

1,700 acres marked as Mangar Bani, NCR's last virgin forest

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GURGAON: The Haryana government has officially demarcated 1,700 acres in the Aravallis as Mangar Bani — the national capital region's last remaining virgin forest. The demarcated area includes 1,100 acres of buffer zone.

A designated committee on Wednesday submitted a letter to the Haryana government containing information on the demarcated and buffer zones.

The demarcation will now help put a ban on any construction in around 2,500 acres of the Aravalli hill region, protecting roughly 60% of the sensitive forest area.

The exact area was marked out with the help of scientific mapping as suggested by the forest department in March 2015.

Officials said a report demarcating Mangar Bani was prepared in March after a request from the deputy commissioner of Faridabad.

"Demarcation of the Mangar Bani and the buffer zone has ended the 20-year-long battle for protecting the forest area," said MD Sinha, conservator of forests, Gurgaon.



■ The demarcation will help put a ban on any construction in and around 2,500 acres of the Aravalli hill region. PARVEEN KUMAR/ HT FILE

The demarcated area currently falls in the revenue village of Mangar, which lies in Faridabad district of Haryana. It is located on the Gurgaon-Faridabad district boundary and is nestled by Bhandwari village of Gurgaon district in the west, Kot village of Faridabad district in the south, Mohbatabad village of Faridabad district in the East and the Delhi-Haryana border in the north.

A GIS based map that clearly indicates the "Khasra" numbers of the Bani and the buffer has been prepared. The total area of Bani and buffer has increased from 600.7 acres and 1136.4 acres to 677.12

acres and 1266.91 acres respectively as per the fresh demarcated area.

In December last year, the Haryana government had approved the watershed ridgeline approach to delineate Mangar Bani as it was found to be more scientific and practical.

"We are trying to preserve the ecology of the Mangar Bani area for the benefit of our future generation," Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar told HT.

Environmental activists, who have been working towards preserving and protecting the area from construction and other commercial activities, hailed the move.

Hottest January in 46 years but highest fog episodes in two decades, shows Met Department data

By: **Express News Service** | New Delhi | Updated: February 4, 2016 9:45 am



Representational image

While this January was the hottest in 46 years, data from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) shows that the month also witnessed one of the highest incidences of fog in nearly 20 years.

The IMD Wednesday said at least 15 cases of dense fog were recorded at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, spread over 429 hours covering almost all days of the month.

Data from December and January shows 750 hours of fog this season. After 2002-2003 which saw 758 hours and 2013-14 with 755 hours, this is the worst fog episode since 1996, said scientists.

New fog measuring and analysing instruments, set up in IGI this year by the IMD and IITM Pune, have shown fog accumulation was seen mostly at night and early morning when temperatures were low.

Dr R K Jenamani, head of IGI Met office in Delhi region, said, "In one particular episode, we saw low clouds and dense fog spells between January 13 and 24. During all these days, visibility was below 1,000 m. This was the fourth highest incidence of fog that Delhi has seen in January in recent years."

The project, chaired by Prof G S Bhatt from Indian Institute of Science and jointly conducted by IITM and IMD, set out to understand scientific aspects of the winter fog formation in Delhi. However, scientists said December barely had any episodes of fog.

Hydro power units, smart cities: what PDP has in mind as CBMs

Written by [Mir Ehsan](#) | Srinagar | Published: February 4, 2016 1:30 am



BJP President Amit Shah and PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti during a presser at the former's residence to formally announce the alliance between the parties for the formation of the state government in J&K in New Delhi on Tuesday. (Express Photo by Tashi Tobgyal)

On Tuesday, when PDP president Mehbooba Mufti called for specific confidence-building measures before she could form a government in Jammu and [Kashmir](#), what she had in mind was pending demands and assurances that could be described as CBMs once the [BJP](#)-ruled Centre started meeting them, PDP sources said Wednesday.

These measures, they said, include transfer of the centrally run Dulhasti (in Kishtwar) and Uri power projects to the state, vacation of land occupied by the Army, more funds to flood-affected people and a smart city each for Jammu and Kashmir, besides an assurance of the longstanding demand for lifting of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.

On Wednesday, Mehbooba was in Jammu where she reiterated what she had said the previous day. "The government has to be formed, but before that there should be some assurance from the Centre," she is said to have told leaders at party headquarters.

Mehbooba has told reporters the CBMs sought are not what was already decided under the "agenda of alliance" chalked out last year before the PDP and the BJP set up their coalition government. A number of the measures PDP leaders cited, however, are part of the agenda. Mehbooba is said to have conveyed to the BJP central leadership that she would like some of the doable items initiated. Mehbooba was in touch with BJP general secretary Ram Madhav.

"They (BJP central leadership) already know what we mean by confidence-building measures," senior PDP leader Nayeem Akthar, a former minister, told [The Indian Express](#) Wednesday.

The two hydroelectric projects, 390MW in Kishtwar and 480MW in Uri, are both run by the NHPC. Of the land the PDP wants the Army to vacate, one stretch is near the Jammu airport, another is the Tatu Ground in Srinagar (Tatu Ground) and one in Kargil, where the government plans to lay an airstrip. The Army recently transferred part of Tatu Ground to the state which is setting up a large park there. The project was inaugurated by late CM Mufti Mohd Sayeed days before he was admitted to hospital.

The PDP has conveyed to the BJP that it wants both Jammu city and Kashmir developed as smart cities; neither was in the first list of 20 announced last week. On Tuesday, Mehbooba had told reporters that the CBMs being sought "will not be only Kashmir-centric, but will also relate to Jammu and Ladakh so as to win the confidence of people of all the regions before the government is formed".

For flood-affected people, the Centre has so far announced Rs 1,200 crore but PDP sources have continued to argue that it is not enough for rehabilitation.

Apart from lifting AFSPA from certain areas of the Valley, other longstanding demands that the PDP wants the Centre to take up include more facilities for trade across the LoC, resumption of a bus service that had been launched in Mufti's previous tenure, and an assurance from the top BJP leadership that the BJP or its allies will not raise controversial issues, particularly Article 370.

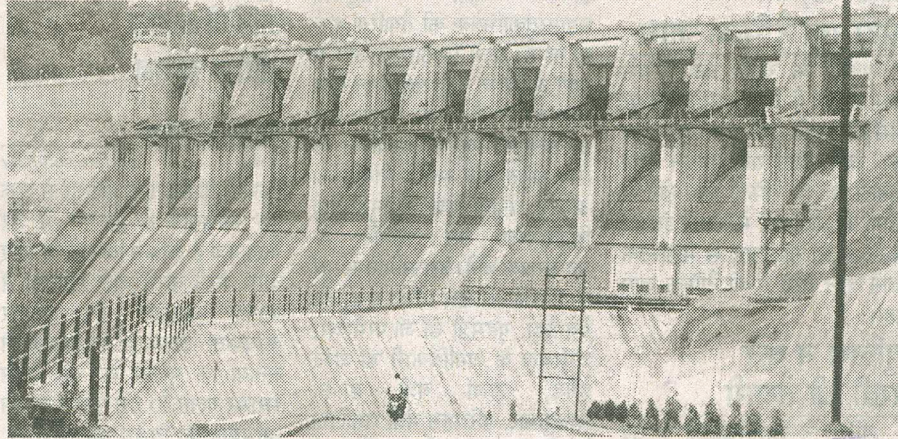
गर्मी से पहले ही बांगो बांध में जल संकट ♦ फरवरी 2015 में 95 फीसदी था पानी, इस साल मात्र 45 प्रतिशत जल भराव

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बांगो बांध में इस वर्ष पानी कम है। 45 प्रतिशत जल भराव होने से जल विद्युत संयंत्र को केवल तीन घंटे चलाया जा रहा है। पानी अधिक होने पर 12-18 घंटे इकाइयों को चलाया जाता है। पिछले साल फरवरी माह में बांध में 95 फीसदी पानी उपलब्ध था। बांगो बांध का निर्माण इस प्रकार किया गया है कि नीचे गेट को खोलने पर पानी, संयंत्र से होकर बाहर आता है। इससे पानी की आपूर्ति तो होती ही है बिजली का उत्पादन भी होता है। 40 मेगावाट की तीन इकाइयों में 120 मेगावाट बिजली बनती है। बांध में पर्याप्त पानी होने पर संयंत्र को 12-18 घंटे तक चलाया जाता है। इस वर्ष संचालन की अवधि घटा दी गई है। इसका कारण बांध में पानी की



कम उपलब्धता को बताया जा रहा है। अधिकारियों का कहना है कि बांगो बांध एतमानगर में बनाया गया है। इसकी पूर्ण जल भराव क्षमता 359 मीटर मीटर है। बारिश कम होने के कारण बांध में इस समय 45

फीसदी पानी है। इसे बचाकर चला जा रहा है ताकि आपातकाल में जल की आपूर्ति की जा सके। **उद्योगों को प्राथमिकता :** बांध के पानी से कोरबा स्थित पाँवर प्लांटों की सांसें चल रही हैं। विद्युत कंपनी

के संयंत्र, एनटीपीसी, बालको व एसईसीएल को पानी की आपूर्ति की जाती है। शहर की जल व्यवस्था भी बांध पर निर्भर है। पानी नहीं मिलने पर विद्युत संयंत्रों का संचालन नहीं हो पाएगा।

खरीफ फसल को पानी

बांध के पानी से खरीफ फसल की सिंचाई की जाती है। जांजगीर-चांपा, कोरबा व रायगढ़ के साथ ही बिलासपुर जिले के कुछ हिस्सों को पानी की सप्लाई की जाती है। प्रत्येक वर्ष की भांति पिछले सीजन में भी खरीफ फसल को पानी दिया गया। रबी फसल को इस वर्ष भी पानी नहीं देने का निर्णय लिया गया है। हालांकि पिछले वर्ष पानी अधिक होने पर भी रबी फसल के लिए पानी नहीं दिया गया था।

बांध में इस समय 45 फीसदी जल भराव है। पानी कम रहने से इसे सहेजकर चला जा रहा है। जल विद्युत संयंत्र का संचालन तीन घंटे हो रहा है।

आरके शिवहरे, कार्यपालन अभियंता बांगो

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