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CM Arvind Kejriwal (third from left) and other Delhi cabinet ministers perform the Yamuna Aarti on Tuesday. AJAY AGGARWAL/HT

₹200-crore project to beautify Yamuna

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government launched the ₹200-crore Yamuna riverfront project at the second annual 'Yamuna Aarti' event aarti at the Dhai Pusta, in Sonia Vihar, on Tuesday.

Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal praised the efforts made by water and tourism minister Kapil Mishra for organising the event in their bid to clean the river Yamuna and promote tourism in Delhi.

"This Yamuna Aarti has been made possible by his (Mishra's) efforts, his perseverance and his crazed enthusiasm. He has also devised a plan to ensure the cleaning of Yamuna," he said.

The Yamuna Riverfront Development initiative aims to beautify the riverfront. A video release, which showcased the plans, stated that trees and other plants would be planted in the area which would help decontaminate the polluted waters. It also showed plans of separate ghats dedicated to idol immersions and aartis, so that these activities do not pollute the larger body of water.

The eco-friendly plans also feature dedicated cycling and pedestrian paths. The new riverfront will also have a new wrestling ground, for the wrestling events that usually take place at the floodplains near the river Yamuna.

The new plans not only aim to clean the river Yamuna, but also are a part of larger efforts to promote tourism in the region. As such, the government has declared that a rowing arena of international standard will also be a part of the new and improved riverfront. Bird watching and nature trails will also be facilitated.

The plans also stated that only environment friendly, bio-degradable materials would be used. It would feature no structure made of concrete.

Kejriwal also reminded voters of the efforts made by the government top help reduce electricity charges in Delhi. "Despite doubts, we reduced the rates of electricity in the city within a month of being elected," he said.

He also said that despite interference from the Central government, his government was able to provide water to 260 unauthorised colonies in Delhi. He also referred to his troubled relations with lieutenant governor Najeeb Jung, when he said that he has to plead and sometimes even pick fights to get things done.

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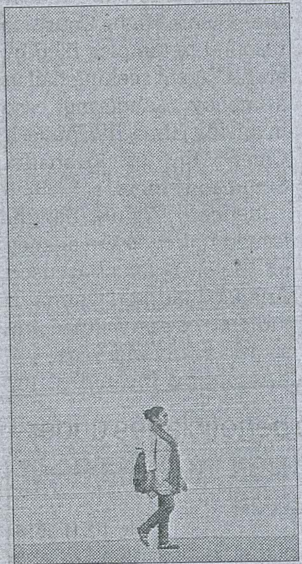
Fog envelops plains, IMD says expect more

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

While winter is yet to arrive, a key feature marking the season in the north-western plains — fog — has already started enveloping many parts of the region. And there is more to come, says the India Meteorological Department, predicting shallow to moderate fog over parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, West Uttar Pradesh and North Rajasthan in the next couple of days.

While the high level of cracker-related toxic pollution is the chief reason (it provided the essential constituent — deadly suspended particulate matter — as the catalyst), other factors required for the weather feature are also currently conducive.



A blanket of fog covers the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

Lower temperatures, presence of moisture in the air and very less movement in the air — the other factors required for the formation of fog — are aiding the presence of high levels of SPM in the air.

The Delhi Pollution Control Board says this Diwali, the minimum and maximum range of deadly PM 2.5 ranged much higher than last year.

While the toxic pollution from the festivities provided the core catalyst, it was aided by relatively lower temperatures, higher humidity levels and low wind activity. Fog is essentially tiny droplets of water suspended in the air, just as a cloud but at the ground level. Across the world, higher level of pollution is helping increasing the thickness of the fog.

Increase in the level of suspended particles in the air are encouraging the formation of more water droplets, hence the increasing phenomenon of a denser fog as being experienced by many parts of the world.

As predicted by the IMD, northern plains can expect more fog over the coming the days as over the next two days a gradual fall in both day and night temperatures is expected over the northwest and parts of central India.

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Straw burning: Centre summons state

The menace has led to poor visibility and rise in air pollution in Delhi

AMAN SOOD
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, NOVEMBER 2

While the state has some reason to cheer as ambient air quality continued to remain good compared to the previous year post-Diwali, stubble burning and low wind speed has added to the woes of Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) following poor visibility and shocking jump in air pollution level. Perturbed, the Centre has summoned Punjab and Haryana to elaborate on the steps taken by them to check air pollution level.

While the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) claims that stubble burning has come down in the state, the Centre has summoned top officials of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Rajasthan on Friday to review the action plan agreed by all the states last year to tackle the situation in the entire NCR.

Officials in Delhi said due to low wind speed and the flow of wind from Punjab towards Delhi, smog had reached alarming proportions

Recent pictures taken by the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) confirm that farmers in Punjab and Haryana continue to burn paddy stubble which is the main reason of thick smog in Delhi and its adjoining areas.

In the past fortnight roughly 400 cases have been registered, many within three days time following a reprimand by the Centre about stubble burning.

"I proposed more cases against farmers who set their fields on fire. However, every time you want to act, local MLA or halqa incharge intervenes and ensures no action is taken against erring farmers," said a senior police officer preferring anonymity.

PPCB chairman Manpreet Singh said,"Our first pretext is that Punjab does not come under the NCR and, therefore, the ambient air quality in the NCR has nothing to do with us," he said.

He added that the Indian Oil Corporation wanted to take land on long-term basis and set up a plant to convert stubble into ethanol and the state was already working on providing 50 acres in Sangrur, which would sort out stubble-burning issue to a larger extent.

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BJD's Jan Sampark rally concludes

Will continue to fight for right over Mahandi waters, says Naveen Patnaik

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BHUBANESWAR: The month-long Jan Sampark Padayatra of the ruling Biju Janata Dal to reach out to people across Odisha to highlight the State government's welfare programmes and the alleged anti-Odisha stand of the Centre on the Mahanadi water dispute concluded on Wednesday.

The concluding ceremony was held in Jajpur district where Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik attended the Padayatra that was followed by a public meeting. Mr. Patnaik also visited Keonjhar district during the day.

Addressing the meeting in Jajpur, Mr. Patnaik said that Mahanadi is the lifeline Odisha and no one can deny the State its share in the river's water. He also announced that he would continue his fight for Odisha's right over the water of Mahanadi.

PREPARING FOR POLLS: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the concluding Jan Sampark Padayatra rally in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. - PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

While addressing a meeting in Keonjhar, Mr. Patnaik announced that the women self-help groups will provide loans up to Rs 3 lakh at one per cent rate of interest.

Similar Padayatras were also organised in several districts across the State on Wednesday where senior BJD leaders were present.

In fact, Mr. Patnaik attended several Padayatras during the month as part of the mass contact programme to garner votes ahead of the gram panchayat elections scheduled to be held in February next year.

What suited the BJD to garner votes during the four weeks was the infighting in the State units of the Opposition Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party.

With the panchayat elections round the corner, Mr. Patnaik has also visited several districts such as Ganjam, Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal apart from Jajpur and Keonjhar over the past few weeks to inaugurate and lay foundation for various projects.

The exercise was apparently aimed at countering the opposition criticism over the Mahanadi water dispute and death of over 80 children in Malkangiri district due to Japanese encephalitis fever during the past two months.

The BJD had been organising the Jan Sampark Padayatra from October 2 to October 11 every year. However, it was extended to one month from October 2 to November 2 this time to strengthen the party's base ahead of the panchayat polls.

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Stop destroying Mahanadi riverbed with festival: NGT

DEBABRATA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, NOVEMBER 2

THE NATIONAL Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked the Odisha government to stop allocating stalls for a festival held on the Mahanadi riverbed in order to save the floodplains.

In the second intermediate order issued on Monday, NGT Eastern Zone bench members Justices S P Wangdi and P C Mishra asked the Odisha government to explain why it should not pass coercive orders for violation of its previous orders on stopping any encroachment and dumping of waste material on Mahanadi riverbed near Cuttack city.

The Mahanadi is Odisha's largest river.

Acting on a petition by noted environmentalist Biswajit Mohanty, the NGT on Tuesday ordered the state government to stop allocating stalls on the riverbed for the 10-day Baliyatra festival starting November 14.

Incidentally, the ruling Biju Janata Dal has accused neighbouring Chhhattisgarh for allegedly taking away much of Mahanadi's water by constructing barrages and dams upstream.

In March, the petitioner had alleged that besides massive encroachment of the riverbed by several government and private bodies over the years, the Baliyatra held every winter encroaches upon at least 24 acres of the river. Mohanty, a former a member of the National Board for Wildlife, had petitioned the NGT that the riverbed and the downstream of the waterbody was being covered with solid waste, including construction debris and household waste.

Reclamation activity is continuing to raise the riverbed, the petition said.

While Cuttack Municipal Corporation had encroached upon Kathjodi river, a tributary of the Mahanadi near Cuttack, by raising the height of the riverbed up to 20-25 feet, another 700 huts and buildings were constructed illegally on Kathjodi riverbed.

The case has been listed for November 11 for next hearing.

Appearing for the petitioner, advocate Sankar Pani contended that despite the July 15 interim order, the state government allocated 45 stalls for the Baliyatra. Pani argued that dumping of plastic and other waste by more than a million visitors to the Baliyatra festival would ruin the river's ecology.

Pani told the bench that trucks used to ferry construction material are being parked on the reclaimed Mahanadi riverbed, thereby compacting the soft soil and damaging the river ecology with leaking lubricants and other pollutants.

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सराहनीय प्रयास

155 गांवों में वर्षा जल रोककर बचाया सालभर का पानी

पत्रिका सोशल प्राइड

सरकारी व आम लोगों का ऐसा अभियान राज्य में पहली बार

पत्रिका न्यूज़ नेटवर्क
patrika.com

कोरबा. सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्र के लगभग 155 गांव के लोगों ने बरसाती पानी रोककर अगले एक साल के लिए पानी बचा लिया। वन विभाग व सिचाईं विभाग ने संसाधन उपलब्ध कराया और लोगों ने परिश्रम किया। अब इन गांवों में इतना पानी संग्रहण हो गया की इससे निस्तारी के साथ खेतों को भी हरा-भरा कर सकेंगें। इस तरह सरकारी अमला व ग्रामीण पहली बार जुटकर इस अभियान को रोशन किया, जो कि प्रदेश में पहली बार देखने को मिला।

पिछले दो साल से कोरबा जिले के सभी तहसील सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्र का दाग झेल चुके हैं। खासकर पोड़ी, पाली व कटघोरा में सौ फीसदी सूखा होने के कारण किसानों व ग्रामीणों को पानी के लिए दर-दर भटकना पड़ता था। इस बार भी यही स्थिति निर्मित हुई। तीनों ही तहसील में बारिश कम हुई। खेतों में फिर से दरार आ गई। कई हजार हेक्टेयर में बोआई तक नहीं हो सकीं। चूंकि इन तीनों ही क्षेत्र पहाड़ों से घिरे हुए हैं। जितनी बारिश होती है वह बह जाती है। संग्रहण बिल्कुल नहीं हो पाता। इन गांव तक पानी पहुंचाना विभाग के लिए टेढ़ी खीर साबित हो रहा था। लिहाजा वन विभाग, सिंचाई विभाग ने सयुंक्त तौर पर एक प्लान बनाया। दोनों ही विभागों ने गांव चिंन्हित किएं। फिर वहां के ग्रामीणों से मिलकर यह अभियान चलाया। इसी का नतीजा रहा की कटघोरा तहसील में 80 जगह व पाली में 75 जगहों पर पानी रोका गया।

कोई बड़ा बजट भी नहीं लगा : इसकी सबसे बड़ी खासियत यह रही की इसमें कोई बड़ा बजट नहीं लगा। वरन हर काम में लंबा फंड मांगा जाता है। जो की कई वर्षो तक चलता रहता है। इस कार्य में वन विभाग व सिंचाई विभाग ने महज खोदाई के लिए जेसीबी मशीन, कुछ बोरे व अन्य समान ही उपलब्ध कराएं। आम लोगों ने जमकर पसीना बहाया।

20 दिन की बारिश ने और उम्मीद बढ़ा दी

यह काम सितंबर के बाद शुरू हुआ। सितंबर के आखिरी पखवाड़े से लेकर अक्टूबर में दशहरा तक रूक-रूक कर हुई बारिश ने इतना पानी दिया की किसानों व ग्रामीणों के चेहरे खिल गए। काम देर से शुरू हुआ पर आखिरी बारिश ने एक साल की प्यास बुझा दी। अब अगले साल बारिश कम भी होगी तो परेशानी नहीं होगी।

नहीं होगी परेशानी

सिंचाई विभाग के साथ योजना बनाकर कटघोरा व पाली के सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में बरसाती पानी रोका गया। एक साल के लिए अब इन गांव के पास पानी है। निस्तारी व खेती किसानी के लिए इनको परेशानी अब नहीं होगी।

एस जगदीशन
डीएफओ, कटघोरा वनमंडल

पत्रिका-3-11-16

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तमिलनाडु सरकार ने खुद अपनी पीठ थपथपाई

केरल को बांध बनाने से रोका

सिरुवानी नदी पर बांध बनाना चाहता है केरल

पत्रिका 3-11-16

एआईएडीएमके का दावा है जयललिता के प्रयासों से केरल ऐसा नहीं कर सका

चेन्नई. तमिलनाडु सरकार ने बुधवार को अपनी पीठ थपथपाते हुए कहा कि मुख्यमंत्री जे. जयललिता के प्रयासों के बाद ही सिरुवानी नदी पर केरल को बांध बनाने से रोका गया है।

सत्तारूढ़ पार्टी एआईएडीएमके द्वारा जारी एक आधिकारिक विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया है कि केंद्र सरकार ने तमिलनाडु सरकार को इस मसले पर एक पत्र लिखा है जिसमें कहा गया है कि पर्यावरण मंत्रालय, वन्य व मौसम विभाग ने विशेषज्ञ समिति द्वारा रिपोर्ट को तबतक स्थगित रखने को कहा है जबतक की सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में विचाराधीन कावेरी जल विवाद का हल न हो जाए।

जयललिता के प्रयासों का उल्लेख करते हुए बयान में कहा गया है कि उन्होंने इस संबंध में कई बार प्रधानमंत्री को पत्र भी लिखा और पड़ोसी राज्य के खिलाफ तमिलनाडु विधानसभा में एक प्रस्ताव भी पारित किया। प्रस्ताव में कहा गया था कि केंद्र सरकार विशेष समिति के सुझावों को स्वीकार न करे। जिसमें उन्होंने केरल और कर्नाटक की सरकार को कावेरी बेसिन पर किसी भी परियोजना को शुरू करने की स्वीकृति दी है।

बयान के अनुसार 2 सितंबर को तमिलनाडु विधानसभा में पारित प्रस्ताव का अंग्रेजी में अनुवाद करवाने के बाद मुख्यमंत्री जयललिता ने प्रधानमंत्री से आग्रह किया कि वे इस मामले में शीघ्र कोई कदम उठाएं।

चेन्नई-तिरुचि के बीच डबल डेकर ट्रेन चलाने का प्रस्ताव

तिरुचि. तिरुचि एवं चेन्नई के बीच बढ़ते यातायात भार को देखते हुए इन दोनों शहरों के बीच डबल डेकर ट्रेन चलाने का प्रस्ताव है। हालांकि इस प्रस्ताव की वजह से उन निजी बस मालिकों को धक्का लगा है जो त्यौहारों एवं अवकाश के दिनों में यात्रियों से मनमाना किराया वसूलते हैं।

गौरतलब है कि यात्रियों की लगातार बढ़ती संख्या की वजह से निजी वाहन चालक यात्रियों को लूट रहे हैं। ऐसे में यात्री सुविधा समिति के इस प्रयास को लेकर लोग काफी उत्साहित हैं। उल्लेखनीय है कि सप्ताह भर पहले इस समिति ने चेन्नई में आयोजित एक बैठक में यात्रियों से जुड़ी यह समस्या उठाई थी जिस पर विचार करते हुए इस प्रस्ताव को आगे बढ़ा दिया गया है।

एक स्थानीय व्यक्ति ने बताया कि इस स्टेशन से होकर रोजाना लगभग 150 ट्रेनें गुजरती हैं और दस हजार के लगभग यात्री हर दिन इस ट्रेनों से सफर करते हैं। इन यात्रियों की संख्या में लगातार बढ़ोतरी हो रही है ऐसे में डबल डेकर ट्रेन यात्रियों के लिए किसी वरदान से कम नहीं होगी।

हाई कोर्ट ने याचिका खारिज की

चेन्नई. मद्रास हाईकोर्ट ने विद्युतलै चिरुतैगल काची (वीसीके) द्वारा महाबलीपुरम स्थित जीआरटी होटल्स एंड रिसॉर्ट द्वारा अतिक्रमण के खिलाफ दायर याचिका को खारिज कर दिया। याचिका में आरोप लगाया था कि होटल ने सार्वजनिक भूमि और कब्रिस्तान पर अतिक्रमण कर रखा है।

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'केंद्र सरकार ने केरल को बांध बनाने से रोका'

पंजाब 3-11-16

चेन्नई, (आईएएनएस): तमिलनाडु सरकार ने बुधवार को बताया कि केंद्र सरकार ने केरल को सिरुवानी नदी पर बांध निर्माण संबंधी गतिविधियां करने से रोक दिया है। तमिलनाडु सरकार ने यहां एक बयान जारी कर कहा कि केंद्र सरकार ने बांध के पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव के आकलन के लिए विशेषज्ञ मूल्यांकन समिति की संस्तुतियों को फिलहाल ठंडे बस्ते में डालने का फैसला किया है। केंद्र सरकार के पत्र के हवाले से बयान में कहा गया, ''इस मामले की जांच पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय कर रहा है और कावेरी जल विवाद प्राधिकरण के आदेश के खिलाफ सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में दायर संदर्भों के सुलझने या तमिलनाडु सरकार की परियोजनाओं के लिए सकारात्मक सहमति मिलने तक विशेषज्ञ मूल्यांकन समिति की संस्तुतियों को स्थगित रखने का फैसला किया गया है।'' तमिलनाडु विधानसभा ने गत 2 सितम्बर को सर्वसम्मति से एक प्रस्ताव पारित कर केंद्र सरकार से केरल में सिरुवानी नदी पर बांध के पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव के आकलन के लिए विशेषज्ञ मूल्यांकन समिति की संस्तुतियों को स्वीकार नहीं करने का अनुरोध किया था। तमिलनाडु सरकार ने केंद्र सरकार से कावेरी प्रबंधन बोर्ड और कावेरी जल नियमन बोर्ड का गठन होने और न्यायिक संदर्भों के हल होने तक केरल और कर्नाटक की किसी परियोजना को स्वीकार नहीं करने का भी अनुरोध किया था। पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की नदी घाटी और जलविद्युत परियोजना के लिए विशेषज्ञ मूल्यांकन समिति द्वारा संस्तुतियां पेश करने के बाद विधानसभा में प्रस्ताव लाया गया था और पारित किया गया था।