

**Hindustan Times - 06- August-2022**

## NGT FINES NOIDA AUTHORITY ₹100CR, JAL BOARD ₹50CR FOR DIRTY WATER

**NOIDA:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Wednesday fined the Noida authority ₹100 crore and the Delhi Jal Board ₹50 crore for discharging untreated water into drains that eventually meet the Yamuna and Ganga rivers. The tribunal has also asked the chief secretaries of both states to also identify erring officials, take remedial action and recover compensation from them if required. The Noida authority has also been asked to sign a pact with NTPC to utilise sewage discharged into the drains that meet the two rivers. →P5

# NGT fines Noida, DJB for polluting Yamuna, Ganga

Snehil Sinha

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“Pending consideration of action against other authorities and final accountability of Noida Authority and DJB, they are directed to deposit respectively a sum of ₹100 crore and ₹50 crore in a separate account with Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) towards interim compensation to be utilised for restoration measures in terms of a remedial plan to be prepared jointly by a joint committee of chairman CPCB, chairman DPCC and chairman UPPCB,” said the order by a bench of justices Adarsh Kumar Goel, Sudhir Agarwal and A Senthil Vel.

The order came on a 2018 plea by one Abhisht Kusum Gupta, a resident of Noida’s Sector 137, who said Noida, Ghaziabad and Delhi were discharging untreated water into the Kondli and Shahdara drains, which merge with, and pollute, the Yamuna and Ganga.

During multiple hearings in the past, the green tribunal has directed municipal authorities in the two states to act and stop the discharge of untreated water.

However, the water samples taken and reports submitted by pollution control boards have repeatedly shown that the water in these drains is of poor quality.

NGT on Wednesday also



A view of the polluted Yamuna river.

RAJ K RAJ/HT ARCHIVE

directed that the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) issue directions within two months to all state pollution control bodies that canals, water bodies and natural stormwater drains are not used to discharge treated or untreated trade or sewage effluents.

Stormwater drains, canals and water bodies need to also be geo-tagged and given UID (unique identification), the court said.

Delhi government spokespersons did not comment on the development.

A DJB official said that the order is based on a CPCB report and they will challenge it in the Supreme Court.

Noida authority CEO, Ritu Maheshwari said, “Over the past two years we have filed multiple FIRs, taken action against several societies and made sewage treatment plants functional in 77 societies. Of the rest, some [societies] are either not occupied yet, or are under court guidelines or are older societies that don’t have space the laws did not mandate having STPs within when they were constructed. We have connected these to the central STPs. We have also created one wetland and four others are nearing completion. We also

tried to provide land for Khoda treatment plant, though it is not in our jurisdiction, but we could not get anything. All this has already been submitted in court. We’ll examine the order and comply and will also see what we can do legally.”

Additionally, the tribunal said, 30 identified drains in Noida are to be diverted to existing sewage treatment plants and not the Noida drain, where they currently end.

Discussing the flow of untreated water in detail in Noida, the green court observed that of the 95 group housing societies, 56 are still non-compliant in setting up sewage treatment plants (STPs), while other compliances have also not been met.

“Noida authority has allowed third party rights to be created and allowed a situation in which water pollution load can be controlled by preventing occupation. It is surprising that it could not create an environment cell and hire any professional in seven months. For this lapse, it is necessary to fix accountability of Noida authority. No coercive steps have been taken. Further, six STPs have been wrongly classified as compliant,” the NGT order said.



{ AS A RIVER CHANGES COURSE }

# On Kosi's banks, lives upended every monsoon with little support, succour

Subhash Pathak

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**SUPAUL/SAHARSA:** He's wearing a torn red T-shirt, a gamcha on his head, and a lungi wrapped around his waist. As the sun beats down, 40-year-old Birender Yadav sits on his haunches and stares out into the Kosi. Suddenly, he lets out an expulsive-filled cry of anguish that shatters the silence. The only response is the steady, threatening gurgle of the swollen river. In front of Yadav, in his line of sight, are four stone pillars that jut out from the ground, lonely and useless; pillars that were once the foundation for his painstakingly built home. A home that no longer exists.

On July 12, as he worked at a bangle factory in Ghaziabad, over 1,200 kilometres away, Yadav received a phone call that he was afraid would come. "My relative told me to rush home because the Kosi is turning again, and coming closer to our village. My wife, two children, and aged parents are at home, and I was worried," Yadav said.

In the days after he rushed home, there was a hurried evacuation. As the Kosi changed course, the residents of Bela village in Supaul picked up everything they could and moved to safer ground. Some, like Yadav, moved to higher land in the adjacent Dighiya village. Others took shelter at the local primary school and prayed for a miracle that never came; they watched as 150 homes of the village collapsed into the swirling water.

Among them was Yadav's home—one that he had poured all his 47 lakh saving into, using cement, boulders, and bamboo thatch. "Now everything has been swallowed by the river. Till last year, only a small stream flowed 2km east of the village. Last month, it turned into a roaring river and swept away the entire village," Yadav said.

For several decades, the Kosi has earned itself the moniker of the "river of sorrow", changing course and causing devastation every monsoon. In Bihar, what this means is villagers along a 125km stretch from Birpur to Kopadiya, cutting through the districts of Saharsa, Supaul, Madhubani and Khagaria, are always at the ready to upend their lives and homes, schools and public infrastructure at the risk of being washed away.

Mohammad Jabbar, for instance, now lives in a shanty in an embankment near Supaul. "Nemua used to be our village of around 2,500 families, in the middle of a river island, till 2002. Every single one has had to relocate. Without compensation, without rehabilitation, we are now refugees in our own state," Jabbar said.

## River of sorrow

The awareness that the Kosi would cause damage has existed for several decades, even pre-independence. A plan to build embankments that would hem the river in, and mitigate disaster, was first discussed in 1937. A decade later, this was one of the new Indian government's first points of action in Bihar and a budget of ₹100 crore was announced for it. But with India struggling for finances at the time, work only began in 1955, but with a modified plan, and at an increased cost of ₹177 crore. Under the original scheme, the embankments were to be built from Chataria, about 10km inside Nepal's territory. "But when



actual work started, it did so with a modified plan that envisaged construction of bunds only in Indian territory, from Birpur to Koparia," said Dinesh Mishra, author of a seminal work on the Kosi, "Do patan ke beech mein".

Mishra said that the basic principles of the construction of an embankment were forgotten. "The width of the embankment at Birpur is around 4.5km, which widens to 16km downstream at Ghoghardiha in Madhubani. However, the embankment area further reduces to 8km near Baluaha near Mahishi in Supaul, making the bund vulnerable to breach. The river has been further constrained to flow within 2km after a railway bridge was constructed between Nirmali and Saragarh in Samastipur in the year 2020," said Mishra.

What this means is that the embankments do not do their primary job, to safeguard the interests of people that live on the banks. "A vast stretch of land outside the embankments on both sides remains waterlogged for more than six months every year. The embankments were made to save around 214 lakh hectares of land. But general assessment is that the embankments have turned around 4.2 lakh hectares of land infertile due to perennial waterlogging in four districts," said Mishra.

In 2003, the gushing current of the river damaged over 11,600 houses and left at least 30 people dead. In 2008, in one of the worst floods in Bihar's memory, the Kosi washed away 286,000 homes after it breached the embankment near Kusaha. The

river changed its course by 60-70km after the break, leaving more than 500 dead. An officer of the disaster management department said that houses worth ₹3.52 crore were damaged.

Ramakrishna Jha, a professor of civil engineering at the National Institute of Technology Patna, who is also associated with the Namami Gange project, said that the Kosi, unlike other rivers, comes down from a heavy slope atop the Himalayas and hence carries a huge amount of silt. "It comes down with a lot of momentum from the hills. But once it falls on the plains of Bihar, it begins to deposit the silt which the currents are unable to carry along with them. The course of the river gets flattened due to this and the river meanders to find a way. The Ganga and the Gandak for instance cover a long distance before they come down to the plains," said Jha.

Officials of the Bihar Disaster Management Department said that there are measures that they have put in place. "We generally discourage concrete structures within the embankments. Relief and rehabilitation camps are organised during the floods to provide succour to the marooned people. We also rebuild schools, anganwadi centres and primary health care centres at safer places," said a senior DMD official.

Water resources minister Sanjay Kumar Jha said that the department is looking for a permanent solution, including plantation drives along the banks. "We have pushed for a national silt policy so that the state government can gain the right to carry out silt management. On the spur embankments are also

set up to protect the villages. Besides, anti-erosion work is carried along the course of Kosi on a large scale every year," he said.

## Life on the banks

In June, 34-year-old Sanjay Kamath was one of the many people from Narhaiya village of Balua panchayat to have migrated away from home, working in paddy fields on a daily wage in Punjab. One day, like Birender Yadav, he received a concerning phone call. One of the four streams of the Kosi had begun a menacing march towards his village. He rushed home. Over the next five days, Kamath made 10 trips a day on a dilapidated boat, from his hut to the other side of the bank, jostling with other residents. He first transported stored foodgrain, then his gas stove, a bed, and two cows. Everything was abandoned.

Next to his temporary shanty on the embankments is 45-year-old Bacchiya Devi. This year, she lost her home. Last year, it was her children's school. "How will we provide education to our children? The middle school of our Narhaiya village was swallowed up by the river last year. Now it runs out an anganwadi centre which has no facilities. The classes barely take place, and the children are mostly at home," she said.

For most, the choice to move away permanently doesn't exist. Their villages are where their agricultural land is, and when the waters recede, it is still those lands that they must till. "This is why we can't move away. If we move to the nearest town, our farmland will be far away. But every year, the ability of the land to produce crop reduces because

there is a heavy sheet of silt when the water goes down. Often the land remains waterlogged for several months," said Mahendra Yadav of Belagot who sows "garma dhaan" (summer paddy), oilseeds and vegetables.

In Bihar, any displacement, even of a few metres from one bank to another, collides with the complication of caste. Villagers of Belagot, a Scheduled Caste village in Supaul district, for instance, told HT that they were chased away from the makeshift huts they set up to escape the Kosi. "We were terrorised and attacked by lathis by local upper caste people, who kept screaming at us to go away. They took away our wooden beds and baskets. There were even officials of the water resources department that told us our huts would be demolished. But what can we do? We settled and live in fear of the consequences," said Ram Vilas Sada, who owns no land.

## Compensation elusive

The state government has laid down the norms for compensation to the damages of houses and crops inside the Kosi embankment. "The maximum compensation of pucca house, if fully damaged, comes around ₹98,000. Since pucca construction is not allowed inside the embankments, we generally offer ₹4,100 to each kuccha house washed away. The district authorities dole out the compensation after thorough verification," said a senior officer of Supaul.

Locals, however, say that despite evident damage to their homes, even total submersion, compensation is rare. Residents of Bela village said that 200 homes were swallowed up by the river this year, while 50 were washed away in Chandel Mircha village. Nobody has received compensation. "Forget compensation, nobody has even come to enquire," said Mohammad Irshad, from Dighiya village.

A senior officer of the Supaul district administration admitted that an inordinate delay in the release of funds from the nodal agency, which is the disaster management department, has often left them to the ire of local residents. "This year, we have received information about damages of 157 houses in the district. Last year, as many as 1,300 houses were reported to have been washed away. However, we have not been able to pay the compensation for the last year's damage for want of allotment," said the officer.

BJP MLA from Saharsa Alok Ranjan, however, said that the government has worked to bring roads, electricity, and water supply to provide some relief. "The government should look for a permanent solution to help people do away with shifting of their addresses every now and then," added Ranjan.

NIT professor Jha said that in the long term, there needs to be an action plan that is built around regular large scale dredging for silt management. "In the absence of this, people within the embankments and outside would continue to suffer from perennial waterlogging. They will not be able to grow regular crops on their land. We could also look at a series of check dams," said Jha.

Back at Bela, Birender Yadav has fallen quiet again, and has not moved from the four pillars that were once his home. His mind is scrambled, the future uncertain. "Even if it is under the water, this is the only home I have ever known."



PICK OF THE DAY



The Indian Express- 06- August-2022

# Vijayan to Stalin: Regulate water discharge from Mullaperiyar dam

**SHAJU PHILIP**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
AUGUST 5

KERALA CHIEF Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wrote to his Tamil Nadu counterpart M K Stalin on Friday, seeking his intervention in regulating water discharge from Mullaperiyar dam, where water level has gone beyond the permissible level of 137 ft.

Vijayan, in his letter, urged Stalin to give directions to authorities concerned to ensure that the discharge from the dam is more than inflow, taking into consideration the heavy rainfall in the catchment area of the dam, which has been the centre of a decades-long dispute between Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Vijayan also wanted Kerala to

be informed at least 24 hours in advance about opening the shutters of the dam, so that the state can take necessary precautionary steps downstream.

Tamil Nadu, the custodian of the dam located in Kerala, announced that it would open three shutters of the dam at 11.30 am on Friday. As per the initial plan, 534 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of water was to be released from the dam and the quantum of discharge would be increased to 100 cusecs in the afternoon.

The water discharged from Mullaperiyar dam would flow to the state's largest reservoir Idukki, where a blue alert (the first level of warning before lifting shutters) has been prevailing since Wednesday. Since last Sunday, marked by the current bout of heavy rains, Kerala had

reported 20 deaths. Over the last two days, the state had relocated as many as 6285 persons to 200-odd temporary relief camps from many low-lying areas and from the banks of swollen rivers.

The opening of shutters of Peringalkuthu dam had triggered panic along the banks of River Chalakudy in Thrissur on Thursday, leading to shifting of several families. However, as rain subsided on Thursday night, the water level in the river was found to have not crossed danger level on Friday morning. However, a flood-like situation prevailed in Kuttanad region in Alappuzha, where several families have been shifted out of low-lying areas.

As the Met Department has predicted heavy rains till August 9, the state has put its disaster management machinery on alert.

The Hindu- 06- August-2022

# 10 shutters of Mullaperiyar dam opened

Roshy Augustine assesses downstream situation; water level in Idukki dam at orange alert level



**Safety measure:** Water gushing out of the Mullaperiyar dam after its ten shutters were opened on Friday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**A CORRESPONDENT**  
IDUKKI

Tamil Nadu opened 10 shutters of the Mullaperiyar dam releasing 7,844 cusecs of water on Friday. Kerala will be informed in case of release of more water. The water level at Mullaperiyar was at 137.75 ft around 9 p.m.

The shutters were opened by 30 cm after 5 p.m. after the Vaiga dam, where water from Mullaperiyar is stored, got filled by afternoon. Last night, Tamil Nadu issued the first warning for releasing water. Though it was decided to open the shutters by 11.30 a.m., it was postponed following a decline in inflow to the Mullaperiyar dam.

## Rule curve level

The decision to release water when it reached 136 ft was to adhere to the rule curve level decided by the Central Water Commission. Tamil Nadu was drawing 2,166 cusecs of water.

Water Resources Minister

Roshy Augustine and Peerumade MLA Vazhoor Soman visited the Vallakadavu area and assessed the situation. Mr. Augustine said there was no need for panic and the situation was being monitored. Vallakadavu is the first town downstream of the Mullaperiyar dam. The district administration issued a warning to the people living close to the Periyar not to venture into the river. Loudspeaker announcements were made at Vandiperiyar, Chappathu, and Upputhara regarding the release of water.

A Kerala State Electricity Board official said there was no possibility of opening the Idukki dam shutters. It could take the water released from the Mullaperiyar dam at the present level. However, the situation was being monitored, he said.

The water level in the Idukki dam was at the orange alert level. The water level was 2,381.53 ft on Friday, 82.06% of the storage.



Deccan Chronicle- 06- August-2022

# Bandi to send dirty Musi water to KCR

## Up to KCR to drink it or bathe in it: Bandi

**BALU PULIPAKA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, AUG. 5

The highly polluted water of River Musi, at least two bottles of it, will reach Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's residence if plans by Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar to send them to Pragathi Bhavan through a courier fructify and the package is accepted at the Chief Minister's official residence.

Sanjay, in a dramatic move at a press conference on Friday evening at Muktapur village in Pochampalli mandal, held up two bottles that he said were filled with water from the Musi passing by Pedda Ravulapalli in Yadadri-Bhongir district, and said he was sending the water samples to the CM as the latter had claimed that he would purify the river and make the water fit to drink, but never did so.

"Today, on day 4 of my padayatra, I walked along the river, saw the distress among the people living by the Musi. The Chief Minister had promised that he would clean up the river, bathe in it. So here I am sending water from the river to him. Whether he wants to bathe with this water, or drink it, it is up to him," Bandi Sanjay said.

Lashing out at the Chief Minister for backtracking on his promise of cleansing Musi at a cost of ₹4,000



crore and making Hussainsagar water as clean as that flows out from a fresh coconut, Sanjay said people living along the river poured out their woes to him on how their crops were being affected by the pollution in the river and people suffering from various ailments.

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar holds up bottles filled with Musi river water at a press meet in Yadadri-Bhongir district on Friday on the fourth day of his Praja Sangrama Yatra. He said he would be sending the water to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.

— DC

During the previous NDA government, then Union home minister L.K. Advani had released ₹344 crore for the cleaning the river. After KCR came to power, he said ₹4,000 crore will be given for Musi clean up and turning it into another Sabarmati river front. But no steps were taken. While he spent ₹1.3 lakh crore on constructing

Kaleshwaram to bring water to his farmhouse, he did not spend even a single rupee on cleansing the Musi," he said.

He called on people living by the river to "send a bottle of this Musi river water to KCR. If he comes here, give him a bath with Musi river water. Hope at least then, he will realise the magnitude of the problem."

Water in Idukki dam rises, orange alert issued after level rises to 2,381.54ft against full capacity of 2,403ft

# 10 shutters of Mullaiperiyar dam raised

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@Idukki/T/Puram

TAMIL Nadu on Friday raised 10 of 13 spillway shutters of Mullaiperiyar dam to release 1,876 cusecs of water, sparking fears of flooding in downstream areas like Vandiperiyar and Chapatha in Idukki district.

The opening of shutters caused the water level in Idukki dam to rise. An orange alert was issued around 7pm after the level rose to 2,381.54ft, against the full reservoir level of 2,403ft.

Earlier in the day, Kerala water resources minister Roshy Augustine said the decision to release water from Idukki dam will be taken after considering the flood situation in Muvattupuzha and Aluva. He also said he had written to his Tamil Nadu counterpart to regulate water level in the dam to prevent any abrupt release of water. "An abrupt release will inundate downstream areas as the water level is high in the Periyar and other rivers," he told reporters.

Since afternoon, shutters of Mullaperiyar dam were raised in phases to a height of 30cm to

ensure controlled release of water into the Periyar and prevent flooding. Three shutters were raised at 1pm to release 534 cusecs of water. Three more shutters were opened at 3pm and the discharge increased to 1,125 cusecs. At 5pm, four more shutters were raised and discharge of water rose to 1,876 cusecs.

The decision to release water from Mullaperiyar dam was taken after the water level reached the Upper Rule Curve Level of 137.5ft against the permissible level of 142ft at 7am on Friday. Tamil Nadu had issued the first warning to Kerala on Thursday when the water level crossed 136ft due to heavy rainfall in the catchment areas for the past three days.

While the inflow of water into the dam on Friday was 7,536 cusecs at 6pm, Tamil Nadu was withdrawing only 2,166 cusecs from the reservoir.

As water in Tamil Nadu's Vaigai dam, where water from Mullaperiyar dam is stored, was near the full reservoir level, the neighbouring state can withdraw water from Mullaperiyar dam in limited quantity.

## Factfile

- A team of National Disaster Response Force has been deployed in Mullaperiyar area.
- The Idukki district administration has opened a 24-hour control room in Manjumala village office.
- Idukki district authorities said a flood-like situation in downstream areas is likely only if total discharge of water from Mullaperiyar dam is around 6,000 cusecs.



Water being released from Mullaiperiyar dam | EXPRESS



## 4th National Water Awards Launched On Rashtriya Puraskar Portal (Www.Awards.Gov.In)

On Aug 5, 2022

New Delhi : The Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the 4th National Water Awards on the Rashtriya Puraskar portal. All the applications will be received through the online Rashtriya Puraskar portal ([www.awards.gov.in](http://www.awards.gov.in)) only. General public may refer to this portal or the website of this Department ([www.jalshakti-dwr.gov.in](http://www.jalshakti-dwr.gov.in)) for further detail. The last date for submitting application is **15<sup>th</sup> September, 2022**.

### Eligibility for the awards:

Any State, District, Village Panchayat, Urban Local Body, Media, School, Institution, Industry, Non-Governmental Organisation, or Water User Association that has done exemplary work in the field of water conservation and management are eligible to apply.

### Trophy and Citation:

For the categories – ‘Best State’ and ‘Best District’, winners will be felicitated with a trophy and citation. In the remaining categories – ‘Best Village Panchayat’, ‘Best Urban Local Body’, ‘Best Media’, ‘Best School’, ‘Best Institution for campus usage’, ‘Best industry’, ‘Best NGO’, ‘Best Water User Association’ and ‘Best Industry for CSR activities’, winners will be felicitated with cash prize along with trophy and citation. The cash prizes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd rank winners are Rs.2 lakhs, Rs.1.5 lakhs, and Rs.1 lakh, respectively.

### Selection Process:

All applications received for the 4th National Water Awards are placed before the Jury Committee which is constituted by the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation. No Award is conferred except on the recommendation of the Jury Committee. The recommendation of the Committee is submitted to the Union Minister (Jal Shakti) for approval. Thereafter, the names of the winners are announced on a suitable date.

### Details of the awards:

Sl. No.	Name of category	Eligible Entity	Award	No. of Award
1.	Best State	State Government/UT	Trophy with Citation	3Awards
2.	Best District	District Administration/ DM/ DC	Trophy with Citation	3 Awards
3.	Best Village Panchayat	Village Panchayat	Cash Awards & Trophy with	3 Awards: First award: Rs.2 lakh Second award: Rs.1.5lakh



			Citation	Third award: Rs.1lakh
4.	Best Urban Local Body	Urban Local Body	-do-	-do-
5.	Best Media (Print & Electronic)	Newspaper/Magazine/TV Shows	-do-	-do-
6.	Best School	School	-do-	-do-
7.	Best Institution for Campus usage	Institution/ RWA/ Religious/ Higher Education organization	-do-	-do-
8.	Best Industry	Small/Medium/ Large Scale Industry	-do-	-do-
9.	Best NGO	Registered NGOs	-do-	-do-
10.	Best Water User Association	Water User Association	-do-	-do-
11.	Best Industry for CSR Activities	Large/ Medium/Small Industry	-do-	-do-

The National Water Awards (NWAs) were introduced to recognize and encourage exemplary work and efforts made by States, Districts, individuals, organizations, etc. across the country in accomplishing the government's vision 'Jal Samridh Bharat'. It aims to sensitize the public about the importance of water and motivates them to adopt the best water usage practices. The award winners in different categories will be presented with a citation, trophy, and cash prize. The objective of the National Water Awards is to encourage the stakeholders to adopt a holistic approach toward water resource management in the country as surface water and groundwater play a significant role in the water cycle. In order to embrace these objectives, the first edition of the National Water Awards was introduced in the year 2018 by the Department. The distribution ceremony was successfully organized on 25 February 2019 in New Delhi, and 82 winners under 14 categories were awarded. Thereafter, the 2nd National Water Awards 2019 was successfully organized, and 98 winners under 16 categories were awarded by the Vice President of India on 11-12 November 2020. The 3rd National Water Awards were successfully organized on 29th March 2022 and 57 winners under 11 categories were felicitated with awards by the President of India.



## 4th National Water Awards Launched on Rashtriya Puraskar portal

National Water Awards Recognize & Encourage Exemplary Work & Efforts Across The Country In Accomplishing 'Jal Samridh Bharat'

Fri Aug 05 2022

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# यमुना में डाला दूषित पानी : नोएडा प्राधिकरण पर 100 करोड़ जुर्माना एनजीटी : दिल्ली जल बोर्ड पर भी 50 करोड़ का जुर्माना

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नोएडा/नई दिल्ली। नहरों और यमुना में दूषित पानी के प्रवाह को रोकने के लिए दायर याचिका पर राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (एनजीटी) ने नोएडा विकास प्राधिकरण पर 100 करोड़ रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया है। दिल्ली जल बोर्ड पर भी 50 करोड़ का जुर्माना लगाया गया है। यह जुर्माना पर्यावरण क्षतिपूर्ति के लिए है। एनजीटी ने दिल्ली और उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य सचिवों को संबंधित एजेंसियों की भूमिका की जांच कर कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट भी तलब की है।

याचिकाकर्ता अभिष्ट कुसुम गुप्ता की 2018 में दायर याचिका में सिंचाई नहर, यमुना व गंगा में औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों व घनी आबादी वाले इलाकों से प्रदूषित पानी डालने से रोकने में नाकामी के लिए नोएडा, दिल्ली जल बोर्ड व अन्य एजेंसियों को जिम्मेदार ठहराया गया था। गुप्ता ने बताया, अलग-अलग स्रोतों से 215 एमएलडी दूषित पानी नोएडा सेक्टर-11, 137, 51, 52, 49, 168 से होकर यमुना और बाद में गंगा में पहुंचता है।



## गंभीर प्रदूषण की जद में पांच लाख की आबादी

याचिकाकर्ता ने एनजीटी को बताया कि अपशिष्ट जल नहर और यमुना में प्रवाहित करने से आसपास के 21 किलोमीटर क्षेत्र के 5 लाख की आबादी को वायु और जल प्रदूषण के कारण गंभीर समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। स्वच्छ पानी के लिए बायो-ऑक्सीजन डिमांड (बीओडी) भी तय मानकों से कई गुना अधिक है।

■ नोएडा प्राधिकरण के 30 नाले, दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के तीन नाले व खोड़ा विकास परिषद के एक नाले से प्रवाहित होने वाला दूषित पानी पिछले कई वर्षों से गंभीर समस्या बना हुआ है। इस पर अगली सुनवाई 12 दिसंबर को होगी।



गंगा प्रदूषण

डॉ. सुरजीत सिंह गांधी

# सहभागिता में ही समाधान

## बीती

24 जुलाई को अखबारों में प्रकाशित नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (एनजीटी) की एक महत्वपूर्ण खबर को समाज द्वारा कोई तव्वजो नहीं दी गई। न ही स्वच्छ गंगा अभियान से जुड़े किसी समाजसेवी ने और न ही किसी पर्यावरणविद ने इस पर कोई आवाज उठाई। एनजीटी की यह खबर केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों की कार्यवाही पर भी प्रश्न चिह्न खड़े करती है। एनजीटी का बयान था कि अनेक नियम-कानूनों और दशकों की निगरानी के बावजूद आज भी लगभग 50 प्रतिशत अनुपचारित सीवेज और उद्योगों का गंदा पानी गंगा नदी में छोड़ा जा रहा है।

कुछ दिन पूर्व सेंटर फॉर साइंस एंड एनवायरमेंट (सीएसई) द्वारा जारी रिपोर्ट के अनुसार नमामि गंगे मिशन के अंतर्गत शामिल नदियों में भारी धातुओं का उच्च स्तर पाया गया है। दुनिया की दस प्रदूषित नदियों में मोक्षदायिनी गंगा का नाम भी शामिल हो चुका है। प्रदूषण के कारण एवं जल प्रवाह में कमी से गंगा निरंतर सिकुड़ती जा रही है। कभी खराब न होने वाला गंगा जल आज अपने अस्तित्व के लिए जूझ रहा है। गंगा नदी में प्रदूषण इतना अधिक हो गया है कि आचमन करने लायक भी नहीं रह गया है। पिछले 37 वर्षों में सरकार द्वारा अरबों रुपये व्यय करने के बावजूद गंगा के प्रदूषण की स्थिति में बहुत सुधार नहीं हुआ है। स्वच्छ गंगा हेतु प्रभावी निगरानी के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देश को भी बहुत महत्व नहीं मिल पाया है। गंगा की सफाई के लिए जिम्मेदार पर्यावरण व वन मंत्रालय एवं जल संसाधन मंत्रालय, दोनों की क्या जवाबदेही तय नहीं की जानी चाहिए।

उल्लेखनीय है कि गंगा को स्वच्छ बनाने के लिए समय-समय पर सरकार द्वारा अनेक कार्यक्रम चलाए जा चुके हैं। इनमें 1986 में गंगा एक्शन प्लान और 2014 में 2000 करोड़ रुपये का नमामि गंगे कार्यक्रम प्रमुख हैं। इस संदर्भ में नेशनल गंगा रिवर बेसिन अथॉरिटी एवं राष्ट्रीय गंगा परिषद का भी गठन हो चुका है। इसके बावजूद अनेक रिपोर्ट सरकार और समाज की असंवेदनशीलता ही उजागर करती हैं। सीएसई की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार गंगा के 33 निगरानी स्टेशनों में से 10 में उद्योगों से सीधे नदी निकायों में अपशिष्ट जल को बहा दिया जाता है। गंगा नदी के तट पर



बसे औद्योगिक नगरों में प्रमुख शहर कानपुर में गंगा सर्वाधिक मैली है। केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के अनुसार दस राज्य अपने सीवेज का उपचार नहीं करते जिससे लगभग 72 प्रतिशत सीवेज अपशिष्ट अनुपचारित ही नदी में मिल जाता है। दो करोड़ 90 लाख लीटर से ज्यादा प्रदूषित जल और कचरा गंगा नदी में हर दिन गिर रहा है।

हाल में संपन्न कांवड यात्रा के बाद हरिद्वार में गंगा नदी के आसपास और घाटों पर लगभग 30 मेट्रिक टन कूड़ा जमा हो गया था जो प्लास्टिक, चप्पल, कपड़ों, मल आदि गंदगी के रूप में था। एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार उत्तर

प्रदेश में 12 प्रतिशत बीमारियों की वजह प्रदूषित गंगा जल है। प्रदूषणमुक्त पर्यावरण प्रत्येक नागरिक का संवैधानिक अधिकार और राज्यों का संवैधानिक दायित्व है।

गंगा नदी को प्रदूषणमुक्त करने के लिए कड़े कदम उठाने जाने की आवश्यकता है। सरकार को जीरो टालरेंस की नीति पर कार्य करना होगा। सरकार के स्तर पर गंगा की स्वच्छता से संबंधित अधिकारियों की जवाबदेही कार्य लक्ष्य पर आधारित होनी चाहिए। प्रदूषण की रोकथाम सुनिश्चित करने के लिए क्रियान्वयन पक्ष पर बल देते हुए ट्रीटमेंट प्रणालियों की स्थापना और रखरखाव की निगरानी व्यवस्था को सुदृढ़ करना होगा। इससे जुड़ी प्रक्रियाओं को सरल, लचीला और समयबद्ध बनाने की दिशा में कार्य करना होगा। समस्या की गंभीरता को समझते हुए सुनिश्चित किया जाना चाहिए कि गंगा नदी में प्रदूषण की एक बूंद भी न जाने पाए। गंगा की स्वच्छता से संबंधित संस्थाओं को उपचारात्मक उपायों को छोड़कर गंभीर प्रयासों की दिशा में बढ़ना होगा। गंगा नदी के प्रदूषण में कमी आने से इसके जल प्रवाह में भी वृद्धि होगी। नमामि गंगे कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत गंगा प्रदूषण के प्रभावी उन्मूलन और उसके संरक्षण और कायाकल्प के दोहरे उद्देश्य को पूरा करने के लिए समाज की सहभागिता से जन आंदोलन चलाए जाने की आवश्यकता है जिससे कि लोग धार्मिक कर्मकांडों की गंदगी को गंगा न डालें।

वर्तमान में तकनीकी इतनी उन्नत हो चुकी है कि विकास और गंगा की स्वच्छता के बीच आसानी से संतुलन स्थापित किया जा सकता है। जिम्मेदारी और जवाबदेही पर आधारित विस्तृत रणनीतिक खाका तैयार करना होगा। इसमें प्रदूषण से संबंधित वर्तमान कानूनों और अदालतों के दिशा निर्देशों के कार्यान्वयन को शामिल किया जाना जरूरी है। गंगा नदी के कायाकल्प के लिए केंद्र और राज्य सरकार की राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति, प्रशासन और कानून की कठोरता के साथ ही जन की सहभागिता अति आवश्यक है जिससे गंगा की निर्मल धारा अविरल रूप से प्रवाहित होती रहे।