hearing a case related to the pollution in the Yamuna, National Green Tribunal (NGT) observed on Thursday that a network of pipelines should be created to recharge nearby lakes and ponds with treated water from sewage treatment plants (STPs).

"The pipeline system should be developed in a radius of 10 or 20km from STPs to rejuvenate dry lakes and fishery development. It will have an environmental value, help in recharge of groundwater and can be used for fishery production in rural areas for local employment," said the bench.

The tribunal said there should be a hi-tech system so that senior officials could monitor the status of outfall of drains. "Geotagging of all outfalls should be done and it should be reflected on a GIS map. Seniors should be able to monitor if there is a problem at outfall or if drains are fully tapped or not, and if the treated water is entering the river," observed the NGT.

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Chief secretary Naresh Kumar, who appeared in the tribunal through videoconferencing, informed the bench that they were in the process of developing decentralised STPs, which are modular in design and will take very low footprint on the ground at 65 locations. "These small-capacity STPs will be installed where we are not able to take sewage to the main network. National Mission of Clean Ganga has agreed to financially support the project," Kumar said.

Meanwhile, a report submitted by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) states that the water quality of the Yamuna is meeting the criteria when it enters Delhi at Palla from Haryana, but deteriorates when the river exits the city at Asgarpur. "This indicates the contribution of pollution in river Yamuna in Delhi due to discharge of untreated/partially treated domestic and industrial waste water through 24 drains," it pointed out, adding that out of the 35 STPs in the city, 23 non-complied consistently from April to December 2022.

On NGT's directions, CPCB monitored the water quality of the Yamuna at two interstate locations — Palla (between Haryana and Delhi) and Asgarpur (between Delhi and Uttar Pradesh) on January 24 this year. The monitoring was conducted for physio-chemical parameters — dissolved oxygen, pH, biochemical oxygen demand, and bacteriological parameters — faecal coliform and streptococci, and heavy metals.