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The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

S. Maheshwari
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Deputy Director (Publication)

CWC Delhi
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Director (T.D.)

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1/9

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
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News item/letter/article/editorial published on 1/9/17 in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
Indian Express
Tribune
Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Kesari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle
A.P. (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Kaf Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Bharat

and documented at Bhadrath/English & Publicity Section, CWC

Condition of lake in fort irks NGT

New Delhi: National Green Tribunal has slammed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) over the poor condition of the Purana Quila lake and summoned its senior official to explain why it has not been cleaned despite its direction.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar noted that the lake, which was earlier a place of tourist attraction, was covered with moss and become a dumping ground.

The green panel took exception to non-compliance of its May 19 order to expeditiously restore all water bodies in the city.

It asked the ASI official to appear before it and explain why silt, sand and other debris have not been removed from the lake despite its specific direction.

"This lake was earlier meant for tourism purposes. Half of the lake area is sunk in the mosses. The lake is totally unclean, unhygienic and has become a dumping ground.

"We direct the senior officer of the ASI to be present before the tribunal on September 5, 2017 and explain why the directions of the tribunal have not been carried out," the bench said.

The tribunal had earlier directed the city government to rejuvenate water bodies and asked it maintain and clean them so that they become a source of natural beauty for the residents of the nearby area.

However, it had made it clear that there should be no use of "concrete, cement or brick" and the works should not change the natural geomorphology of the area. ¶¶

Tribunal seeks status report on Yamuna

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: National Green Tribunal has directed the northern states to submit an action plan on rejuvenation of Yamuna stretches in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan.

"We direct that all the concerned state governments shall file an action plan without default by September 4 in terms of our orders in relation to the stretch of Yamuna between Delhi and Allahabad Sangam. Delhi government and DJB will file a complete action plan with regard to the

Phase-II stretch, falling in Delhi," the bench noted.

NGT directed the AAP government and Delhi Jal Board to submit an affidavit on the progress of the Phase-I of the Yamuna cleaning project.

While Phase-I of Yamuna cleaning project deals with curbing pollution in the Najafgarh and Delhi Gate drains, Phase-II deals with Shahdara, Barapullah and other drains.

The matter will be heard again on September 15. NGT had earlier said that pollution in the Yamuna was of serious concern as it was contaminated by industrial effluents.



Letter/article/editorial published on 1/9/17 in the

Indian Times
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Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
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A 2 (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
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Green tribunal seeks plan for restoration of the river

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NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal has directed Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh to submit an action plan on rejuvenation and restoration of the stretch of the Yamuna beyond the national capital.

A bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter

Kumar has asked the states to file a complete report in this regard.

"We direct that all the state governments concerned shall file action plan without default by September 4 in terms of our order in relation to the stretch of river Yamuna beyond NCT Delhi up to Allahabad Sangam. The NCT, Delhi and Delhi Jal Board shall file complete action plan with regard to the Phase-II

stretch, falling in NCT Delhi," the green tribunal said.

"The states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh will file complete and comprehensive report in terms of the order," the bench said.

The tribunal also directed the AAP government and Delhi Jal Board to submit an affidavit on the progress of the Phase-I of the Yamuna cleaning project.

While the Phase-I of Yamuna cleaning project aims to bring down pollution levels in the Najafgarh and Delhi Gate drains, Phase-II deals with Shahdara, Barapullah and other drains.

The matter was fixed for hearing on September 15.

The green panel had earlier said that pollution in the Yamuna was of serious concern as it was highly contaminated by industrial effluents and sewage.

It had also asked Haryana and Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board to jointly conduct a study of water quality and the flow of the Yamuna at the point where it enters Haryana.

The tribunal had earlier banned open defecation and dumping of waste on the floodplains of the Yamuna and announced an environment compensation of ₹5,000 for violation of the order.

Restoration of Brahmaputra river system

■ Rajashree Sharma

A proposal to dredge the Brahmaputra riverbed was announced recently. Dredging has both pros and cons as we still do not have sufficient research data to strongly recommend dredging as a sole solution to combat floods that come annually. As per reports, several flood-related funds have been sanctioned including Rs 100 crore allotted for the study of the Brahmaputra river system. The study has to be done by experts and the views and experiences of the stakeholders, who consider the mighty river as their life-line, will also be taken into account. The study on the Brahmaputra is not new; a series of studies have been done in the past 70 years by many scientific and academic institutions including the Brahmaputra Board and Central Water Commission, and provided important recommendations from time to time. Nevertheless, the proposed study should focus on the siltation/sedimentation of the riverbed as very little study has been done so far on that.

We are now facing tough decisions about how we manage our most precious water resource in the future. Several eminent experts are working positively towards river training techniques, data collation through remote sensing, etc. However, they feel that the data so collated are deficient with regard to siltation and sediment deposition and whether dredging can improve water discharge capacity apart from making waterways operational. We the inhabitants of Assam are the stakeholders reaping the benefits from the river in one way or the other, our lives and livelihoods, and culture, intricately woven with this magnificent river. It has given us so

much more than what it takes away every year with ferocity.

The severe problem of the Brahmaputra river system is the large-scale siltation, which is the outcome of the denudation of mountains, seismic-prone Brahmaputra basin, different geological formations, and the impact of climate change as incessant rainfall during monsoons in Assam and the neighbouring States.

Post-1950 earthquake, this river and its major tributaries have undergone severe physical changes such as increase in the level of the riverbeds. However, we can't ignore the man-made causes like improper drainage systems which are congested and lead to blocking the natural flow of waters forcing massive impact on the embankments. The human encroachments upon wetlands, human settlements along the river and its tributaries and large-scale deforestation are the other causes. This is an environmental disaster and mismanagement over a period of time. Therefore, the siltation problem needs serious study to prepare detailed project report in a holistic manner.

The dredging has been proposed in the line of the Huang He river in China and the debate is that the dredging will not mitigate the erosion and siltation problems as the erosion and siltation problems upstream of the river has to be targeted to check siltation as deposition of silt is quick. Due to the annual silt loads, the water-carrying capacity of the Brahmaputra has been reduced drastically over the time. The pro-dredging people have ar-

gued that it will bring a plethora of benefits and would be able to combat flood as the depth of the riverbed will increase and the force will be lesser. But, dredging only in the Brahmaputra will not serve the purpose if the tributaries and wetlands are not taken along for dredging to make it effective and deeper to increase the storage of flood water. Wetlands are the source of irrigation and fishery. However, if it is not done scientifically, the aquatic biodi-

The comprehensive plan should be durable, sustainable and implementable and emphasis should be given to study how to deal with sedimentation depositions as we do not have elaborate data on how much silt gathers and what will be the cost of dredging per cumec.

versity will be hampered, affecting the flora and fauna. A few big dams are in the process of coming up in the upstream of the river. Although we all are apprehensive about the potentially serious negative effects, the clear picture will come after the study as several experts have opined that the big dams properly designed can withstand seismic events. The dams here are built without proper storage space for flood control as we see in Ranganadi and Doyang Kopili projects. The loss of life, crop, property, livestock and wildlife is so immense in the annual floods that it has broken the

economic backbone of Assam and the impact is increasing every year. This year's waves of flood have hit the whole State so ferociously that most of the dykes and embankments have been breached. Adding fuel to the flames, the existing dams are releasing water without giving proper warning and time to the riverine villagers to shift to safer places. As the force of the excess water tends to breach embankments, dykes and boulder spurs, several researchers suggest that the more effective river training systems such as jack jetty, vanes, porcupine and trail dykes should be adopted for preventing sediment deposition and erosion by flood waters. Several experts are working on these cost effective methods and have success stories in different river systems in India.

Riverbank vegetation has a crucial role to play in stabilizing bank sediments to reduce erosion, and provide a shield between the river and the rest of the catchment areas. Efforts should be made to protect the existing vegetation and create new vegetation through plantation wherever it is required. Involvement of the local inhabitants in this exercise is a must. As we have witnessed incessant rains and high temperature this year. Climate change is another aspect that may impact severe rain and drought as well, which we have witnessed already. Therefore, we have to take climate change into account of the study. The comprehensive plan should be durable, sustainable and implementable and emphasis should be given to study how to deal with

sedimentation depositions as we do not have elaborate data on how much silt gathers and what will be the cost of dredging per cumec. Also the plan should include remedies for catchment area treatment and the poorly-managed Brahmaputra watersheds.

For restoration, the Government should bring all the stakeholders including villagers, who are part of the river ecosystem, together from study to planning stage till completion. Once the restoration process starts, the revitalization process can be taken with a concerted effort involving NGOs and locals to play an active role in the river system management. Stakeholders at all levels are vital for the study, river training exercise as well as execution of the comprehensive plan. Along with modern science and technology, it has to be supplemented with traditional local knowledge and practices, cost effective river training programmes to arrest the negative impact of floods and change of the course of the river system, reclaim the eroded land, improvement of catchment areas, better wasteland management, etc. As this is a time-consuming process, the Government, meanwhile, must take proactive measures to rescue and rehabilitate the flood victims, providing them with the minimum amenities to live a dignified post-flood life. There has to be a workable pre-warning system to alert people when the dams release water during monsoon. For the restoration of the river system and to rejuvenate the riverine economy, the approach should be more of a participatory nature under public-private partnerships in a holistic manner rather than a top down approach to make this mighty river system as one of the best managed in the world.