

Yamuna body tells CPCB to find sources of river pollution

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The National Green Tribunal-appointed Yamuna Monitoring Committee has asked the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to identify pollution sources leading to high levels of ammonia in the Yamuna river and submit a report by January 10.

The directions were issued, after Delhi Jal Board (DJB) alleged that Haryana had not stopped discharging industrial pollutants in the river despite repeated reminders.

In a letter written by the DJB last week, the department had urged the CPCB to take immediate remedial measures to control the pollution being released into the river.

“It has also been reported that the reason primarily is the industrial effluent/untreated domestic sewage entering river Yamuna through drains number 6 and 8 and through the Rohtak regulator,” the panel, comprising former Delhi chief secretary Shailaja Chandra and retired NGT expert member B S Sajwan, said.

It added, “Considering the recurring nature of the problem, it is incumbent upon the CPCB and Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) to put in place a robust surveillance system, particularly during the critical winter months, for monitoring the activities of the industries and the functioning of STPs and also take coercive action against defaulting units.”

The panel asked the CPCB to associate with Haryana pollution board and depute a team to identify point sources of pollution leading to high levels of ammoniacal nitrogen in the Yamuna and submit a report by January 10.

The Delhi Jal Board said that the high levels of ammonia in the Yamuna had forced them to reduce or stop water production at its plants at least five times this year, affecting water supply in several parts of national capital.
