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Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

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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.

P. Mahalingam
6/2/18
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

Sharma
6/2

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
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Hindustan Times
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No common ground in this river water dispute

TAMIL NADU'S HOPE After incurring losses for six years, state's farmers hope rain gods will be kind and Karnataka fair in sharing water so that they are able to harvest profit this year

KARNATAKA'S RESOLVE Cultivators stake claim over river water, stating that if monsoon is bad like in past years, it will be difficult to give water to TN no matter what anyone says

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THANJAVUR: Lush green, swaying samba paddy fields dot the horizon from Tiruchirappalli towards the tail end of Cauvery basin in Tamil Nadu, towards the Bay of Bengal coast in Nagapattinam.

Surely, all must be well with the farming community in TN's rice bowl? Then, did the dramatic farmer protests with tonsured heads and human skulls in Delhi, led by P Ayyakannu, exaggerate farm distress?

A local farmer cautioned the untrained eye, "The greenery can be fleeting."

At the moment, farmers are hoping the rain god is kind and Karnataka fair. For the first time in six years, a section of farmers in the Cauvery delta comprising Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur and parts of Tiruchirappalli are beginning to smell success after a favourable northeast monsoon.

Now, they are desperate for water from Mettur dam, but the Tamil Nadu government is unable to oblige due to acute shortage. Chief minister Edappadi Palaniswami has sought time from his Karnataka counterpart, Siddaramaiah, to urge him to release Cauvery water to save the standing crop.

Deekshita Balasubramaniam, a pros-

A FEW FARMERS SAY THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT KARNATAKA MAY NOT ACCEPT THE APEX COURT'S VERDICT IF IT'S IN TN'S FAVOUR DUE TO THE UPCOMING ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

perous landlord who owns farmland spanning 400 acres at Kallanai in Tiruchirappalli, has suffered extensive losses in the years gone by and is hoping to harvest a profit this time.

"I could withstand (the losses) because I own two colleges and other businesses. But for many, successive crop failures on account of water shortage due to drought and Karnataka's refusal to part with Cauvery water have meant collapse," said Balasubramaniam, the Tiruchirappalli district president of Cauvery Delta Farmers' Association.

Delta farmers need a few more wettings of their standing crop before they harvest. If they don't get water, it will be another year of loss.

NC Kannan, 42, who has a three-acre farm in Thirumalam village located barely 7 km from Bay of Bengal, has fin-

gers crossed. "Every year in the past six years, I lost ₹1.5 lakh. All because of Karnataka," he said. Farmers across the region take the same line.

P Sivagnanabharathi, 56, who has a two-acre farm at Irandansetti village on the outskirts of Mannargudi, said, "Karnataka will not accept the Supreme Court verdict, like it ignored recent orders to release water to Tamil Nadu." Sivagnanabharathi, who is also a state government employee, added, "Even if the SC verdict favours Tamil Nadu, Karnataka will never implement it. With elections in Karnataka, we will become victims again."

T Madan, 26, working on his farmland at Pirinjimulai village near Thalainayur town, said, "Of course, Karnataka will dare the SC again and refuse to accept any order that asks it to give water." Madan, who is pursuing a PhD, added, "Has anyone been able to force Karnataka to give water as per SC order? Unfortunately, politicians in TN are not united as they are in Karnataka when crucial issues come up. We have been left to the mercy of God and Karnataka."

Jeeva Kumar, a farmer welfare activist and CPI(M) member, said, "In the last six years, Tamil Nadu government has not convened a single all-party meeting on the issue, nor sent one delegation to the President, the Prime Minister and authorities concerned."

S Ranganathan, general secretary of Tamil Nadu Cauvery Delta Farmers' Welfare Association, said, "Karnataka has spent more money in desilting its lakes, ponds, canals and rivers, built more dams, whereas in Tamil Nadu, it seems the government and politicians are only interested in sand mining." Ranganathan, whose petition led to the legal battle between the two states on Cauvery water sharing, added, "Rivers have become a source of money for politicians - so they want rivers without water."

Incidentally, Ranganathan is a part of Cauvery Family, a group of farmers from both states who have met for years to find an amicable solution to the water dispute without recourse to courts.

He believes it is possible. "Leave it to farmers of both states. They will settle it," said Ranganathan. So why haven't they been able to resolve the differences? "Politicians have spoiled it," he added.

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MANDYA: Sakkare Nadu or City of Sugar, Mandya, mourned the death of farmer leader Kona Salsala Narasaraaju, 58, on January 30.

Narasaraaju, who had been at the forefront of Karnataka Rajya Rythu Sangha's agitation for Cauvery water, had died five days ago. A firebrand farmer leader, he had always insisted the state's farmers had the first right on Cauvery water.

Mandya is no stranger to farmer suicides and one-and-a-half years ago, Narasaraaju had warned of more such deaths if water was sent to Tamil Nadu instead of Karnataka's needy farmers in the Cauvery basin comprising Mandya, Mysore, Chamarajanagar.

People mourning him promised to be as determined.

"Water for me first and then for anyone else," said his son, Chetan Kumar, a farmer and schoolteacher. "There could be fresh trouble as the Supreme Court verdict may go Tamil Nadu's way because their lawyers are better. This year monsoon has been good, but if it is bad like in the past few years, it will be difficult to give water to Tamil Nadu no matter what anyone says."

Passions ran high among the mourn-

LOCALS WARN OF FRESH TROUBLES, LIKE THE VIOLENT PROTESTS THAT BROKE OUT ACROSS THE STATE TWO YEARS AGO, IF TOP COURT TELLS KARNATAKA TO RELEASE WATER TO TN

ers, who congregated at Pravasi Mandir in Mandya town, as they formed a human chain for peace and communal harmony.

A mention of Cauvery water-sharing dispute and the impending Supreme Court verdict sparked off an intense discussion. Most participants insisted Tamil Nadu was at fault.

Two years ago, when the Supreme Court ordered Karnataka to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu, violent protests erupted in Bengaluru and Mandya, where pro-Kannada activists torched business establishments owned by Tamilians and attacked vehicles bearing Tamil Nadu registration. The IT sector too witnessed disruptions, hurting the brand Bengaluru image.

Ahead of the SC verdict, people in Mandya are hopeful it will protect Karnataka's interests.

Ramakrishnayya, state secretary of Karnataka Rashtra Rythu Sangha, "Giving Tamil Nadu the demands is just not possible."

According to him, it "is not just even the Centre and the Cauvery Disputes Tribunal are against low farmers nodded in agreement. rain is good, we can give water to Tamil Nadu. If the rain is poor, how can it to them? We will not allow water to be given to Tamil Nadu until all of us get all the water they need," said Krishnayya.

Local leaders are equally concerned. Puttannaiah, MLA of Melukote constituency and a farmer himself, said, "reducing the quantum of water to Tamil Nadu from the present 1,200 million cubic feet (mcf) to 1,000 mcf. Let us wait for the judgment. take a call only after seeing the results."

Educationalist TV Mohandas hoped the Supreme Court would rectify the injustice meted out to farmers. "Way back in 1924, when Tamil Nadu was under the Madras Presidency, it got the water through the Government of the British."

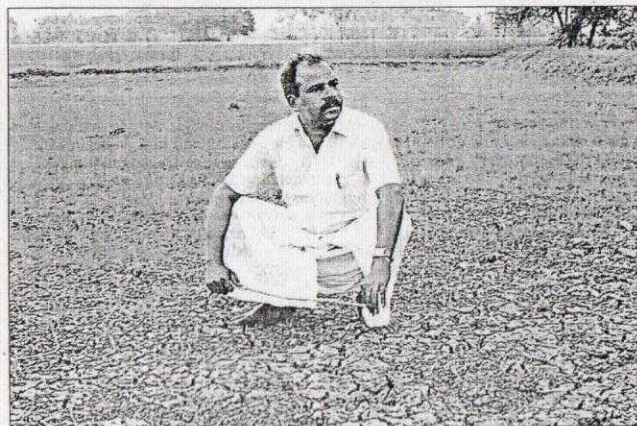
Mandya farmers believe the government will consider the reality that Karnataka is the biggest dry land state in the country after Rajasthan and do justice to the farmers.

Not all voices are rigid, though. Channarayana Channarayana, a farmer from southern Karnataka, said, "A solution will have to be reached through a dialogue between farmers of both states. This is in line with what the Cauvery Delta Farmers' Welfare Association, also believes. However, Ranganathan, Channarayana and other politicians "for the current moment."

Former IAS officer of Karnataka, Renuka Viswanathan, an aspiring MLA from the AAP Party (AAP), said, "Politicians feed on conflicts, whip up emotions and find a convenient exit."

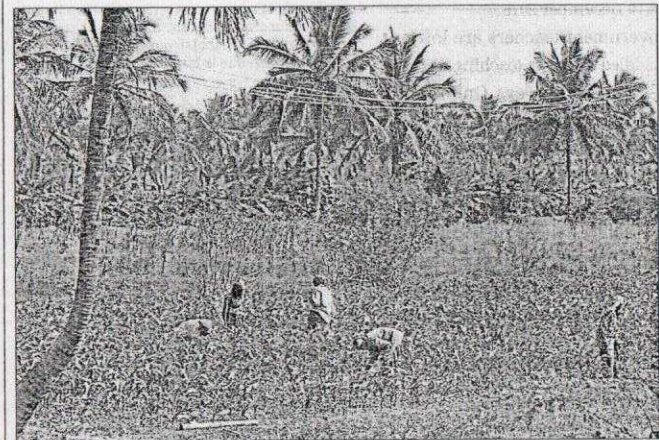
She said the issue should be resolved by the farming communities of the two states themselves.

"But one thing for sure is that we need to use water efficiently in our crops well," said the farmer, who worked with the Commission, now scrapped after Niti Aayog.



• Tamil Nadu farmer NC Kannan says he has been incurring losses of over ₹1 lakh for the past six years due to Karnataka not releasing Cauvery water.

S RAJA/HY



• Karnataka's farmers want the SC to protect their interests as they believe that the Centre and Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal are 'against them'.

ARJIT SEN/HY

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Water pumps take mining to new depths

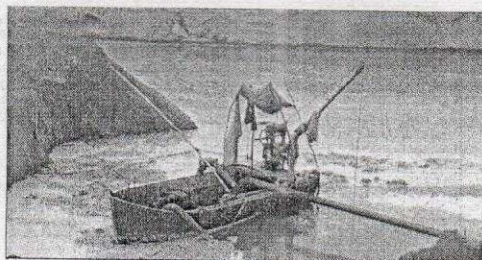
Illegal operation in Faridkot district creating huge cavities inside earth

BADWANT GARG
TRAINING NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, FEBRUARY 5

Illegal sand mining is touching new depths in Punjab, both figuratively and literally. After mining sand up to the permitted depth of around 10 feet, contractors in this area have now started using submersible pumps to extract sand from deep inside earth, leaving the surface open to ecological disaster, apart from causing huge loss of precious ground water.

Condition No. 46(a) of the agreement between the Department of Industries and Commerce, which auctions mines, and the bidders, lays down that mining can be done only to a depth of 3 metres in the plains, which is measured from the un-



A boat-like platform used to support the rig that pumps out sand along with water at a mine in Faridkot district. A small lake is created as water spreads out, leaving behind the sand. The picture was taken by a local source who did not want to be identified for reasons of safety.

mined ground level.

Submersible pumps designed to suck up water are being used to extract sand mixed with the water from the sand-rich layers of the earth. One such site being exploited in violation of

the Punjab Minor Minerals Rules, 2013, spotted by *The Tribune* is in an area of about 2.5 hectare in Dod village of Faridkot district.

The extraction technique causes a huge loss of ground water, which spreads out

while leaving the heavy sand in huge mounds. With unrestricted pumping up of sand, massive hollows are created in the deep layers of earth, which can cave in any time, and expose the top layers to erosion. Apart from environmental disaster, it also poses a threat to life and property.

Contractors drill a new hole once sand supply from one bore is exhausted or the cavity becomes too large, thereby softening the ground. The particular land seen by *The Tribune* is owned by Daljit Singh, a former sarpanch of Dhillwan Khurd, a village adjoining Dod. His land has been auctioned for mining, for which he is to officially receive a compensation of Rs 1.54 lakh every three months.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Water pumps...

While he claimed 2.5 hectare of his land was allotted to Hira Singh, a contractor from Kotkapura, as per record the land auctioned in the area is only 1.21 hectare for Rs 24.59 lakh. The contractor has even extended his illegal operation to adjoining land that falls in the neighbouring Sadhuwala village. The conditions for mining also mandate excavation time from 6 am to 7 pm in summer (April 1-September 30) and 7 am to 5 pm in winter (October 1-March 31). However, the operation on this site is carried on 24 hours a day, using mechanical dredgers and suction pumps.

While contractor Heera Singh did not respond to repeated phone calls, Mandep Singh and Deepak Kumar, who identified themselves as caretakers for the contractor's work, denied there was any violation of rules. Baljinder Singh, mining inspector for the area, also refuted allegations of illegal mining, saying, "I have received no such complaint thus far, but will check now."

On how a small lake had been created in the mining area, in which the submersible pump is mounted on a boat-like contraption, Baljinder Singh claimed the

water table there was high, which caused seepage once mining was done.

Condition No. 50 of the agreement also stipulates that excavation cannot be done at a level below the water table. The contract can be cancelled for violation of this rule. Gurnant Singh, General Manager-cum-Mining Officer, Faridkot, also did not respond to repeated phone calls. He is in charge of four districts: Faridkot, Fazilka, Moga and Ferozepur.

Hira Singh has been allowed to annually extract 10,279 tonnes of sand from Dod village. To ensure the limit is observed, the contract requires a weighing machine to be installed at the pit-head, and details of each measured vehicle have to be sent electronically to the mining officer. However, no such scale could be spotted in the area.

To get a high price for the sand, the contractor allegedly is also using political influence to get the traffic police to prevent trucks of sand from adjoining districts to sell in Faridkot. As the quality of surface sand in Faridkot is poor, people are forced to buy the sand extracted from deep. Dr Nanak Singh, SSP, Faridkot, said he would look into any illegal action of the traffic police.

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INLD wants SYL canal completed soon

Urges adherence to SC order on compensation to farmers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Haryana's principal Opposition party, the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), on Monday asked the Centre to take steps for an early completion of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal.

Leader of the Opposition in Haryana Assembly Abhay Singh Chautala-led delegation met Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari and impressed upon him the early completion of the SYL canal as directed by the Supreme Court. They also requested him to urge the Haryana government to follow the Supreme Court directive regarding compensa-



Abhay Chautala ■ FILE PHOTO

tion to the farmers whose land is to be acquired for the Dadupur-Nalvi canal and continue with the project.

Mr. Chautala drew the attention of Mr. Gadkari to the fast depleting ground water in the State. "As it is, South Haryana has already be-

come 'dark zone' and a worried Supreme Court has put restrictions on construction. North Haryana, the basmati bowl of the State, too has slipped in the 'critical' zone. Thus almost the whole of the State is sliding towards 'dark' zone and hence would become infertile and desert due to unavailability of water," he said. This would have serious repercussions on the social and economic front, he added.

Mr. Chautala said that Mr. Gadkari assured them that if the Dadupur-Nalvi canal project were scrapped, the Centre would contribute towards meeting the additional expenses.

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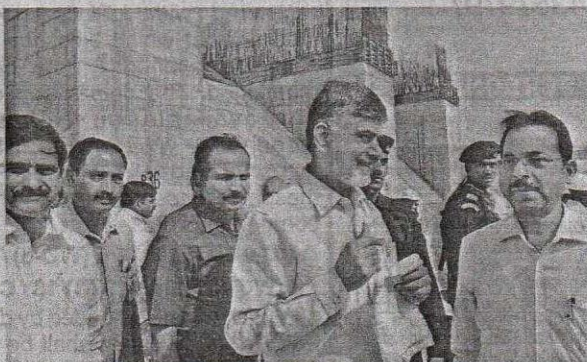
Centre gave only ₹4,329 cr. for Polavaram, but A.P. has spent ₹7,779 cr.

Figures provided to Chandrababu Naidu during weekly review of project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh government has spent ₹7,779.52 crore so far on Polavaram after it was declared a national project but the Central Government gave the state only ₹4,329 crore till December 2017, according to the figures revealed at the 50th weekly review on the project conducted by Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu held at Secretariat here on Monday.

Officials told the Chief Minister that a total of ₹4,375.73 crore would be required for the completion of structures in the Diversion Channel, that is, the Approach channel, Spillway, Spill Channel, Pilot Channel and Radial Gates. The state government had already spent ₹1,531.53 crore on these components and



A file photo of A.P. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the Polavaram project site. ■ A.V.G. PRASAD

another ₹2,844.20 crore are needed for their completion. The total expenditure on Polavaram project so far including the amount spend by previous Government is ₹12,915 crore.

The Chief Minister complimented the officials and engineers for working without rest for the past three

and-a-half years. Reviewing the status of the project he said 53% of the entire project had been completed to date. With regard to the status of the different components of the project, 91% of the right main canal that connected Godavari River to the River Krishna was completed. The status of the remaining com-

ponents is Left Main Canal 60%, Head works (structures at dam site) 39%, while excavation for Spillway, Spill Channel was 71% completed, the concrete work for the same structures was only 14% completed. The fabrication for the radial gates was 58% completed.

Water conservation

The 116-day water conservation movement which has been given the title, "Jala Samrakshana Udyama Spoorthi" would begin on February 12 and go on till June 7, the Chief Minister announced in the Neeru-Pragathi Review meeting held before the Polavaram review meeting.

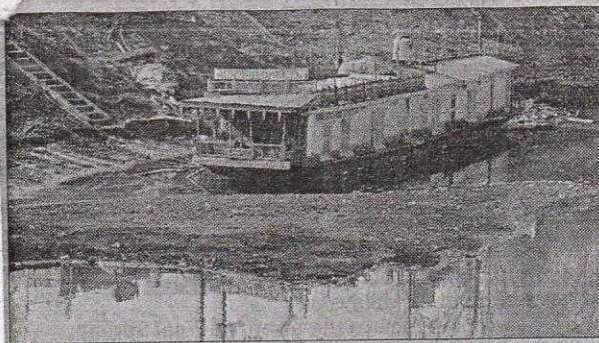
The status of the 28 priority Irrigation Projects to be completed by the end of the financial year was also reviewed by the Chief Minister.

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A houseboat on the partially dried Jhelum in Srinagar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Winter fades, so does hope for snowfall

AZHAR QADRI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 5

This year, bright sunny days remained the defining feature in the Valley during the past month as the temperatures remained quite high and caused a premature departure of the region's harshest winter period.

The day temperature throughout January and for the last few days has been described as "marked high" in the series of weekly reports by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

The lack of precipitation recorded this winter is the worst in at least last six years as the state received only 4-mm rainfall, a drop of 95 per cent from the normal 97 mm. Moreover, the prolonged dry spell has now entered seventh month.

According to the latest weekly forecast of the IMD, Kashmir will receive no major snowfall next week as only isolated precipitation and dry weather forecast has been made in the region.

The absence of a major snow spell throughout winter and lack of its possibility has triggered an alarm of drought in the region.

The Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, which is tasked at supplying water in the region, has directed its divisions to prepare a drought action plan for the coming months as water resources were depleting.

"If the situation continues to remain like this, we will face water scarcity everywhere," Abdul Wahid, Chief Engineer, PHE Department, Kashmir, told *The Tribune*.

He said the rivers and streams were quickly drying up across the region and "even the groundwater was depleting" due to the prolonged dry spell.

Wani said the department had already initiated "water rationing" and was intermittently releasing the supply to the region's villages and towns. "Also, the department was preparing a drought action plan, which will be ready within a week," he added.

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INLD seeks early completion of SYL

Party delegation urges Gadkari to influence Haryana govt

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 5 FEBRUARY

Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) on Monday urged the Union government for early completion of the Satluj-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal according to the directions of the Supreme Court (SC) to the Centre.

A delegation led by Leader of the Opposition, Abhay Singh Chautala, met the Union water resources minister, Nitin Gadkari, also requested him to urge the BJP government in Haryana to follow the SC directive regarding compensation to the farmers whose land is to be acquired for the Dadupur-Nalvi canal and continue with the project.

The INLD delegation impressed upon the Union Minister that even though the primary objective of both, SYL canal and Dadupur-Nalvi canal is irrigation yet the second objective of recharging



Nitin Gadkari and Abhay Singh Chauhan

ground water was equally important since it has long term impact on the society as a whole.

The SC has accepted that SYL canal is the life-line of the State, he said, and the country suffers huge annual loss in agricultural production when the State is deprived of its legitimate share of river waters. But apart from this, the demographic pressures of the past few decades have also

thrown up new challenges that need to be urgently addressed, the INLD said.

Chautala said the ground water in the state is fast depleting. As it is south Haryana has already become 'dark zone' and a worried SC has put restrictions on construction. North Haryana, the Basmati bowl of the state that exports Basmati worth crores of rupees annually, too has slipped in 'critical' zone.

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गंगा जल भरा पड़ा है औषधीय खजाने से

नयी दिल्ली, (भाषा):
पौराणिक काल से 'ब्रह्म द्रव्य' के
रूप में प्रचलित गंगा नदी के
औषधीय गुणों एवं प्रवाह मार्ग पर
जल के स्वरूप एवं इससे जुड़े
विभिन्न कारकों एवं विशेषताओं
का पता लगाने के लिए शुरु कराये
गये अध्ययन का दायरा

बढ़ाया गया है और अब
इसके स्वास्थ्य पर
पड़ने वाले प्रभावों
की जांच परख की
जा रही है। जल
संसाधन, नदी
विकास एवं गंगा
संरक्षण मंत्रालय के

एक अधिकारी ने 'भाषा'
को बताया कि गंगा के औषधीय
गुणों के बारे में पहले से ही अध्ययन
चल रहा है और अब इसका दायरा
बढ़ाया गया है। राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा
मिशन ने कुछ समय पहले 4.96
करोड़ रुपये की अतिरिक्त राशि
को मंजूरी प्रदान की है। गंगा के
औषधीय गुणों का अध्ययन राष्ट्रीय
पर्यावरण इंजीनियरिंग शोध संस्थान
(निरि) ने किया है। इसकी रिपोर्ट
सरकार को सौंप दी गई है। उन्होंने
कहा कि 'गंगा नदी में औषधीय गुण
हैं जिसके कारण इसे 'ब्रह्म द्रव्य'
कहा जाता है और जो इसे दूसरी
नदियों से अलग करता है। यह कोई
पौराणिक मान्यता का विषय नहीं
है, बल्कि इसका वैज्ञानिक आधार
है। इस बारे में निरी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट
सौंप दी है। उन्होंने कहा, 'अब
स्वास्थ्य पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों के
बारे में अध्ययन शुरू किया गया
है।' विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि
गंगा जल में बैक्टीरियोफेज पाये

गंगा

संरक्षण को लेकर
बराबर स्टडी चल रही
है और सरकार इस पर
गंभीरतापूर्वक नीति
भी बनाएगी



जाते हैं जो इसे सड़न
से बचाते हैं। ऐसे में
इनके संरक्षण की
जरूरत है। अधिकारी

ने बताया कि गंगा नदी पर
शोध कार्य के बारे में 4.96
करोड़ रुपये की अतिरिक्त राशि को
मंजूरी प्रदान की गई है। गंगा नदी के
औषधीय गुणों एवं प्रवाह मार्ग से जुड़े
कारणों के अध्ययन का दायित्व राष्ट्रीय
पर्यावरण इंजीनियरिंग शोध संस्थान
(निरि) को दिया गया था। इसके लिए
तीन मौसमों के अध्ययन की जरूरत
थी और इसके उपरांत संस्थान ने अपनी
रिपोर्ट पेश कर दी है। इस अध्ययन
को केंद्र को तीन चरणों में पूरा करना
था, जिसमें शीतकालीन, पूर्व मानसून
और उत्तर मानसून मौसम में गंगा नदी
के 50 से अधिक स्थलों पर नमूनों का
परीक्षण किया गया है। इस अध्ययन
एवं अनुसंधान परियोजना को पंद्रह
महीनों में पूरा किया जाना था। इस
अध्ययन में गंगा जल के विशेष
गुणधर्मों के स्रोतों को पहचानने की
प्रक्रिया थी।

इसी तरह नदी के पानी में मिलने
वाले प्रदूषित जल के अनुपात से होने
वाले दुष्परिणामों का पता लगाना भी
एक हिस्सा था।

मे.जा.ख-8-2-18