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AMC's shutdown stretches beyond 24 hours

AURANGABAD: The 24-hour mega shut down of Aurangabad's water supply system, which was supposed to come to an end at 9 am on Tuesday, has been extended for about 7-8 hours, with the authorities failing to complete the repair work within the stipulated time.

Repair work was initiated on the two pipelines, of 1,400-mm and 700-mm diameter, that draw water from the Jayakwadi water reservoir, located 47km from the city. The system lifts about 130-135 MLD water.

An official of the Aurangabad Municipal Corporation's (AMC) water supply department said that engineers were still working on four different locations between Jayakwadi dam and the city. "Repair work of the 1,400-mm diameter pipeline was almost over by 5 pm and engineers are testing it before switching on the system. However, it will take some more time to put it into service," the official said on Tuesday, but refused comment on how much time the civic body would need to restore the supply. He said that the work on the 700-mm diameter pipeline was complete and that it has started

supplying water.

"Since water is drawn from the reservoir located nearly 47km from the city, it will take hours to restore the supply system," the official said.

AMC sources said that it would be impossible for the engineers to complete the work by Tuesday night. "At the most, they would succeed in supplying 50-55 MLD water till late in the evening. This will certainly create shortfall of water," the official said.

Citizens across Aurangabad started feeling the brunt of the shutdown, especially with it extended, on Tuesday.

Opposition leader in the AMC Raosaheb Gaikwad said that residents in Kanchanwadi, Nakshatrawadi and Vitkheda have been facing a severe shortage of water over the past four-five days, with taps running dry. "The residents could not get water during their last routine turn and now the system is completely dry. People are going without water for the past few days; they cannot stretch this any more. The administration should make provisions immediately," said Gaikwad.

"Citizens are co-operating with the AMC authorities, because they want to see a significant improvement in the water supply system in the coming days," said corporator Mir Hidayat Ali.

With no sign of immediate relief, people are clueless about

how to mitigate the water shortage and manage enough water to meet their daily requirements, Ali said.