

Mint- 23- June-2023

Monsoon so far: skewed spread, reduced planting

BY SAYANTAN BERA

Monsoon's journey has been uneven so far. While nearly half of India's geographical area is coping with a rainfall deficit of 60% or more, some states in the west and north-east are under a deluge. *Mint* explores the possible impact on rain-fed Kharif crops.

Falling short

Region-wise rainfall between 1-22 June (compared with normal, or 50-year average).

mint

■ Actual (mm) ■ Normal (mm) 📉📈 Deficit/Surplus (in %)



Source: India Meteorological Department

1 How has the monsoon progressed so far?

The annual south-west monsoon is spread across four months—June to September—coinciding with the Kharif crop season, planting for which began earlier this month. India usually receives three-fourths of its annual rains during the monsoon season. This year, the monsoon's arrival was delayed by a week. From 1-22 June, it has recorded a country-wide deficit of 31%, compared to the 50-year-average. The geographical distribution is skewed: about 47% of India's geographical area has seen a deficit of 60% or more, while a fifth of its area has been lashed by excess rains—20% or more, compared to the normal.

2 What about planting of Kharif crops?

During the Kharif season farmers plant a variety of crops which include cereals, pulses, oilseeds and cotton. Till 16 June, the area planted with rice, the main cereal crop, was 15% less than last year, shows data from the agriculture ministry. Planting of pulses lagged 57%, while the area under oilseeds was 14% lower than last year. Overall, the area under all crops was 49% lower on-year. To be sure, coverage will improve as monsoon traverses through the country in a northerly direction. Farmers seldom leave their fields unsown, so mid-season prolonged dry spells are more of a risk to crop health and production.



3 Will crop production be impacted?

For crops like paddy, the planting window is open till end-July. Besides, most paddy farmers have access to irrigation, and are better placed financially to save their crops, using pumps to draw groundwater. However, small and marginal farmers growing pulses in rain-fed farms are at risk. So, non-cereal food crops are likely to be hit if rains continue to be deficient.

4 Is El Nino a major factor?

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology said in early June that there is a 70% chance of El Nino developing. The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced the emergence of El Nino conditions on 8 June, and said it will strengthen. El Nino often negatively impacts the monsoon season in India—with 9 out of 15 El Nino years recording deficit rains. India's Met department said that El Nino conditions are likely to develop by July, which spells lower rains in July-August.

5 What about food inflation?

Consumer food inflation fell to 2.9% in May largely due to a sharp decline in edible oil and vegetable prices. But cereal inflation continues to be at a high of 13%. Retail prices of some pulses have soared beyond comfort—tur dal (pigeon pea) is 26% costlier than last year. Deficit rains will keep prices of these commodities high. A fall in production of home-grown oilseeds such as soybean, ground nut and sunflower is more likely to hit farmers than consumers—due to supplies of cheap imported cooking oils.

DDA Targets Year-End Finish For 7 Projects On Yamuna Floodplain

Revamp Includes Wide-Scale Plantation, Setting Up Of Selfie Points, Greenways

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New Delhi: Delhi Development Authority aims to finish seven of the 10 projects related to restoration and rejuvenation of the Yamuna floodplain by the end of this year. They said, however, that development agencies had taken over portions of the sites already developed, causing delays in the execution of the projects within the deadline.

The project at Asita East involving 90 hectares between the Old Railway Bridge and ITO barrage) was fully complete, while on the remaining 107 hectares falling in Uttar Pradesh, 73% of the civil work and 55% of horticulture work had been finished.

"We have planted grass helpful for floodplain ecology and 5,500 trees native to riverine ecology there," said a DDA official. "As a result, 67 resident and migratory bird species have been spotted at the restored waterbody, floodplain forests and grassland. We have created selfie points and greenways."

On the western bank of the Yamuna in the same stretch, 82% of the civil work and 28% of horticulture work had been accomplished. "Here we restored 7.4 hectares of existing depressions with the capacity to augment 1.8 lakh cubic metres of water. We have also planted grasses and 5,700 trees native to floodplains there," informed the official.

However, at Kalindi Aviral (Nizamuddin Bridge to DND Flyway), DDA had to repeat some of the work despite having finished 99% of the project. "A portion of the 100-hec-

SAVING THE RIVER

Status of projects under the Yamuna floodplain restoration scheme

1 ASITA Old Railway Bridge to ITO Barrage | Located on eastern bank
Area | 197 hectares
Cost | ₹13.3 crore
Status | 90% of the work completed

2 KALINDI AVIRAL Nizamuddin Bridge to DND Flyway | Western bank
Area | 100 hectares
Cost | ₹13 crore
Status | 100% work completed, but rework in progress after RRTS project

3 KALINDI BIODIVERSITY PARK DND to Kalindi bypass | Western bank
Area | 115 hectares
Cost | ₹7.6 crore
Status | 27% completed

4 YAMUNA VATIKA Old Railway Bridge to ITO Barrage | Western bank
Area | 200 hectares
Cost | ₹14.3 crore
Status | 70-80% completed

5 AMRUT BIODIVERSITY PARK New Railway Line to Nizamuddin Bridge | Eastern and western banks
Area | 108 hectares
Cost | ₹31 crore
Status | 76% completed

6 GHAT AREA Wazirabad to Old Railway Bridge | Western bank
Area | 66 hectares
Cost | ₹13.7 crore
Status | 67% completed

7 YAMUNA VANASTHALI Wazirabad to Old Railway Bridge | Eastern bank
Area | 236.5 hectares
Cost | ₹11.1 crore
Status | 87% completed

8 MAYUR NATURE PARK Nizamuddin Bridge to DND Flyway | Eastern bank
Area | 397.8 hectares
Cost | ₹82.2 crore
Status | Not started yet

9 ECO-TOURISM AREA Geeta Colony Bridge to ITO Barrage | Western bank
Area | 30 hectares
Cost | ₹86.7 crore
Status | Not started yet

10 HINDON SAROVAR Nizamuddin Bridge to DND Flyway | Eastern bank
Area | 45 hectares
Cost | ₹1.5 crore
Status | Not started yet



Restored waterbody at Yamuna Vatika

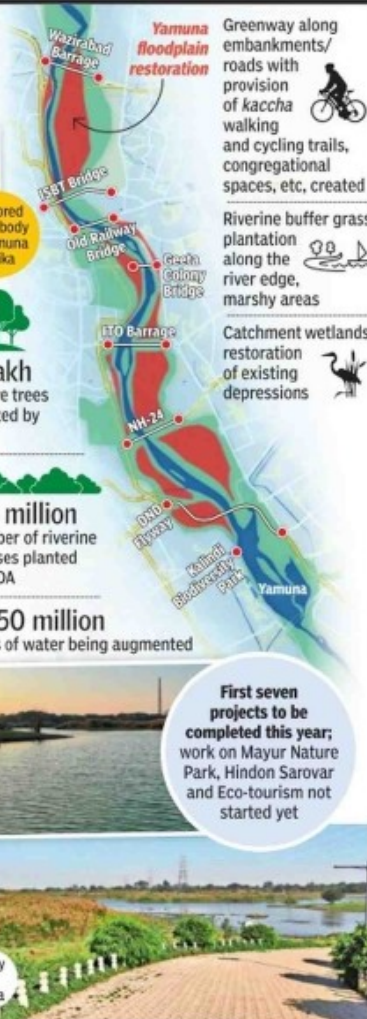
6 lakh native trees planted by DDA

9.5 million number of riverine grasses planted by DDA

1,350 million litres of water being augmented

First seven projects to be completed this year; work on Mayur Nature Park, Hindon Sarovar and Eco-tourism not started yet

Entry to Asita



sponse from the National Capital Region Transport Corporation in this regard.

While only 27% of the civil and horticulture work had been finished at Kalindi Biodiversity Park, around 75% of the project was completed at Amrut Biodiversity Park. "The site near Nizamuddin Bridge covering both the banks of the Yamuna has seen 76% of the civil work and 16% of the horticulture work," the official informed. The horticulture work here has been entrusted to the National Biological Research Institute.

Between Wazirabad and Old Railway Bridge, the 16-hectare Vasudev Ghat site has seen 67% of the civil work being completed. "The pilot project here is unique among all ghats in the overall floodplain restoration and rejuvenation scheme because it proposes landscaping in the Charbagh style with Baradaris and Chhatris derived from the historic adjacent garden of Qudsia Bagh," the official revealed. "We proposed to use wastewater from the existing drains with their outfall in the river which will be filtered using coir logs and reed plantation before release into the river."

RK Tiwari, principal commissioner (horticulture), DDA, commented, "The Yamuna floodplain is being developed on ecological principles and this takes time. The emphasis is on developing riverine grasslands and we have planted 12-15 varieties of grasses. Tree plantation is also being done in a multi-tier manner. We prefer wild fruit tree varieties endemic to the floodplain to support avian wildlife."

tare site was taken up for the regional rapid transport project. We are waiting for the agency concerned to vacate

the place so that we can resume the restoration. We are facing a similar challenge at Yamuna Vanasthali, where a

portion has been occupied by the National Highway Authority of India," said the official. TOI did not receive a re-

Mumbai stares at severe scarcity as only 7% water left in 7 dams

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE dams that supply drinking water to Mumbai are drying up fast with only seven per cent storage left. According to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the delay in monsoon arrival in Maharashtra has resulted in major water problems for Mumbai residents. If the monsoon does not arrive by this weekend, then Mumbai will have to brace for 10 to 15 per cent water cut.

In the last three years, this year recorded the lowest water storage level in the month of June. This year, there is only 7 % drinking water left against 19% in 2022 in the same period while 14% in 2021. Also in 2022, the BMC had imposed 10% water cut on June 27, but later in July, with satisfactory rainfall the decision was withdrawn immediately.

As per BMC's hydraulic department data, only 1,06,981 million litre water, that is 7.39%, is left in the seven dams that supply drinking water to

WAITING FOR RAINFALL

With the delay in monsoon and only 1,06,981 million litre water left in the seven dams that provide Mumbai drinking water, the city will have to brace for 10 to 15 % water cut in the coming days



Mumbai and will be able to meet the demand for next 27 days. The Modak Sagar has got only 25 per cent drinking water left, Tansa dam 17%, middle Vaitarana 10%, Bhatsa dam 2%, Vihar dam 19% and Tulsi dam 26%.

"If there is rainfall by June end and in July also we get good rainfall, then by August all

these dams would start overflowing and meet the drinking water demand of the city. This year, the situation seems to be grim since the beginning. The delay in monsoon has been worsening the situation. The depleting water and rise in dry coverage area resulted in major evaporation of the remaining water," said a BMC official.

Reservoir levels slightly down, yet comfortable

Storage at 92% of last year's level, but 112% of 10-year average

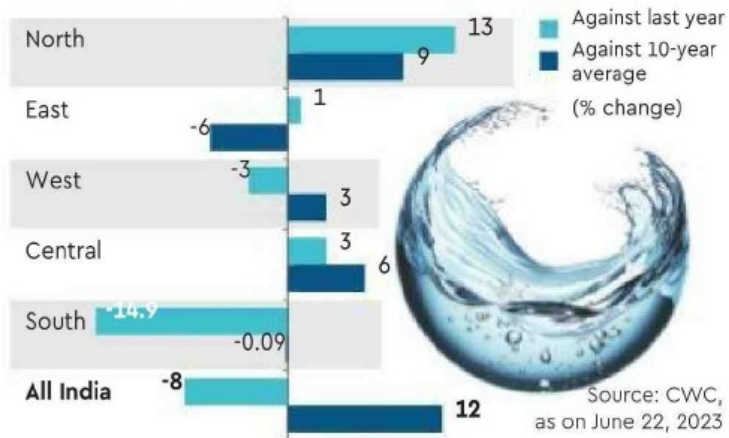
SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, June 22

WATER TABLES IN India's reservoirs have dropped to a level 8% below last year's record-high from 6% last week, amid lingering concerns over heat waves in many parts of the country and sluggish progress of monsoon so far. However, these are still comfortable levels, as the storage is 12% above the average in the last 10 years.

However, no large impact of this on the Kharif crops is anticipated at present, as the stored water is still much above the 10-year average, and is seen to be sufficient to irrigate the rain-fed swathes of the agriculturally important regions. According to the Central Water Commission, water level of the country's 143 reservoirs stood at 46.23 billion cubic metres (bcm) on Thursday, which is 26% of their combined capacity.

However, if the monsoon turns out to be below average, as predicted by private forecaster Skymet, the eastern region could face water scarcity and crop damage.

CURRENT WATER LEVELS AT RESERVOIRS



A year ago, the water available in these reservoirs was 50.03 bcm, and the average of the last 10 years was 41.23 bcm. "Current water level of reservoirs was 92% of the live storage of the corresponding period of last year and 112% of storage of the average of the last 10 years," the CWC stated.

Of the reservoirs whose water levels are monitored by the CWC, 112 are located in the west, central and southern regions. In the Southern regions, water levels have dropped below last year as well as last 10 year-average level.

However water levels in major dams in eastern regions especially in West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha, have been just above last year's level however less than last 10 year-

average level. In these states, a large segment of the crop area is still rainfed. West Bengal, the biggest rice producing state in the country, has irrigation coverage of only 51%, which may be impacted if monsoon rains become deficient. Areas under pulses and oilseeds in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka also depend on monsoon in a big way.

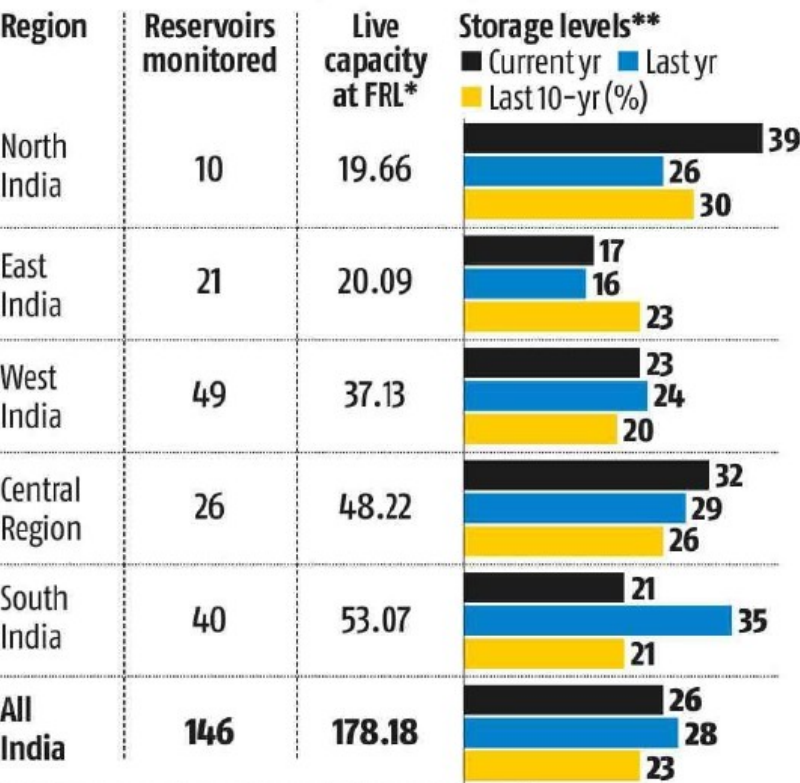
After most delayed arrivals in the last four years over Kerala coast on June 8, IMD on Thursday said conditions are now becoming favourable for the further advancement of monsoon over south peninsular India, some parts of Odisha, parts of Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, and east Uttar Pradesh in the next two days.

MONSOON DEFICIT CAUSING CONCERN

The slow progress of monsoon has begun to worry all. However, the IMD expects the monsoon to revive in the next few days, which would help it cover the entire nation by mid-July. On Thursday, the Solvent Extractors Association in a letter to its members said the slow monsoon was delaying sowing of oilseeds this kharif season. Till last week, 0.41 million hectares were sown, as against 0.48 million hectares in the year-ago period, it said.

COMPILED BY SANJEEB MUKHERJEE

Water levels monitored by govt in 146 reservoirs (as on June 22)



*FRL is full reservoir levels at BCM (billion cubic metres)

**Storage is % of live capacity at FRL

Source: Central Water Commission

जल भंडारण क्षमता 15% घटी, केंद्र ने राज्यों को किया आगाह

मनीष तिवारी • नई दिल्ली

राष्ट्रीय जल आयोग ने गाद प्रबंधन में ढिलाई के कारण नदियों व जलाशयों की भंडारण क्षमता में आ रही गिरावट पर गंभीर चिंता जताते हुए राज्यों को आगाह किया है कि वे इसमें सुधार करें। देश के प्रमुख जल स्रोतों की भंडारण क्षमता में अब तक करीब 15 प्रतिशत तक नुकसान पहले ही हो चुका है। यदि इस ओर एकीकृत तरीके से ध्यान नहीं दिया गया तो स्थिति गंभीर होती जाएगी।

पिछले दिनों राज्यों के साथ इस मसले पर बैठक में केंद्र ने एक प्रेजेंटेशन के जरिये स्थिति की गंभीरता सामने रखी। साथ ही केंद्र ने राज्यों को सुझाव दिया कि वे इस मामले की निगरानी के लिए अपने यहां प्रधान सचिव (सिंचाई) की अध्यक्षता में सलाहकार तकनीकी समिति का गठन करें, जो निश्चित अंतराल में गाद प्रबंधन की स्थिति की समीक्षा करे। जलशक्ति मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों के अनुसार, नदियों व जलाशयों में गाद निकालने में ढिलाई के कारण पानी की लाइव स्टोरेज क्षमता में हर साल आधा

- गाद प्रबंधन में ढिलाई से कम हो रही नदियों और जलाशयों की क्षमता
- राज्यों को तकनीकी सलाहकार समिति बनाने के लिए कहा गया

प्रतिशत की कमी आ रही है। वर्तमान में यह क्षमता 258 अरब क्यूबिक मीटर (बीसीएम) है, लेकिन गाद प्रबंधन में कोताही, जल स्रोतों के आसपास अतिक्रमण, बढ़ते शहरीकरण जैसी समस्याओं के कारण करीब 34 अरब क्यूबिक मीटर क्षमता कम हो चुकी है। यदि इसे रोका नहीं गया तो अगले 20 साल में यह मात्रा 50 बीसीएम पहुंच सकती है। यह कितनी बड़ी मात्रा है, इसका अंदाजा इससे लगाया जा सकता है कि पिछले 10 वर्षों में अप्रैल-मई में जल भंडारण औसतन 55 बीसीएम के आसपास रहा है।

अधिकारियों ने प्रेजेंटेशन में अतिक्रमण व शहरीकरण के साथ अनियंत्रित खनन, नदी प्रबंधन के अनियोजित कार्यों, निर्माण गतिविधियों और पानी के अत्यधिक दोहन को भी समस्या की गंभीरता के लिए जिम्मेदार बताया है।

Haribhoomi- 23- June-2023

महानदी विवाद पर पड़ी सियासत की 'काली छाया', जल बंटवारा 'ठंडे बस्ते' में!

शिशिार सोनी नई दिल्ली

छत्तीसगढ़ और ओडिशा के बीच महानदी जल बंटवारे का मामला अब ठंडे बस्ते में जाता दिख रहा है। ट्रिब्यूनल को एक साथ तीन साल का सेवा विस्तार दे दिया गया है। किसी भी ट्रिब्यूनल के रिपोर्ट में देरी किसी कारण होती है तो उसे तय परिपाटी के अनुसार एक-एक साल का सेवा विस्तार दिया जाता है, मगर इस बेहद संवेदनशील मामले को देख रहे ट्रिब्यूनल को एक साथ तीन साल का सेवा विस्तार दे दिया गया है। जब कि ग्राउंड जीरो पर ट्रिब्यूनल के दौरे के बाद अंतिम दौर की सुनवाई के लिए दोनों राज्यों के प्रतिनिधियों को 11 जुलाई को तलाब किया गया था। माना जा रहा था कि सुनवाई के बाद ट्रिब्यूनल अपनी रिपोर्ट केंद्र सरकार को सौंपेगी उस पर अंतिम फैसला रिपोर्ट के आधार पर दोनों पक्षों को सहमित से ले लिया जाएगा। अब ऐसा होता नहीं दिख रहा। ट्रिब्यूनल का कार्यकाल 2018 से 2021 तक था बाद में उसे 11 मार्च 2023 तक बढ़ाया गया अब केंद्र सरकार के नये गजट नोटिफिकेशन में ट्रिब्यूनल की कार्यवाधि को 11 अप्रैल 2026 तक के

जल्द फाइनल रिपोर्ट की आस टूटी, ट्रिब्यूनल को मिला 3 साल का सेवा विस्तार

3 सदस्यीय विशेष केंद्रीय ट्रिब्यूनल

जस्टिस एसम खन्विलकर की अध्यक्षता में तीन सदस्यीय ट्रिब्यूनल जिसमें जस्टिस रवि रंजण और जस्टिस इंद्रमौला कौर कोचर भी बतौर सदस्य शामिल हैं संबंधित पक्षों की लंबी सुनवाई के बाद तय किया था कि ट्रिब्यूनल महानदी की ऊपरी हिस्से जो छत्तीसगढ़ की तरफ है और महानदी के निचले हिस्से जो ओडिशा की तरफ है, दोनों तरफ दौरा करेगा। छत्तीसगढ़ की तरफ पहले दौरे की तारीख ट्रिब्यूनल ने 18 से 22 अप्रैल मुकरर की थी जब कि 29 अप्रैल से 3 मई ट्रिब्यूनल ओडिशा की तरफ ग्राउंड जीरो पर जाकर स्थिति का मुआयना किया गया। महानदी के पानी को लेके जावे की शिकायत ओडिशा सरकार की तरफ से छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार के खिलाफ बखिल की गई है।

ये है विवाद

ओडिशा सरकार कहता है कि छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार ने कई बैराज और बांध बनाकर महानदी के पानी को रोक दिया जिससे ओडिशा की तरफ निचले हिस्से के समुदायों किसानों को पानी की किराया उठनी पड़ रही है, खसकर बरसात का मौसम खल होने के बाद। जब कि छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार की ओर से बतौर ये थी कि पानी का उपभोग उस इलाके के लोगों को लिये ही कम पड़ रहा है।

तारीख पर तारीख

ट्रिब्यूनल का सेवा विस्तार दिया गया है ताकि ओडिशा के साथ छत्तीसगढ़ के महानदी विवाद को खत्म किया जा सके। बिना हो कि वर्ष 2016 में छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार से महानदी की धारा को कथित रूप से बैराज, बांध बनाकर रोकने और ओडिशा की तरफ पानी नहीं दिये जाने को लेकर विवाद महाराष्ट्र या जिसधरी शिकायत 29 नवंबर 2016 को ओडिशा सरकार से जलशक्ति मंत्रालय को की थी। विवाद निपटारे के लिए केंद्र ने ट्रिब्यूनल का गठन किया था। मगर, तब कोरेला के कारण ममला रुक गया था। रिपोर्ट बढी दो जा सकी थी। वत 3 जून 2021 को दो साल के लिए ट्रिब्यूनल को सेवा विस्तार दिया गया था। ट्रिब्यूनल का

लिए बढ़ा दिया गया है। नोटिफिकेशन में इस बात का उल्लेख किया गया है कि जस्टिस खन्विलकर की अध्यक्षता वाली ट्रिब्यूनल ने इस बात का मंत्रालय से अनुरोध किया था कि 2020-2021 में कारोना महामारी के कारण कुल 16 महीने के कार्यकाल को गैर-कार्यात्मक माना जाए। मंत्रालय ने ट्रिब्यूनल के अनुरोध को मानते हुए एक साथ तीन साल का सेवा विस्तार अनुशंसित कर दिया। अब सवाल ये उठता है कि क्या जिन 16 महीने की अवधि को ट्रिब्यूनल ने गैर कार्यात्मक मानने का अनुरोध किया उसके बदले 36 महीने का सेवा विस्तार का क्या मतलब? क्या जिस 16 महीने को गैर कार्यात्मक मानने का आग्रह किया गया उस दरम्यान ट्रिब्यूनल को किसी तरह का वेतन, टीए, डीए का भुगतान नहीं किया गया? मंत्रालय के उच्चपदस्थ सूत्रों ने बताया कि नवंबर में छत्तीसगढ़ समेत पांच राज्यों के होने वाले पांच राज्यों के विधानसभा चुनाव और फिर लोकसभा चुनाव से पहले केंद्र सरकार महानदी जल विवाद के 'होम' में अपना हाथ नहीं जलाना चाहती। ये ऐसा विवाद है जिसका सियासी घाटा 'पंच' को होना है। यही वजह है कि इसे अब लंबा टाला गया है।

हरिभूमि विशेष