

21st Central Monitoring Committee Reviews State-wise Progress on Polluted River Stretches and Sewage Management

Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, urges to adopt time-bound action and strengthen STP performance and monitoring

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The 21st Meeting of the Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) on river rejuvenation was held today under the chairpersonship of Shri V. L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. The meeting was attended by senior officials including Shri Rajeev Kumar Mital, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga, other officials of NMCG, and representatives of State Governments and State Pollution Control Boards.



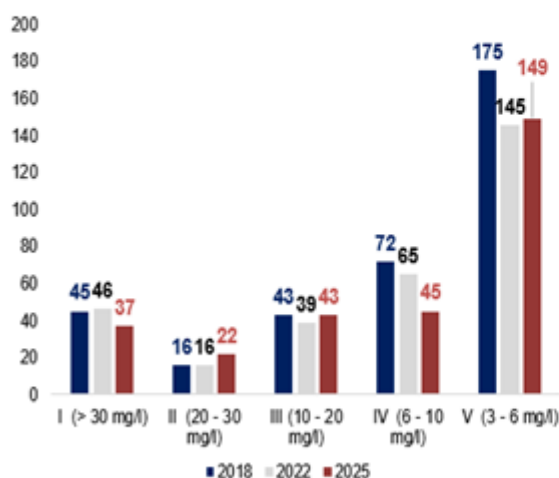
The Committee reviewed the latest status of polluted river stretches based on the CPCB's 2025 report and examined the progress made by States in implementing approved Action Plans. The Chair underlined that sustainable improvement in river water quality depends not only on the creation of infrastructure but on its effective utilisation, regulatory compliance, and timely project execution. Priority areas highlighted included bridging sewage treatment gaps, improving performance of existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), expediting ongoing and tendered STP projects & associated works on developing sewage networks, strengthening industrial pollution control, scaling up reuse of treated wastewater, and accelerating floodplain demarcation. The Secretary also directed the States to enable real-time monitoring to enhance transparency and accountability in pollution control effort.

A comparative review of polluted river stretches identified in 2018, 2022, and 2025 showed a continued reduction in the overall number of polluted stretches since 2018. However, the Committee noted that certain States have reported the addition of new polluted stretches and deterioration in specific river segments, calling for focused corrective action.

Background (3/3)

As per CPCB's report dated October 2025, the number of polluted river stretches have come down

Priority wise number of polluted river stretched identified



Comparative assessment of PRS identified during Year 2018, 2022 & 2025

Year of Study	2018	2022	2025
Year considered for study	2016 & 2017	2019 & 2021	2022 & 2023
Number of River monitoring locations for study	1533 (NWMP network of 3000)	2026 (NWMP network of 4294)	2155 (NWMP network of 4736)
BOD Data Set available	521 rivers - 1488 Locations (793 > 3 mg/l)	603 rivers - 1920 Locations (817 > 3 mg/l)	645 rivers - 2116 locations (804 > 3 mg/l)
Priority Class	Number of Polluted River Stretch		
I (> 30 mg/l)	45	46	37
II (20 - 30 mg/l)	16	16	22
III (10 - 20 mg/l)	43	39	43
IV (6 - 10 mg/l)	72	65	45
V (3 - 6 mg/l)	175	145	149
Number of stretches identified	351	311	296
Number of rivers polluted	323	279	271
Number of State/UTs having PRS	31	30*	32



The Committee reviewed progress on sewage treatment plants, capacity utilization, floodplain zoning, reuse of treated wastewater, and institutional monitoring through River Rejuvenation Committees in respect to Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Delhi, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Odisha, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab.

The meeting concluded with a call for States to adopt a time-bound, outcome-oriented approach to river rejuvenation, with emphasis on operational efficiency, inter-departmental coordination, and sustained compliance to achieve long-term water quality improvement.



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