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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.

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4.5.17  
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Encl: As stated above.

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For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,  
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Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
The Hindu  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)  
Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle  
Aaj (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
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The Times of India (A)  
Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English) & Publicity Section, CWC

# MP Assembly declares Narmada living entity

**MILIND GHATWAI**  
BHOPAL, MAY 3

AFTER a long debate that saw legislators quoting Upanishads and Puranas on the floor of the Assembly, the Madhya Pradesh government on Wednesday passed a resolution granting river Narmada the status of a living entity and committed itself to the protection of its legal rights.

A month ago, the Uttarakhand High Court had declared Ganga, Yamuna and their tributaries living entities with the status of a legal person. A week ago, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, while participating in the Narmada Seva Yatra, had suggested that the Madhya Pradesh government bring a Bill in the Assembly to this effect.

While debating the resolution, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that a Bill to provide a legal framework to the resolution will be brought in the Assembly. He said an officer or an organisation will be given the task of filing complaints on behalf of the river against persons indulging in crimes like illegal mining and felling of trees.

"We will not wait for a third party to initiate prosecution proceedings when illegalities are



**Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan with Assembly Speaker Sitasaran Sharma in Bhopal on Wednesday. PTI**

committed against the river. They will be initiated in the name of the river. The living entity status will mean that the Narmada will be owner of all property and litigation for its conservation could be initiated on the river's behalf. The river's biodiversity will be protected. We have exploited rivers so far, now is the time to nourish them," Chouhan said.

Referring to the Narmada Seva Yatra that began on December 11, the CM said, "You may make fun of me and the yatra but, mark my words, it will set an example for the world."

The Congress, however, said the yatra has been launched with

an eye on the next Assembly elections.

MLAs of the Opposition party accused the government of spending crores on inviting actors and performers to the yatra. Congress legislator Mukesh Nayak said, "You are insulting the river by inviting small-time artistes and saying that their presence added to Narmada's glory."

Leader of Opposition Ajay Singh alleged that rampant illegal sand mining was on in the Narmada basin and added that he would wholeheartedly back the resolution if the government announced a blanket ban on mining.

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# Govt's Namami Gange plan hits Didi roadblock

**VITAL PROJECT** Not just river rejuvenation project, the West Bengal government has put a spanner in initiatives by other ministries as well

**Moushumi Das Gupta**

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

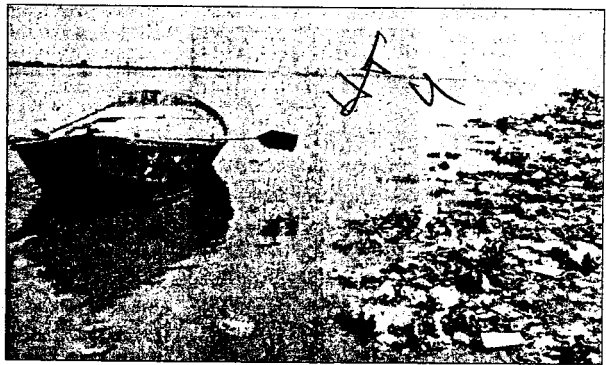
■ **NEWDELHI:** Namami Gange — the Narendra Modi government's ambitious programme to clean and rejuvenate Ganga — is the latest central scheme to hit the roadblock in Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal government.

■ Union water resources minister Uma Bharti has said her patience is wearing thin with the state government's refusal to attend meetings on riverfront projects in the state under the Centre's flagship programme.

■ "They (state government) have a very strange attitude. They don't come for any meetings. I am writing to the West Bengal CM to at least send somebody for meetings. Three projects in the state — riverfront development of Gangasagar, Belur and Dakshineswar — are very important to me," she said.

■ Work has not started in any of these projects because of non-cooperation by the state.

■ The Trinamool government has put a spanner in other ministry initiatives too. The state government has not agreed to come onboard for the Centre's ambitious project to link Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga rivers to



■ The government's ambitious project to clean the Ganga has been met with refusal from the Mamata Banerjee government.

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➤ They (West Bengal government) have a very strange attitude. They don't come for any meetings. I'm writing to the CM to at least send somebody for meetings.

UMA BHARTI, Union water resources minister

provide benefits of irrigation, drinking water and flood control to Assam, West Bengal and Bihar. Despite several letters by Bharti to the CM soliciting her support, the latter has opposed the project, saying it will affect the state's interest.

Banerjee's opposition was also the reason behind the Centre failing to ink the Teesta

water-sharing pact with Bangladesh during PM Sheikh Hasina's visit in April. Besides the ministry's scheme, the Trinamool government has also pulled out of some crucial urban infrastructure projects, such as the smart cities mission. Banerjee has openly criticised the project and said it will promote "inequitable development".