

"You should be brave to stand up for what you truly believe in even if you stand alone."

Roy T. Bennett

NATIONAL

MORE RIVER STRETCHES ARE NOW CRITICALLY POLLUTED: CPCB

The number of polluted stretches in India's rivers has increased to 351 from 302 two years ago.

The number of critically polluted stretches has gone up to 45 from 34, according to an assessment by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The most significant stretches of pollution highlighted by the CPCB assessment include:

Mithi River— from Powai to Dharavi— with a BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) of 250 mg/l,

Godavari — from Someshwar to Rahed — with a BOD of 5.0-80 mg/l;

Sabarmati — Kheroj to Vautha — with a BOD from 4.0-147 mg/l;

Hindon — Saharanpur to Ghaziabad — with a BOD of 48-120 mg/l.

In its compilation of polluted stretches in Uttar Pradesh, the Ganga with a BOD range of 3.5-8.8 mg/l is indicated as a 'priority 4' river.

The higher the BOD worse is the river. The CPCB considers BOD less than 3 mg/l an indicator of a healthy river.

The CPCB, since the 1990s, has a programme to monitor the quality of rivers primarily by measuring BOD, which is a proxy for organic pollution. The health of a river and the efficacy of water treatment measures by the States and municipal bodies are classified depending on BOD.

With a BOD greater than or equal to 30 mg/l is termed 'priority 1,' while that between 3.1-6 mg/l is 'priority 5.'

Way Forward:

The cultural significance of the Ganga is such that there's been greater focus on it but many more rivers are far more polluted.

However the CPCB says several of the river's stretches in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are actually far less polluted than many rivers in Maharashtra, Assam and Gujarat.

These three States account for 117 of the 351 polluted river stretches.

Based on the recommendations of the National Green Tribunal, the CPCB apprised the States of the extent of pollution in their rivers.

U.P. TO LAUNCH FIRST-EVER DIAL-FIR

The Uttar Pradesh Police is set to launch a first of its kind dial-FIR scheme in the country where a common man can register regular crimes without going to a police station.

Besides this, they are also expanding the counter-terror combat and response grid in the State by training over 100 fresh commandos in special skills including a maiden batch of women personnel.

To combat crime, an online dossier of criminals in the state has also been prepared.

The investigating officers in various districts of the state will be given 22,000 new i-pads soon on which have been loaded a dossier of over 1-lakh small and big criminals.

Once they reach a crime spot they will show photos of the probable suspects of the area and other places, based on initial leads.

Criminal details from the jail department will enrich this database.

This dossier would help in solving a case fast as the suspects can be identified quickly.

UP is the only second state to prepare such a localized online criminal database after Punjab.

UP Police were getting almost 20,000 events every day over UP 100 (police emergency number) on call.

Everything that is reported to U.P. 100 relates to certain categories of crime that includes cases like those of vehicle theft.

For such crimes, one can dial the emergency number and file an FIR, a call-based FIR.

This will be like a regular FIR, under similar sections of IPC, and people need not come to the police station to get a case registered.

ISRO LAUNCHES TWO U.K. SATELLITES

ISRO's PSLV-C42 lifted off for the launch of two satellites from the United Kingdom – NovaSAR and S1-4 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

The PSLV-C42 is the lightest version of the PSLV flying in its core-alone version without the six strap-on motors.

The two satellites, owned by Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) were placed in a circular orbit around the poles, 583 km from Earth.

The commercial arm of ISRO, Antrix Corporation earned more than Rs. 220 crore on this launch.

The NovaSAR is a technology demonstration mission designed to test the capabilities of a new low cost S-band SAR platform.

It will be used for ship detection and maritime monitoring and also flood monitoring, besides agricultural and forestry applications.

The S1-4 will be used for environment monitoring, urban management, and tackling disasters.

The Cartosat and Risat satellites will also be launched within the next six months.

MAN PORTABLE ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILE (MPATGM)

The MPATGM is a third-generation anti-tank guided missile (ATGM), which has been under development by DRDO in partnership with Indian defense contractor VEM Technologies Ltd. since 2015.

Fitted with a high-explosive anti-tank (HEAT) warhead, the MPATGM reportedly boasts a top attack capability and has a maximum engagement range of about 2.5 kilometers.

An indigenously developed Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) was successfully flight tested for the second time from Ahmednagar test range.

It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

This low-weight MPATGM will complement the Spike Anti-Tank Guided Missile to be procured from Israel.

EYEROV TUNA: INDIA'S FIRST UNDERWATER ROBOTIC DRONE

India's first underwater robotic drone was launched and handed over to the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of DRDO.

The Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV)/underwater drone, named EyeROV TUNA, was developed by EyeROV Technologies, a company incubating at Kalamassery-based Maker Village, Kochi.

NPOL, a laboratory of Delhi-headquartered Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), made the first order of the product.

The drone will be used by NPOL for research and development activities which in turn would result in a commercial product for defense purposes.

Features of EyeROV TUNA

It can be navigated up to a depth of 50 metres to take real-time HD video images to examine ship hulls or undersea cables or bridge moorings, eliminating the need for costlier and riskier manual inspection by divers.

It weighs less than 10 kilogram and can be used for inspection of ship hulls, ports, dams and nuclear power plants

EyeROV is a light rover which can be easily accessed and controlled with the supporting attached and connected hardware such as laptops and joysticks.

It can be used for inspection of ship hulls, ports, dams and nuclear power plants.
