

I/174800/2024

The Times of India- 07 June- 2024

# Citizens' group calls for action to save Yamuna

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**New Delhi:** There is construction underway on the Yamuna floodplain between Bela Farm and Garhi Mandu in northeast Delhi, with a 15-metre-high debris mound and, surprisingly, a govt institution is responsible for this illegal activity. This fact was pointed out by Suhas Borker, founder member of Green Circle of Delhi, at an environment seminar on Thursday. Such violations must be dealt with in accordance with the judgment of the National Green Tribunal in the *Manoj Misra Vs Others* case, said Borker. All kind of construction and dumping on the floodplain from Palla to Kalindi must stop immediately, he insisted.

The conference held at India International Centre,

where environment experts, engineers and former bureaucrats, including former Union environment secretary Ashok Lavasa participated, said it was important to develop a river quality index on the line of the air quality index, refurbish the wetland, develop biodiversity parks and press for a political will putting ecology over aesthetics.

Explaining a river as being a complex landform and an important component of the hydrological cycle, Faiyaz Khudsar, biodiversity parks expert, said there were problems related to the river and its floodplain, among them silted wetlands and infestation by invasive alien species, especially fishes.

Khudsar said there was a need to restore the characteristic grasslands and floodplain forestry and cited the success at Yamuna Biodiver-

## SOME OF THE MEASURES PROPOSED

1 Stop all construction/development activities on the floodplain from Palla to Kalindi

2 Strictly comply with NGT orders

3 Stop ongoing construction and dumping on floodplain between Bela Farm-Shastri Park-Garhi Mandu in northeast Delhi

4 Remove all encroachments

5 Penalise those involved in encroachment or dumping

6 Treatment of sewage using STPs and constructed wetland

7 Identification and demarcation of floodplain and wetlands



File photo

8 Restoration of grasslands and floodplain forest

9 Take cue from success examples like Yamuna Biodiversity Park for restoration

10 Develop a network of biodiversity parks along the 52km Delhi stretch of the Yamuna

sity Park, where scientific approach revived the riparian system. "Scientists, ecologists and planners must be involved in any intervention," he said. "Development activities and dumping must be strictly prohibited on the floodplain. And when considering plantations, test the salt, find the ecological history, the closest reference of ecological history and then find what would be best to plant in the area."

Sanitation expert Ashok Mandal noted that while only 60% of the city was connected to drains, only 75% of the drain network was being used. He shared a success story from his residential colony, Anand Lok in south Delhi, where, as RWA president, he had managed to raise the groundwater level from 60ft in 2003 to 27ft in 2023 through rainwater harvesting. "While

the demand for water from the Yamuna rises, there is not enough effort at tapping clean water through extensive rainwater harvesting," he said.

While in the Union environment ministry, he had seen the Yamuna sadly losing its flow, recalled Lavasa. "We need a river health index, like AQI. Around 1987, the Yamuna had good rapids and rafting was planned between Paonta Sahib in Himachal Pradesh and Tajewala in Haryana. It took two years to procure rafts and by that time, the rapids had disappeared after a canal was made somewhere upstream," Lavasa said.

The danger of vegetables being grown in a floodplain contaminated by heavy metals was flagged by Deeksha Katyal from the school of environment management, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University.



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The Hindu— 07 June- 2024

# SC orders release of 137 cusecs of water to Delhi; victory for Capital: Atishi

Provide passage to water meant for Capital, SC tells Haryana, after H.P. says it's ready to help Delhi; Water Minister Atishi thanks court for standing with city dwellers during the 'unprecedented crisis'

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the release of 137 cusecs of surplus water from upstream Himachal Pradesh through the Hathnikund barrage in Haryana into the Wazirabad barrage to quench Delhi's drinking water crisis.

Water Minister Atishi welcomed the apex court order and called it a "victory" for the people of Delhi, which is facing an acute water shortage.

A Vacation Bench of Justices P.K. Mishra and K.V. Viswanathan passed the order after perusing the minutes of a meeting held by the Upper Yamuna River Board with the States of Delhi, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh, along with the Centre.

The meeting, held on June 5, saw the Board acknowledge the acute shortage of drinking water in the national capital in the middle of a heatwave across the northern States.

Himachal said it could spare an additional supply of 137 cusecs to the Capital. However, Haryana, through which the water



**Parched:** Residents fill water from a tanker at Vivekanand Camp in Chanakyapuri on Thursday. PTI

has to pass to reach Delhi, raised objections.

Haryana insisted in court that Himachal Pradesh did not have any water to spare for Delhi and said it was also suffering from a water crisis.

"But Delhi is not asking you (Haryana) to give water... The water has to come from Himachal Pradesh and not Haryana," Justice Mishra reacted.

Justice Viswanathan said Haryana needed only to give the water the "right of passage".

Himachal Pradesh, represented by Additional Advocate General Vaibhav Shrivastava, said the State

was "ready and willing" to help Delhi in its hour of dire need.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi for Delhi said Haryana's objection was nothing short of "cussedness and obstructionist". He said the State was "playing politics".

The Bench ordered Himachal Pradesh to release 137 cusecs of surplus water on June 7.

The court directed that Haryana should be given prior intimation about the release of the water so that it could facilitate its flow into Delhi.

It said the Upper Yamuna River Board and Haryana

could measure the water released from Himachal Pradesh to see if the quantity was really 137 cusecs.

The court made it clear that the Delhi government should ensure that no water was wasted through leaks or in other ways.

## 'Coordinated efforts'

In a post on X, Atishi said, "I salute the Hon'ble Supreme Court for standing with the people of Delhi during this unprecedented water crisis. This is a time that calls for coordinated effort above all else, and the SC order marks a victory for the people of Delhi and their right to water."

Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged that despite requests, Haryana had refused to give way for the water that Himachal Pradesh had agreed to provide.

"I spoke to [H.P.] Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. He was ready to provide water to Delhi. However, the Haryana government was not providing a path for the water, which forced the Delhi government to approach the Supreme Court," he said.



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The Morning Standard— 07 June- 2024

# Haryana govt prevented water flow: AAP

Himachal Pradesh agreed to share surplus water, BJP dispensation obstructed its route, says minister Bharadwaj

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ New Delhi

FOLLOWING the Supreme Court direction to the Himachal Pradesh government to release 137 cusecs of surplus water to Delhi, AAP leader and urban development minister Saurabh Bharadwaj welcomed the top verdict while alleging that Haryana was providing less water to Delhi.

"I spoke to Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and he was ready to provide water to Delhi. However, the Haryana government was not providing a path for the water, which forced the Delhi government to go to the Supreme Court.

"If Himachal Pradesh is willing to provide water and Delhi is willing to take it, why is Haryana blocking the route? We thank the Himachal government and the court," he said.

Targeting the BJP, Bharadwaj said the party talks about "cooperative federalism" but its state government is not providing a path for the water even after Himachal Pradesh has agreed to share it. This is something that the Haryana government and the Centre should have done earlier but they were playing politics, he said.

Meanwhile, Delhi water minister Atishi welcomed the Supreme Court order directing Himachal Pradesh to release surplus water to the national capital, terming it a "victory



Residents collect water from a tanker in Chanakyapuri area | SHEKHAR YADAV

for the people of the city.

In a post on X, Atishi said, "I salute the Hon'ble Supreme Court for standing with the people of Delhi during this unprecedented water crisis. This is a time that calls for coordinated effort above all else, and the SC order marks a victory for the people of Delhi and their right to water."

Responding to the AAP government's claims, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva instead accused the AAP dispensation of "lying over the release of water from Haryana" and demanded an apology that its ministers apologise. He said the BJP had been asking the Delhi government to seek excess water from Himachal

Pradesh but it did not listen.

"Throughout the last month of the water crisis in Delhi, we saw minister Atishi writing melodramatic letters to CMs of BJP-ruled Haryana and Uttar Pradesh knowing very well that they are already giving excess water," he said.

She never wrote to Himachal the AAP's INDIA bloc partner Congress-ruled Himachal Pradesh, Sachdeva said.

"Today she stands exposed as the Supreme Court has not asked Haryana or UP but Himachal to release excess water. People of Delhi will never forgive the Arvind Kejriwal government for its dirty politics amidst the water crisis," Sachdeva said.

## Relief

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Himachal Pradesh government to release 137 cusecs of surplus water available with it to Delhi, which is grappling with a water crisis. It also directed the Haryana government to facilitate the flow of water released by Himachal Pradesh so that it reaches the national capital.



## Minimising wastage

The suggested conservation measures, included separating commercial and domestic water supply and curbing industrial and recreational uses. It also suggested recycled water be used for secondary purposes such as gardening, car washing etc.

Jansatta- 07 June- 2024

# ‘दिल्ली सरकार को पानी की बर्बादी नहीं करनी चाहिए’

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो  
नई दिल्ली, 6 जून।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने गुरुवार को हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार को निर्देश दिया कि वह सात जून तक राष्ट्रीय राजधानी के लिए 137 क्यूसेक अतिरिक्त पेयजल जारी करे। न्यायालय ने पानी की बर्बादी रोकने के लिए ऊपरी यमुना नदी बोर्ड (यूवाईआरबी) की ओर से आहुत बैठक में सुझाए गए उपायों को रिकार्ड पर लिया। शीर्ष अदालत ने यह भी कहा कि पानी को लेकर राजनीति नहीं होनी चाहिए।

न्यायमूर्ति पीके मिश्रा और न्यायमूर्ति केवी



विश्वनाथन की अवकाशकालीन पीठ ने सुझाए गए उन उपायों पर गौर किया, जिनमें वाणिज्यिक और घरेलू जलापूर्ति को अलग करना तथा औद्योगिक एवं मनोविनोद के लिए पानी के इस्तेमालों में कटौती करना शामिल है।

न्यायालय ने सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में कुशल जलवितरण पर भी जोर दिया। पीठ ने अपने आदेश में कहा कि हम इस तथ्य से अवगत हैं कि चूंकि दिल्ली में जल संकट बहुत गंभीर है, इसलिए दिल्ली सरकार द्वारा पानी की बर्बादी नहीं होनी चाहिए, जिसके लिए हम ऊपरी बाकी पेज 8 पर

## ‘दिल्ली सरकार को पानी की बर्बादी नहीं करनी चाहिए’

यमुना नदी बोर्ड द्वारा आहुत बैठक में सुझाए गए निम्नलिखित उपायों को दर्ज करते हैं। पीठ ने मामले की अगली सुनवाई की तारीख 10 जून तय की। न्यायमूर्ति पीके मिश्रा और न्यायमूर्ति केवी विश्वनाथन की अवकाशकालीन पीठ ने कहा कि हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार उसके पास उपलब्ध 137 क्यूसेक अतिरिक्त पानी दिल्ली के लिए छोड़ने को तैयार है। एक क्यूसेक (घन फुट प्रति सेकंड) प्रति सेकंड 28.317 लीटर तरल प्रवाह के बराबर होता है। क्योंकि हिमाचल प्रदेश को कोई आपत्ति नहीं है और वह उसके पास उपलब्ध अतिरिक्त पानी छोड़ने के लिए तैयार है, इसलिए हम निर्देश देते हैं कि हिमाचल प्रदेश उसके पास उपलब्ध अतिरिक्त पानी में से 137 क्यूसेक पानी छोड़े, ताकि पानी हथिनीकुंड बैराज और फिर वहां से दिल्ली पहुंच सके।

मामले की गंभीरता को देखते हुए पीठ ने हिमाचल प्रदेश को निर्देश दिया कि वह हरियाणा को पूर्व सूचना देकर सात जून को पानी छोड़े। पीठ ने कहा है कि ऊपरी यमुना नदी बोर्ड हथिनीकुंड में आने वाले अतिरिक्त पानी को मापेगा ताकि इसे वजीराबाद और दिल्ली तक पहुंचाया जा सके। पीठ ने आदेश दिया कि जब भी हिमाचल प्रदेश पूर्व सूचना के साथ हरियाणा की तरफ अतिरिक्त पानी

छोड़ेगा तो हरियाणा अतिरिक्त पानी के प्रवाह को हथिनीकुंड और वजीराबाद तक सुगम बनाए रखने में मदद करेगा ताकि यह निर्बाध रूप से दिल्ली तक पहुंचे और दिल्ली के लोगों को पेयजल के लिए पानी उपलब्ध कराया जा सके। सोमवार को इस अदालत के समक्ष एक स्थिति रपट प्रस्तुत की जाएगी। कोर्ट ने दिल्ली सरकार से यह भी सुनिश्चित करने को कहा कि राष्ट्रीय राजधानी को मिलने वाला पानी व्यर्थ न हो। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि दिल्ली सरकार और हरियाणा तथा हिमाचल प्रदेश सहित प्रतिवादी सोमवार तक अपना अनुपालन हलफनामा दाखिल करेंगे। शीर्ष अदालत दिल्ली सरकार द्वारा दायर एक याचिका पर सुनवाई कर रही थी, जिसमें हरियाणा को यह निर्देश देने की मांग की गई थी कि वह हिमाचल प्रदेश द्वारा राष्ट्रीय राजधानी को उपलब्ध कराया जाने वाला अतिरिक्त जल छोड़े ताकि वहां जारी जल संकट को कम किया जा सके। दिल्ली सरकार की ओर से वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता अभिषेक सिंघवी ने कहा कि हमने निवेदन किया था और हिमाचल प्रदेश को कोई आपत्ति नहीं है लेकिन हरियाणा आपत्ति जता रहा है। बोर्ड ने अंत में कहा कि चूंकि हरियाणा को आपत्ति है, इसलिए आप (दिल्ली) हरियाणा को अनुरोध भेजें। हमने हरियाणा से अनुरोध किया, लेकिन हमें कोई

जवाब नहीं मिला। पीठ ने केंद्र की ओर से पेश अतिरिक्त सालिसिटर जनरल विक्रमजीत बनर्जी से कहा कि यह एक अस्तित्वपरक (भौगोलिक कारणों के चलते) समस्या है। एसजी ने बैठक के विवरण का हवाला दिया और कहा कि हरियाणा ने भी यह बात कही है कि वहां भी इसी प्रकार की असाधारण गर्मी के हालात हैं जिसके कारण ग्रामीण और शहरी दोनों क्षेत्रों में पानी की अत्यधिक मांग है।

इस मामले में तीन जून को सुनवाई करते हुए कोर्ट ने इस मुद्दे को सुलझाने के लिए पांच जून को यूवाईआरबी की एक आपात बैठक बुलाने को कहा था। बोर्ड की ओर से दर्ज की गई चर्चाओं से यह स्पष्ट है कि बैठक में भाग लेने वाले सदस्यों/हितधारकों ने इस बात का खंडन या सवाल नहीं उठाए कि दिल्ली में असाधारण गर्मी के हालात हैं जिससे पेयजल संकट का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। बोर्ड ने दर्ज किया कि हरियाणा भी इसी प्रकार की भीषण गर्मी के हालात से जूझ रहा है मगर कोर्ट के समक्ष ऐसा कोई ठोस साक्ष्य नहीं है कि हरियाणा में पेयजल का गंभीर संकट है। पीठ ने कहा कि कल को इस बात पर राजनीति नहीं होनी चाहिए कि हिमाचल प्रदेश पानी छोड़ता है और हरियाणा पानी को आने नहीं देता। पानी को लेकर कोई राजनीति नहीं होनी चाहिए।