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# Water wars are the new normal

With depleting resources, industry should find ways to reduce consumption

**T**he thirsty summer months are not yet here but already tempers are rising in some parts of the country over access to water. Last week, protests erupted in drought-hit Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district after the Madras High Court lifted a ban, allowing two major cola companies to draw water from the Thamirabarani river. **ourtake** The ruling came on a PIL filed by activists who submitted that the river supported drinking water projects and irrigation. The PIL contended that drawing of water for the bottling plants will make farming difficult. The public works department, however, claimed that there was sufficient water in the river and only surplus water was given to companies.

For now, this case may have gone in favour of the cola companies, but conflagrations over water between communities and industry are becoming a new normal in India. While no government can afford to allow its people go thirsty, it cannot also allow industry to be hit. For a quick review of the nightmare staring at us and how drought can hit industry, let's go back to what happened last year: 13 states were declared drought-hit and an industry estimate said that several categories — thermal power plants, iron and steel, agro-based food products and beverages, textiles, and pulp and paper — were operating below their optimal production capacities.

While governments will have to find better ways of equitable distribution, industry can do a lot to increase their water use efficiencies by using less freshwater per unit of product produced, measured against a certain baseline. The CII-Triveni Water Institute and the Confederation of Indian Industry's Centre of Excellence on Water have made several recommendations for industries: Making water audits of all water users compulsory; making municipal and industry connect so that treated municipal sewage could be used by industry for its various needs; incentivise wastewater recycling; rainwater harvesting and policy reforms and progressive measures for innovations, conservation and efficient utilisation of resources. Additionally, it has also advised its members to undertake watershed-based district and sub-district level water resources planning using state-of-the-art hydrological tools and techniques such as the WATSCAN (Water Resources Evaluation and Management Tool) which identifies areas of high and low water generation, accumulation and losses and a basket of strategies for an improved water scenario. The crisis is real for people and industry in India; court orders can at best be short-term solutions.

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# Centre dithers on Western Ghats issue

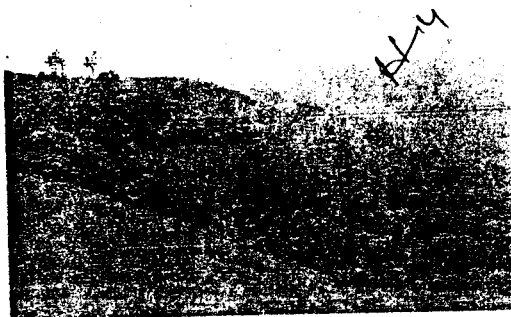
States have forced the MoEF to consistently delay imposing Ecological Sensitive Area restrictions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Environment Ministry has dithered, for the second time in three years, from bringing into force a law that will make about 56,825 sqkm of the ecologically-rich Western Ghats out of bounds for industrial development.

On February 27, the government resuscitated a draft notification that was first published in March 2014 that specified how much land in various coastal States encompassing the Western Ghats would be earmarked as practically-inviolable. Because it wasn't made into a final law – thanks to objections from States – this lapsed in a year and a half and on September 2015, a fresh draft notification with the same numbers was reintroduced. This too would expire on March 4.

The reiterated February notification – open to public



A file photo of the Western Ghats in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka. K. MURALI KUMAR

comment for 60 days – allows the Centre to create an Ecological Sensitive Area (ESA) in the Western Ghats (WG), a 1,500 km, ecologically-rich strip along the west coast spanning Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Regions declared as the ESA will not be allowed to host mining and quarrying pro-

jects and building thermal power plants.

## Gadgil committee

Ever since a committee headed by ecologist Madhav Gadgil recommended in 2011 that all of the Western Ghats be declared as the ESA – with only limited development allowed in graded zones – States have forced

the Centre to consistently delay imposing the ESA restrictions. A committee headed by K. Kasturirangan, former ISRO chairman, recommended that only about 60,000 sq km – or about 37% of the WG and a significant reduction from that of the Gadgil committee – be declared as ESA.

Kerala managed to get this down to about 56,825 sqkm after widespread protests and an all-party resolution in the State forced the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) to exclude 3,117 sqkm of settlements and agricultural land in the State from the ESA. Last week, the Chief Secretary of the State wrote to the MoEF that a further 887 sqkm of non-forest land be reduced.

## Fresh representation

Multiple officials in the MoEF told *The Hindu* that the 2017 notification, though

technically open to public comment only for 60 days, would not automatically become law after that period. On the contrary, it paved the way for fresh representation from States on how much area could be demarcated as the ESA. "There has been no response from Tamil Nadu so far and next month we are even planning to discuss if there should be State-specific limits at all," said an official privy to proceedings. "We have to be sensitive to the needs of development as well as conserving the pristine nature of the WG," the official said.

Union Environment Minister Anil Dave is expected to have fresh meetings with States on the issue next month.

Another source familiar with the matter said a draft notification allowed the government 545 days to decide on taking a final call.

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## **Indus water talks with Pak on March 20<sup>17</sup>**

**LAHORE:** India and Pakistan will hold parleys on various aspects of Indus Waters Treaty in Lahore on March 20-21. The meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission will take place nearly six months after New Delhi suspended talks in view of the Uri terror attack by Pakistan-based outfits. The meeting is being held as the treaty makes it mandatory to hold talks at least once in a fiscal. India's Indus water commissioner and MEA officials will be part of Indian delegation. — PTI

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# Stand ground on IWT

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## Indus Waters Commissioner must insist on sticking to treaty provisions

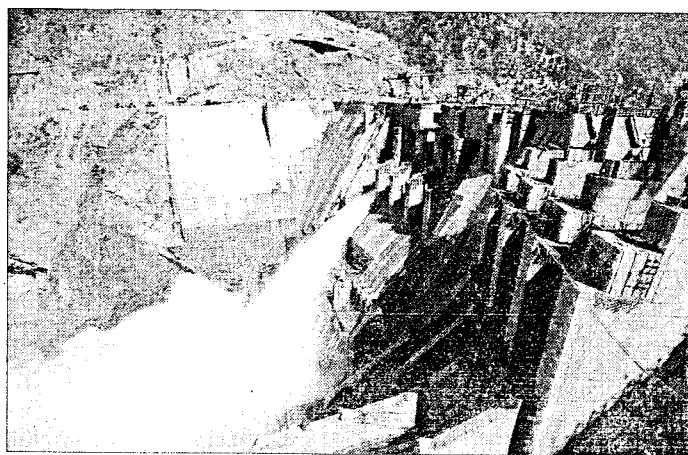
VIVEK KATJU

INDIA and Pakistan's Indus Waters Commissioners are expected to meet later this month in Pakistan, though the dates of the meeting have not been announced as yet. India's decision to allow the commission to meet could only have been taken with a nod from Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself. Does it connote a softening in the hard but appropriate approach he had adopted towards Pakistan after the Uri attack in September last year? Besides, will this meeting have a bearing on the impasse that has developed between the two countries in resolving their differences over the Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project (KHEP) and Pakistan's objections on the Ratle project on the Chenab?

During the recent Punjab Assembly election campaign, Modi asserted that India would use all the water assigned to it under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). In actual terms, it means using the full potential of the Ravi, Beas and Sutlej rivers, which are assigned to India in the treaty. In so doing, he became the first Prime Minister to refer to the IWT in these terms and that was correctly taken to be part of India's post-Uri terrorist attack aggressive approach towards Pakistan. Importantly though, these assertions in themselves did not, in any way, mean abrogating the treaty or a departure from any of its provisions.

Clearly, Modi exercised care in formulating the remarks he personally made on the IWT. The comments attributed to Modi in a briefing meeting on the IWT that was held eight days after the Uri attack went beyond what Modi has said himself on the treaty. Sources told the media that Modi had made it clear that blood and water cannot flow together and that the Indus Waters Commissioners could only meet in an atmosphere free from terror. All this obviously sought to convey the impression that Pakistan should not take India's commitment to the IWT for granted.

Major terrorist attacks against Indian army installations took place after the Uri attack, though since General Qamar Bajwa took over as Pakistan army chief after the retirement of General Raheel Sharif in November last year terrorist



The Baglihar power project on the Chenab at Chanderkote. FILE PHOTO

attacks have abated and provocations along the Line of Control and the International Border have also come down. However, there is no indication that Pakistan has done a rethink on the pursuit of low-intensity war against India. In these circumstances, the permission given to the Indus Waters Commissioners to meet indicates that particularly the remarks attributed to Modi in the wake of the Uri attack were part of the domestic political management exercises that successive Indian governments have undertaken after major Pakistani terrorist strikes. The twists and turns that Indian governments take as part of such political management only reinforce Pakistani prejudices about India's

as India's hitherto forceful and correct stand were given by this writer in these columns on January 9 this year.

Over the past two months, the World Bank has attempted to resolve the impasse that threatens the IWT. Its new CEO, Kristalina Georgieva, visited Pakistan in end January and India last week. In Pakistan she met Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his colleagues. Predictably, they maintained that KHEP and the Ratle project violated the IWT and insisted on the convening of a Court of Arbitration to resolve the dispute. However, the World Bank "pausing" the untenable dual track approach it undertook continues to seek to find a way that the two countries

If the treaty were now to become unworkable because of current differences, then the onus for the failure would lie not only on Pakistan but also on the World Bank.

lack of stamina.

The question now is will India show stamina in insisting that the provisions of the IWT be adhered to in the settlement of differences over KHEP and the Ratle project? This is especially when by agreeing to the meeting of the Indus Waters Commissioners India is respecting the treaty. Article VIII (5) mandates that the commission shall meet at least once a year, but also when requested by either commissioner. The background to the KHEP and the Ratle project disputes as well

will accept and then formally move it under the bilateral dispute resolution mechanism envisaged by the treaty.

In this context, the Bank's official media release of Georgieva's discussions in Pakistan on KHEP and the Ratle project is revealing. It states, "Maintaining a neutral role as a Treaty signatory the World Bank in December announced a pause in the separate processes initiated by India and Pakistan under the IWT to allow the countries to consider alternate ways to resolve their differences." It invoked

the spirit of the treaty and cautioned, "Pursuing concurrent processes could make the treaty unworkable over time."

The fact is that no extent of obfuscation can hide the mess that the World Bank has made in handling Indian and Pakistani differences over KHEP and the Ratle project. Neutrality cannot imply avoidance to make a determination that under the IWT provisions, the Indian request for a neutral expert to go into these differences was correct and the Pakistani demand for a Court of Arbitration was not sustainable. If the treaty were now to become unworkable because of current differences, then the onus for the failure would lie not only on Pakistan but on the World Bank too. This would be ironic, for the Bank played a principal role in the making of the IWT.

Pakistani media reports indicate that it is not interested in the commissioners trying once again bilaterally to find a resolution to differences on KHEP and the Ratle project. This may be mere posturing or a way of putting pressure on the World Bank to seek concessions from India on the design of the project and the volume of water in the KHEP reservoir. Re-engaging Pakistan bilaterally on the current differences is in keeping with India's overall emphasis on direct talks between the two countries on all outstanding issues. However, while doing so it is not only essential not to concede ground on the position that India has taken on substantive issues but also to insist that it would be without prejudice to its position on the neutral expert.

Pakistan has mismanaged its water resources. As Tilak Devasher notes in "Courting the Abyss", his recent excellent study of Pakistan, "Pakistan has become a water-scarce country from a water-abundant one in 1947. It is in danger of becoming an absolute water-scarce country by 2035." Instead of taking steps to ameliorate its water situation, it blames India for denying its share of the waters under the IWT. However, as Devasher reveals, Rao Irshad Ali, chairman of Pakistan's Indus River System Authority, repudiated these charges. He told the Pakistan Senate in July 2015, "Reports in media about India getting more water is propaganda."

The writer is former Foreign Secretary

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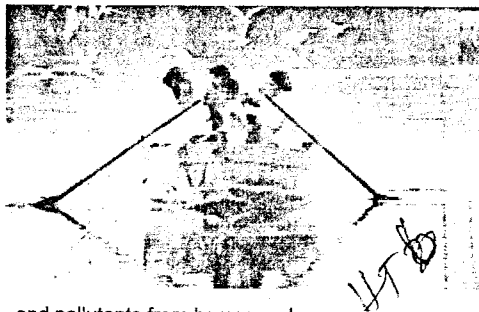
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## CLEAN YAMUNA: MOVING FROM DREAMS TO REALITY

Delhi: The Delhi Government has made giant strides in planning and implementing a massive River Cleaning project on the River Yamuna in Delhi. Living up to its promise of cleaning the Yamuna, the Delhi Government initiated the innovative project of Interceptor sewer with about 50 MGD of wastewater flows being trapped from the drains and are now being treated at the Sewage Treatment Plants. Recently, a formal tie-up with Israel's Ayala has been initiated to clean Bhalaswa to Surghat stretch of the Supplementary drain. The project envisages to clean water through phytoremediation and constructing wetlands. Particular shrubs and trees will be planted, apart from placing elements like gravels and limestone, which will absorb chemicals



and pollutants from homes and factories. The entire project is an inexpensive, natural and easy method of cleaning the river. The Delhi Government led by CM Arvind Kejriwal brought people to the bank of Yamuna by conducting the Yamuna Aarti. This traditional oblation to the Yamuna

resulted in a sense and feeling of ownership amongst the citizens of Delhi and clean the Yamuna by not dumping waste into the holy river. The Delhi Government also opened the 'NakshatraVatika' - a garden developed on the theme of astrology - at the Yamuna riverfront to beautify the riverfront and help clean up the river. The idea behind the garden was to deter people from polluting the river and the surrounding area. The Yamuna Riverfront development project is underway and will look at the immediate interventions required, such as enhancement of tree cover,

improvement of existing gardens, landscaping, water sports facilities, bird watching and nature trails, and separate ghats for idol immersions. The riverfront will be beautified and cleaned by creating wetlands and growing plants that will help filter and clean the sewage that flows into the river. Last but not the least, the Delhi Government has created the Yamuna Action Plan and submitted it to the Central Government. The Yamuna Action Plan lists scientific ways and means like the creation of new STPs, deployment of trash skimmers, among other things for the purposes of cleaning the Yamuna. The government of Delhi is awaiting a nod from the Central Government on the Yamuna Action Plan.

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## Crossing a bridge

India has done the right thing by deciding to attend the Indus Waters Treaty meet

Even in the fraught and volatile framework of India-Pakistan ties, the Permanent Indus Commission mandated to implement the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) has met like clockwork, 112 times in 56 years, annually in each country. The commission has experts who look into issues and disputes on the ground over the utilisation of the waters of six rivers of the Indus system. Under the treaty, India has full use of the three "eastern" rivers (Beas, Ravi, Sutlej), while Pakistan has control over the three "western" rivers (Indus, Chenab, Jhelum), although India is given rights to use these partially as well for certain purposes. As a result, there should be little to comment in the normal course when India accepts Pakistan's invitation to the next round of talks, as it has for the Permanent Indus Commission in Lahore later this month. The move is welcome, as it denotes India's commitment to the treaty that has stood the test of time and war, and also displays New Delhi's sincerity on the issue of water-sharing, given that the IWT is seen to be a model in dispute management. In September last year, doubts had been raised over India's commitment after the terrorist attack on an army camp in Uri, killing 19 soldiers. In the days that followed, senior officials announced the suspension of talks until there was an "atmosphere free of terror" after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a review meeting on the treaty to consider retaliatory measures against Pakistan for the attack, saying, "blood and water cannot go together". Mr. Modi repeated some of those angry sentiments at public rallies where he said India would not allow even a "drop of water" to go waste into Pakistan. The atmosphere was also charged after the government announced "surgical strikes" had been carried out along the Line of Control and subsequently pulled out from the SAARC summit in Pakistan, leading to fears of a freeze in bilateral ties.

In the event, the government has chosen wisely, with some encouragement from the World Bank and persistence by Pakistan, to step back from much of that rhetoric, and allow IWT commissioners from both countries to meet. The decision follows several other moves between India and Pakistan in the past few weeks indicating a softening of positions on some other issues as well: from a marked reduction in LoC firing, the regular annual exchange of nuclear lists, the release of prisoners by both countries, and India being part of the consensus to elect the Pakistani nominee as the SAARC Secretary-General this week. It would be premature to expect that any of these events, some of which are routine, consolidate a thaw in relations between the two countries. However, they reaffirm the high stakes that are woven into India-Pakistan relations, and the need to keep certain issues such as water-sharing above the politics of the moment.

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## Indus meet, movement on Saarc signal thaw in India-Pak freeze

Jayanth Jacob and Imtiaz Ahmad  
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**NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD:** India and Pakistan could be looking to re-engage after the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, with a slew of measures hinting that tensions between the two sides may have eased a bit.

Though resumption of the dialogue process is not in sight, normalisation of ties could well be, say experts, as the Indian government sifts through signals from across the border for terms of a possible re-engagement.

India said on Friday it had accepted an invitation to a meeting of the Indus Water Commissioners in Lahore, two days after the regional bloc, Saarc, got a new secretary general from Pakistan, veteran diplomat Amjad Hussain Sial.

New Delhi had earlier cited procedural issues to object to Sial's appointment. Once the differences were sorted out, Pakistan got its first Saarc secretary general since 1998.

The two countries are also taking a lenient view on the issue of prisoners, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif

are expected to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Summit (SCO) Summit in Astana in June.

On its part, India toned down its aggression on the Indus Waters Treaty and agreed to the meeting of the Indus Waters Commissioners in March. The government has taken the view that the commissioners "discuss technical issues" and their work should be seen separately and cannot "amount to talks" between governments.

## Indus meet, movement on Saarc signal a thaw

The decisiveness with which the government handled Pakistan, including the "surgical strike" on terrorist camps along the LoC after the attack on an army camp at Uri last September, was a major election plank for the BJP in Uttar Pradesh. The BJP's Pakistan policy is very much part of the domestic political narrative. And the party can ill afford a move on normalising ties with Pakistan that could be seen as a counter to this narrative.

Strategic affairs expert Brahma Chellaney told Hindustan Times: "Now that the Uttar Pradesh elections are almost over, Modi is returning to business as usual with Pakistan by reversing himself on issues that he has politically milked dry."

In Islamabad, senior Foreign Office officials said Pakistan will welcome any overture from India for resuming peace talks.

Asked about a possible thaw from the Indian side, a senior official, who asked not to be named, said Islamabad was

expecting some movement from India following the clamp down on Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed and the announcement of a new military operation against militant organisations across the country, including Punjab province.

"India has been pressing for action against the JuD and also against other entities that are based on our soil and this has started," the official told Hindustan Times.

Saeed, the founder of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, was placed under house arrest on January 30. After a wave of terror attacks across Pakistan last month, the army launched a crackdown on militant groups.

Former Pakistani diplomat and foreign affairs analyst Zafar Hilaly too said any movement from India would be well received in Islamabad, where the Foreign Office is weighing its options in its relations with the US. "There is little clarity on relations with the Donald Trump government. Given this,

Pakistan will be open to better relations with India as a stepping stone to a better image internationally," he said.

Hilaly's views were shared by some Indian experts.

The Indus Waters Commissioners have met 112 times since 1960, but the Narendra Modi government resorted to an unprecedented review of the Indus Waters Treaty to make full use of water that legally belongs to India and raised the rhetoric that "blood and water" cannot flow together to protest against cross-border terrorism.

India is currently evaluating the balance between the civilian government and the military under the new Pakistan Army chief, Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, and Pakistan's actions on terrorism. Indian officials refused to comment on a definite pattern emerging from these developments but experts had a different take.

"These are independent developments and there is no need to see a common thread,"

said a government source.

Former foreign secretary Lalit Mansingh saw the latest developments in a more nuanced manner. "Historically, India-Pakistan relations swing from one end to another. It has been the same under Modi - from his friendship with Nawaz Sharif to the surgical strike on terrorists."

He noted that the number of incidents on the Line of Control had fallen but said India should wait to ascertain whether infiltration comes down during summer. "India is evaluating signals from Pakistan and a host of measures indicate the two sides are looking at more steps to normalise ties," he said.

But another Pakistani analyst warned little would come of any thaw between India and Pakistan "as the fundamentals remain unchanged". He said Pakistan's military high command is not in favour of any improvement at this stage and that is why Islamabad is on the back foot.

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# SC ASKS MP TO APPROACH HC <sup>6</sup> <sub>ST</sub>

## OVER COMPENSATION DISPUTES OF OUSTEES OF SARDAR SAROVAR PROJECT ON NARMADA

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, 5 March

The Supreme Court has asked the Madhya Pradesh government to approach the High Court for sparing two judicial officers to preside over the grievance redressal authorities for deciding compensation disputes of oustees of Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) on river Narmada.

A bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar directed the state chief secretary to approach the registrar general of the High court and seek a recommendation in this regard.

The apex court expressed the hope that the chief justice of the high court would make such a recommendation after which the state government would notify the names.



"With the consent of the counsel for the rival parties, we consider it just and appropriate to allow the chief secretary of the State of Madhya Pradesh to approach the registrar general of the high court...and to request him to seek a recommendation from the chief justice of the High Court of Mad-

hya Pradesh, for appointment of two judicial members to the two additional grievance redressal authorities.

"We hope and expect, that the chief justice shall be in a position to make such a recommendation, on or before 8 March. Thereupon, the State of Madhya Pradesh

shall notify the two additional grievance redressal authorities, by issuing an appropriate notification, by 9 March," said the bench, also comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud and S K Kaul. The matter has been posted for next hearing to 10 March. The apex court had earlier said that to ensure

"better deal" for the project-affected families, it is willing to "twist" the arms of the executive and had asked the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) and states ~ Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra ~ to suggest names of experts who could be appointed to the committee which would deal with the issue of resettlement and rehabilitation of the oustees.

The court had made it clear to the parties, including activist Medha Patekar-led NBA, that it would not allow stalling of the project.

The issue of compensation will cover 193 villages in Madhya Pradesh, 33 in Maharashtra and 19 in Gujarat.

The apex court is hearing petitions pertaining to rehabilitation of oustees of the project.



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# Jalyukt Shivar Yojana unsustainable, says study

## Indiscriminate digging of farm ponds has accelerated groundwater extraction

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

The Maharashtra government's flagship Jalyukt Shivar Yojana has been touted as a drought-proofing scheme, but a field study conducted by South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP) gives a different picture.

The organisation carried out the study at Hiwargaon-Pawasa, a backwater village with a population of 1,500, in Ahmadnagar district's Sangamner Taluk. The research presents a microcosmic example of how indiscriminate digging of farm ponds has accelerated the rate of groundwater extraction.

The scheme was launched in December 2014 by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis-led State government with an objective to harvest rainwater and enhance groundwater levels. However, the project has run into stormy weather for its haphazard and unscientific implementation, undue reliance on machinery, lack of transparency and public participation.

Amruta Pradhan, a researcher with the SANDRP, said, "While the government is taking credit for providing a small scale irrigation facility at the farmers' doorstep, it is reluctant to take the responsibility of their unsustainable use. Majority of the scheme work has been implemented unscientifically. While one can see water as of now, it does not mean groundwater recharge has taken place."

Ms. Pradhan dismissed the usefulness of plastic-lined farm ponds, remarking they were just "another layer of exploitative unsustainable infrastructure," which would



Water woes: SANDRP says farm ponds at Hiwargaon village are aiding groundwater depletion. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

only help accelerate the process of groundwater depletion.

Besides borewells, Pravara river (a tributary of Godavari river) is a major water source to the Hiwargaon village. Almost 80% of its ponds are dependent on groundwater, with most of them dug between 2012 and 2015 with the help of subsidies offered under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM).

The 300-odd ponds in the village are the main source of sustenance for the pomegranate-dependent agro economy. The arrival of ponds has led many farmers to shift to horticulture, with pomegranate cash-crop rapidly supplanting the traditional horsegram (bajra), wheat, pulses and onion crops.

### Issues with the scheme

Most farmers in the village, as in Western's Maharashtra's horticultural belt, swear by the farm ponds, unmindful, however, of the consequences of groundwater depletion owing to their unregulated construction

farm ponds is that they expose the groundwater to losses through evaporation, something that may not become immediately apparent.

### Ponds for all

According to data, around 13,950 ponds were dug between 2014 and 2016 under the NHM, the JSY and the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, while nearly 24,700 more were under construction under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in 2016-17.

Till date, a staggering 1.6 lakh-odd applications have been received by local authorities under the 'Magel Tyala Shet Tale (Farm Pond on Demand scheme)' ever since Mr. Fadnavis launched it in February 2016.

Ms. Pradhan said, "The Jalyukt Shivar programme and its ancillaries are a fix that have failed. The government has not taken account the massive amount of work that goes into involving people in carrying out watershed works. The Fadnavis government has also paid [little consideration] to the educative process regarding judicious use of water."

While local authorities said they are aware of the concerns engendered by the indiscriminate digging of farm ponds, they find regulation impossible.

The sub-divisional officer of Sangamner said, "Once the farmer constructs the pond, it is impossible for us to tell him not to use it for groundwater storage." Authorities said they were attempting to initiate dialogue with farmers in a bid to impress on them the judicious use of farm ponds.

and digging.

The SANDRP study revealed that none of the farm ponds in Hiwargaon had inlets and outlets or any other arrangement for excess rainwater inflow that was envisioned in the scheme. Instead of digging the ponds in a low-lying area, many of them are dug on the highest points of the farms.

It further noted that soil conservation is the key to groundwater recharge, but it has been omitted in the scheme.

Water conservationist Vijay Anna Borade said, "Any programme claiming to deal with recharging groundwater has to pay attention to the soil. If soil is conserved, groundwater is automatically recharged. In the Jalyukt Shivar works, soil, fine sand and all the medium which hold the water and percolate it have been scrapped. If the rocks are exposed, then how is the recharge supposed to take place?"

He added that the works under the scheme appeared to hold water, but would not recharge it.

Another problem with the

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Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle

A a j (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Dunya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

## सीएम नहीं चाहते कि गंगा साफ हो : उमा

वाराणसी। जल संसाधन, नदी विकास व गंगा संरक्षण मंत्री सुश्री उमा भारती ने शुक्रवार को यहां प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री अखिलेश यादव पर आरोप लगाया कि वह नहीं चाहते हैं कि गंगा साफ हो। अखिलेश सरकार ने नमामि गंगे के तहत काम करने के लिए एनओसी तक नहीं दी। आरोप लगाया कि गंगा के तटीय जिलों के डीएम को निर्देश दिया गया था कि वे नमामि गंगे योजना में कोई मदद नहीं करें।

4-3-12

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Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
The Hindu  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)  
Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald

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

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**हिन्दुस्तान**

• नई दिल्ली • शनिवार • 04 मार्च 2017 • 12

## पाक में सिंधु जल आयोग की बैठक में भारत शामिल होगा

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

सिंधु जल आयोग की पाकिस्तान में होने वाली बैठक में भारतीय प्रतिनिधि भी शामिल होंगे। आयोग में पाक समकक्ष के न्योते को भारतीय आयुक्त ने स्वीकार कर लिया है। सरकारी सूत्र इसे सरकार के रुख में नरमी मानने से इनकार कर रहे हैं।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक भारतीय प्रतिनिधि आयोग की 113वीं बैठक में हिस्सा लेंगे। दोनों देशों के आयुक्त बैठक की तारीख और एजेंडा परस्पर सहमति से तय करेंगे। इसमें सरकार की कोई भूमिका नहीं है। सूत्रों ने इसे वार्ता मानने से भी इनकार किया और कहा कि यह तकनीकी मसलों पर होने वाली बैठक है।

सूत्रों ने कहा कि आयोग द्विदलीय संस्था है। इसका काम सिंधु जल संधि के रेजिमरी के प्रावधानों को लागू करना है। इस आयोग की साल में कम से कम एक बैठक अनिवार्य है जो बारी-बारी से दोनों देशों में होती है। इसमें दोनों देशों के आयुक्त होते हैं।

### अब तक 112 बैठक

वर्ष 1960 के बाद से इसकी बैठक 112 बार हो चुकी है। आयोग की बैठकों में तकनीकी मुद्दों पर ज्यादा बात होती है। इसका आशय दोनों देशों के बीच वार्ता नहीं माना जाता।

### उरी हमले के बाद पीएम ने की थी कड़ी टिप्पणी

उरी आतंकी हमले के बाद से तनाव के कारण भारत ने इस मुद्दे पर पिछले साल कड़ा रुख अपनाया था। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कहा था कि रक्त और पानी साथ साथ नहीं बह सकते। उन्होंने अपने हिस्से के पानी के सर्वाधिक उपयोग को लेकर कड़ा संदेश दिया था। सरकार की ओर से इस तरह के संकेत दिए गए थे कि सिंधु समझौते को सरकार तोड़ भी सकती है।

### राजनीति से सरोकार नहीं

फिलहाल बैठक में शामिल होने पर सूत्रों ने कहा कि सरकार और आयोग अलग-अलग हैं। आयोग का राजनीतिक मसलों से सरोकार नहीं है। वह केवल तकनीकी मामलों से संबंध रखता है। विदेश मंत्रालय और जल संसाधन मंत्रालय का भी इस बैठक से कोई लेना-देना नहीं है।

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The Hindu

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Indian Nation

Nai Dunia (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

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हे-4-3-17

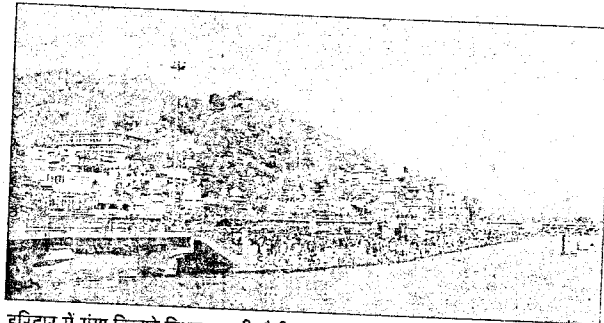
जल संसाधन मंत्रालय और यूपी सरकार से नाराजगी जताई

# गंगा सफाई में लचर रवैये पर एनजीटी सख्त

नई दिल्ली | पीयूष पंडेय

गंगा सफाई में लचर रवैये पर एनजीटी ने नाराजगी जताई है। जल संसाधन मंत्रालय को एनजीटी ने निर्देश दिए हैं कि वह गंगा को साफ करें, शहर की जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकार उठा लेगी। अगर मंत्रालय नदी की बजाय शहर पर ध्यान देता है तो यह संविधान के खिलाफ है।

हरिद्वार से कानपुर तक गंगा को साफ करने के मुद्दे पर सुनवाई के दौरान जस्टिस स्वतंत्र कुमार की पीठ ने मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों पर कड़ी टिप्पणियां कीं। दरअसल पीठ के समक्ष पेश मंत्रालय के अधिकारी राज्य के प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड और नगर निगम के आंकड़ों के आधार



हरिद्वार में गंगा किनारे स्थित हर की पौड़ी का दृश्य। • फाइल फोटो

जिम्मा है। पीठ ने कहा संविधान के तहत आपको नदियां साफ करने की जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गई है, लेकिन आप कुछ और कर रहे हैं। यह संविधान के खिलाफ है।

जस्टिस कुमार ने कहा कि मंत्रालय और उसके अधिकारी समझ ही नहीं रहे हैं कि उन्हें करना क्या है। उन्होंने गलत राह पकड़ी हुई है और एक बार गलत राह पकड़ने का मतलब है कि पूरी प्रक्रिया ही गलत हो जाना। आप शहरी क्षेत्र राज्य सरकार पर छोड़िए और गंगा को साफ करने पर ध्यान लगाइए। एनजीटी ने नाराजगी जताते हुए कहा कि गंगा सफाई

के लिए राष्ट्रीय मिशन (एनएमसीजी) होने के बावजूद केंद्र या राज्य कोई गंभीर नहीं है। हालांकि पीठ ने सुनवाई को 6 मार्च तक के लिए टाल दिया। अधिकरण ने हाल ही में मंत्रालय और यूपी सरकार के अधिकारियों पर समुचित जवाब नहीं होने पर 25-25 हजार रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया था। साथ ही अगले दिन समुचित तैयारी के साथ आने को कहा था, लेकिन स्थिति में कोई सुधार नहीं आया। हरित अधिकरण ने पहले चरण में गोमुख से लेकर हरिद्वार तक गंगा सफाई के लिए दिसंबर, 2015 में फैसला जारी किया था।

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The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle

A a j (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Durīya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

## सिंधु संधि की बातचीत पर सरकार ने दी सफाई

विश्व, नई दिल्ली : भारत ने सिंधु जल संधि आयोग की बैठक को दो सरकारी के बीच बातचीत मानने से इनकार किया है, जो इसी महीने प्रस्तावित है। उसने कहा है कि आयोग की नियमित बैठक संधि के अमल से जुड़े तकनीकी मामलों के लिए होती है। करीब छह महीने पहले पाकिस्तान के आतंकवादी गुटों के हमले के कारण भारत ने इस पड़ोसी देश से बातचीत सस्पेंड कर दी थी। सिंधु आयोग की बैठक को भारत-पाक की अगली बातचीत के तौर पर देखा जा रहा था। यहां विदेश मंत्रालय के सूत्रों ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि सरकार और आयोग अलग हैं। आयोग की बैठक को भारत सरकार के रुख में बदलाव नहीं माना जा सकता। सूत्रों ने कहा कि स्थायी सिंधु आयोग में दोनों देशों के लोग हैं। इसका काम सिंधु जल संधि पर अमल करना है। संधि के तहत साल में कम से कम एक बार इसकी बैठक जरूरी है। हर साल बारी-बारी से भारत और पाकिस्तान में बैठक होती है। इसमें दोनों पक्षों के सिंधु जल आयुक्त शामिल होते हैं और संधि के अमल से संबंधित तकनीकी मामलों की चर्चा करते हैं। 1960 के बाद से 112 बार बैठक की जा चुकी है। अगली बैठक के लिए पाकिस्तान की मेजबानी की बारी है। भारतीय आयुक्त ने बैठक के लिए अपने समक्ष के निमंत्रण को स्वीकार किया है। यह मार्च के दूसरे पखवाड़े में होनी है। दोनों पक्षों के लिए सुविधाजनक तारीख और अजेड़ा क्या हो, यह खुद आयुक्त सीधे तय करते हैं। सरकार की इस संबंध में कोई भूमिका नहीं है। इस सवाल पर कि क्या आयुक्त सरकारी अधिकारी नहीं हैं, मंत्रालय के सूत्रों ने कहा कि आयोग राजनीतिक पहलुओं से नहीं जुड़ा है, वह सिर्फ तकनीकी मामले देखता है। आयोग की बैठक कब हो और उसमें क्या बात हो, यह जल संसाधन मंत्रालय और विदेश मंत्रालय का विषय नहीं है।

नव-4-3-72



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Hindustan (Hindi)

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

M.P. Chronicle  
A a j (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Blitz

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

## गांव कुनाल में खुदाई शुरू

**सरस्वती नदी को पुनः  
प्रवाहित करने का अभियान**  
चण्डीगढ़. हरियाणा सरकार के सरस्वती नदी को पुनः प्रवाहित करने के महत्वपूर्ण अभियान की कड़ी में शनिवार से फतेहाबाद जिले के गांव कुनाल में नदी के प्रवाह क्षेत्र के किनारों की खुदाई आरंभ हो गई है।

प्रदेश के अधिकारियों के साथ-साथ केंद्र सरकार के पुरातत्व विभाग के अधिकारियों की निगरानी में खुदाई का आरंभ किया गया है। खुदाई के लिए मंत्री रामबिलास

शर्मा की मौजूदगी में दो दिन पहले ही हरियाणा राज्य पुरातत्व और संग्रहालय विभाग तथा भारतीय पुरातत्व समिति, राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय, नई दिल्ली के मध्य एक समझौता हुआ है।

सरकारी प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि गांव कुनाल में पुरातत्व विभाग के अनुभवी वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा मैपिंग के बाद कुशल श्रमिकों द्वारा शुरू करवाई गई खुदाई में निकली मिट्टी में मिले रेतीले कणों से यहां कभी नदी की मौजूदगी की संभावनाएं प्रबल हुई हैं लेकिन अभी इसकी पुष्टि होनी शेष है। हालांकि उपग्रह

चित्रों से भी इस क्षेत्र में नदी प्रवाह के स्पष्ट संकेत मिल चुके हैं। यहां नदी की खुदाई व रिपोर्ट बनाने तक का काम केंद्रीय पुरातत्व विभाग देखेगा और काम पूरा होने के बाद खुदाई के दौरान मिलने वाले अवशेष व रिपोर्ट की प्रतिलिपि हरियाणा पुरातत्व विभाग को सुपुर्द कर दी जाएगी। उन्होंने बताया कि कुनाल में खुदाई के काम में दर्जनों मजदूर लगाए गए हैं। पूर्व में यहां हुई खुदाई में निकले महत्वपूर्ण अवशेषों से यह पुष्टि हुई थी कि इस जगह हड़प्पाकाल में कोई सभ्यता रही होगी।

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Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

✓ Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

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M.P.Chronicle

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The Times of India (A)

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विचित्रा ▶ 5 मार्च, 2017 ▶ रविवार



शाहपुर कंडी बांध परियोजना का दृश्य।

# सिंधु नदी से जुड़े शाहपुर कंडी बांध पर पंजाब व जम्मू-कश्मीर में समझौता

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): केन्द्र ने शाहपुर बांध परियोजना पर काम फिर से शुरू करने के लिये पंजाब और जम्मू-कश्मीर को राजी कर लिया है। सिंधु जल संधि के तहत आने वाली इस परियोजना पर काम रुका हुआ था। परियोजना का काम पूरा होने से भारत को बेसिन की पूर्वी नदियों पर अपने अधिकारों के इस्तेमाल में मदद मिलेगी।

एक आधिकारिक बयान के अनुसार पंजाब एवं जम्मू-कश्मीर के बीच परियोजना के डिजाइन को लेकर विवाद के बाद पनबिजली परियोजना पर कार्य रुका हुआ था, लेकिन अब यह जल्द फिर से 'शुरू' हो जायेगा। इसके अनुसार बीती शाम यहां केंद्रीय जल संसाधन सचिव अमरजीत सिंह की उपस्थिति में पंजाब के सचिव (सिंचाई) के.एस. पन्नू और जम्मू-कश्मीर में उनके समकक्ष सौरभ भगत ने इस संबंध में समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किया। दोनों राज्यों में सहमति बनी, जबकि स्थायी

सिंधु आयोग के भी इस महीने के आखिर में सिंधु जल संधि (आईडब्ल्यूटी) से संबद्ध विभिन्न मुद्दों पर चर्चा करने की संभावना है।

उड़ी आतंकवादी हमले के मद्देनजर भारत ने पिछले साल पाकिस्तान के साथ इस संधि पर वार्ता रद्द करने का फैसला किया था। केंद्र में राजग सरकार ने भी बेसिन नदी जल के इस्तेमाल में इजाफा कर संधि के तहत अपने अधिकारों के इस्तेमाल का फैसला किया।

भारत अब तक अपने हिस्से के नदी जल का कम ही इस्तेमाल कर पाया है। बयान के अनुसार, 'सहमत निर्णय पर दोनों सरकारों (पंजाब एवं जम्मू-कश्मीर) को औपचारिक स्वीकृति मिलने के बाद शाहपुर कंडी बांध पर कार्य जल्द फिर से शुरू करने की सहमति बनी।

जल संसाधन मंत्रालय के अधिकारी ने कहा कि परियोजना पर कार्य फिर से शुरू करने के लिये संबंधित राज्य सरकारों को समझौते

## केंद्र की मध्यस्थता

■ इस रुकी योजना से बेसिन की पूर्वी नदियों का इस्तेमाल आसान, जल संसाधन सचिव व दोनों राज्यों के सिंचाई सचिवों के बीच हुआ समझौता

को मंजूरी देनी होगी। उन्होंने कहा- हमें उम्मीद है कि यह जल्द होगा। पंजाब के गुरदासपुर स्थित शाहपुर कंडी परियोजना का निर्माण मई 1999 में शुरू हुआ था। हालांकि, दोनों राज्यों के बीच मतभेद होने के चलते वर्ष 2014 में कार्य बाधित हो गया था।

बयान के अनुसार इस परियोजना को केंद्र ने 'राष्ट्रीय परियोजना' का दर्जा दिया है और करीब 2,285.81 करोड़ रुपये (अप्रैल 2008 के मूल्य स्तर के मुताबिक) की लागत से

परियोजना का निर्माण किया जा रहा है। परियोजना पूरी होने पर इससे 206 मेगावाट बिजली मिलने की संभावना है। पंजाब परियोजना को कार्यान्वित करता रहेगा और इसके डिजाइन पर हाल में दोनों राज्यों के बीच सहमति बनी होगी।

'जम्मू-कश्मीर को उसके लिये अधिकृत 1150 क्यूसेक जल का हिस्सा मिले, यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिये साथ-साथ मॉडल अध्ययन भी किये जायेंगे। निर्माण कार्य समझौते के मुताबिक हो रहा है या नहीं, इस बात पर नजर रखने के लिये केंद्रीय जल आयोग सदस्य और दोनों राज्यों के मुख्य अभियंताओं वाली एक टीम गठित करने का फैसला किया गया है।

अन्य फैसलों में यह निर्णय भी लिया गया कि शाहपुर कंडी बांध से करीब 10 किलोमीटर दूर स्थित थीन बांध की बाबत जमीन अधिग्रहण के लिये मुआवजे की वजह से पंजाब शेष खर्च वहन करेगा।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 6/3/17 in the

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The Hindu  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)  
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सिंधु नदी जल समझौते पर नदी जल आयोग ने पर्यावरण परिवर्तन, नदियों के रखरखाव व जल गुणवत्ता पर विमर्श के लिए बैठक बुलाई है। भारत इसमें शिरकत के लिए तैयार भी है पर बदले हुए अंतरराष्ट्रीय परिदृश्य में समझौते के रणनीतिक उपयोग की गुंजाइश कम है। संभवतः बैठक तकनीकी विषयों तक सिमट कर रह जाएगी।

प्राप्तिका - 6-3-17

# सिंधु विवाद: ड्रैगन दे सकता है दखल

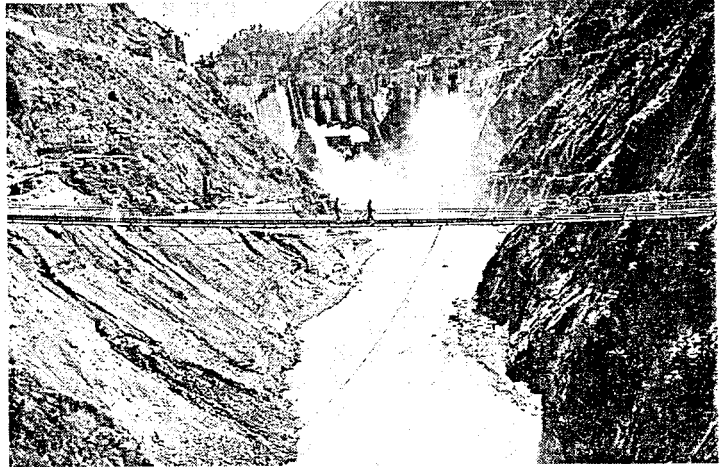
प्रो. संजय भारद्वाज  
दक्षिण एशिया मामलों के  
जानकार



जवाहरलाल नेहरू  
विश्वविद्यालय नई दिल्ली  
में सत्रह वर्ष का  
अध्ययन अनुभव, विदेश  
वासियों पर गहरी पकड़

देश की प्रमुख  
जलविद्युत  
परियोजनाओं में  
पाक ने अड़गे  
लगाए। जल  
विद्युत आयोग  
के बजाय कभी  
परियोजनाओं  
की जांच तटस्थ  
विशेषज्ञों से  
कराई गई तो  
कभी 'स्थायी  
मध्यस्थता  
न्यायालय' में  
शिकायत की  
गई किंतु हर  
वार फैसला  
भारत के पक्ष में  
ही आया।

सिंधु नदी का उद्गम हिंदुकुश में तिब्बती पठार से है। 19 सितंबर 1960 को भारत-पाकिस्तान के बीच विश्व बैंक की मध्यस्थता में सिंधु घाटी क्षेत्र की सिंधु नदी व्यवस्था के लिए द्विपक्षीय समझौता हुआ तो चीन इसका हिस्सेदार नहीं था। समझौते के मुताबिक सिंधु नदी सहित इसकी छह शाखाओं में से पूर्वी नदियाँ रावी, सतलुज और व्यास का नियंत्रण भारत के पास और पश्चिमी नदियाँ सिंधु, चेनाब और झेलम का नियंत्रण पाकिस्तान को मिला। महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि इन पश्चिमी नदियों का उद्गम भले ही चीन के क्षेत्र से हो किंतु ऊपर से नीचे की ओर बहाव के लिहाज से ऊपर का हिस्सा भारत से होकर गुजरता है और फिर यह नीचे की ओर यह पाकिस्तान अधिकृत कश्मीर की ओर से होता हुआ पाकिस्तान के अन्य हिस्से में चला जाता है। सिंधु नदी व्यवस्था के समझौते के तहत भारत इन पश्चिमी नदियों के जल का केवल 20 फीसदी ही घरेलू उपयोग यानी पीने, नहाने और साफ-सफाई के लिए कर सकता है। वास्तविकता यह है कि भारत अपने हिस्से के इस पानी का पूरा उपयोग नहीं कर पाता। इसके अलावा भारत 13.40 करोड़ एकड़ भूमि क्षेत्र में इन नदियों के जल का उपयोग कृषि के लिए किया जा सकता है किंतु इसके लिए पाकिस्तान की अनुमति की आवश्यकता होती है। जहां तक समझौते में अघरेलू इस्तेमाल यानी पानी के अन्य उपयोग का सवाल है तो भारत सीमित दायरे में पानी का संग्रहण कर सकता है। जल विद्युत परियोजनाएं लगा सकता है। परिवहन के साथ लकड़ियों को तैरा कर नीचे लाने के लिए बहाव का इस्तेमाल भी कर सकता है। इस समझौते को रद्द नहीं किया जा सकता, इसे केवल संशोधित ही किया जा सकता है। भारत युद्ध जैसी आपात परिस्थितियों में भी इस समझौते से पीछे नहीं हटा। समझौते के मुताबिक नदी जल आयोग की स्थापना भी हुई जिसका काम आपात परिस्थिति में नदी जल का समायोजन - संतुलन करना है। खासतौर पर तकनीकी मुद्दों को निर्धारित करने का काम इस आयोग के जिम्मे है। यद्यपि समझौता केवल पानी की हिस्सेदारी को लेकर ही नहीं है, फिर भी शर्तों के अनुसार भारत नदी और इसके जल के इस्तेमाल के आंकड़े पाकिस्तान को नियमित रूप से उपलब्ध कराता है। चूंकि अपने क्षेत्र में नदी व्यवस्था के प्रबंधन और कार्य कुशलता के मामले में पाकिस्तान की कमजोरी जगजाहिर है। इसे छिपाने के लिए वह हमेशा भारत पर अपने हिस्से का पानी चुराने का आरोप लगाता रहता है। जहां तक जलविद्युत परियोजनाओं के निर्माण का सवाल है



भारत के विरुद्ध पाकिस्तान की आतंकी कार्रवाई निरंतर जारी रहती है। इसके मद्देनजर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कड़ा रुख अपनाते हुए सिंधु नदी जल के संदर्भ में चेतावनी दी थी कि नदी में खून और पानी दोनों साथ नहीं बह सकते।

तो समझौते के मुताबिक भारत को इस संबंध में छह महीने पूर्व पाकिस्तान को तकनीकी सूचना देनी होती है लेकिन पाकिस्तान इस मामले में जानबूझकर अड़गे लगाकर देरी करता है। चाहे सिंधु नदी पर चुलबुल परियोजना हो या चेनाब पर बगलिहार परियोजना या फिर झेलम पर किशनगंगा परियोजना सभी में पाकिस्तान ने रुकावटें डालीं। कभी परियोजना की जांच तटस्थ विशेषज्ञों के पास भेजी गई तो कभी हेग स्थित 'स्थायी मध्यस्थता न्यायालय' में शिकायत की गई। लेकिन, मामूली परिवर्तन के साथ फैसला भारत के पक्ष में ही आया। पाकिस्तान ने विवाद को कभी भी नदी जल आयोग के जरिए निपटाने का प्रयास नहीं किया। केवल एक बार 2010 में आयोग के माध्यम से कहा गया कि पाकिस्तान सिंधु नदी जल समझौते को संशोधित करने की इच्छा रखता है। इसके अलावा सिंधु नदी जल व्यवस्था के तहत नदियों का उचित रख-रखाव नहीं हो पा रहा। पानी लवणीय हो रहा है। भूजल स्तर में भी कमी आ रही है। फिर पर्यावरण परिवर्तन

के मुद्दे भी उठ खड़े हुए हैं। नदी के बहाव पर विपरीत असर पड़ रहा है। इन सारी परिस्थितियों के मद्देनजर नदी जल आयोग ने लाहौर में बैठक बुलाने का प्रस्ताव दिया है। भारत ने इस बैठक में भाग लेने की सहमति दे दी है। एक पहलू यह भी है कि पाकिस्तान आतंकवाद को प्रश्रय देने वाला देश है और भारत के विरुद्ध उसकी आतंकी कार्रवाई जारी रहती है। ऐसे में पाकिस्तान पर दबाव बनाने के लिए भारत इस समझौते का रणनीतिक उपयोग भी कर सकता है। इसी संदर्भ में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कहा था, नदी में खून और पानी दोनों साथ नहीं बह सकते। हकीकत में तो नदी के जल को लेकर पाकिस्तान के आरोप झूठे हैं किंतु वास्तव में भारत सिंधु नदी व्यवस्था के तहत जल का इस्तेमाल अपने लिए अधिक इस्तेमाल करने लगे तो पाकिस्तान की 60 फीसदी कृषि को नुकसान पहुंच सकता है। इस बात को भारत ही नहीं पाकिस्तान और उसका नजदीकी मित्र चीन भी अच्छी तरह समझते हैं। वर्तमान में चीन के आर्थिक हित पाकिस्तान में हैं। और, जिस ऊपरी बहाव क्षेत्र का रणनीतिक लाभ भारत को मिलता है, वह लाभ ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी के मामले में चीन को मिलता है। बदले हुए अंतरराष्ट्रीय परिदृश्य में चीन रणनीतिक रूप से अपनी परोक्ष मौजूदगी दर्शा सकता है। बदले ही हालात में भारत बहुत ही सूझबूझ के साथ आगे बढ़ेगा। यही वजह है कि नदी जल आयोग की बैठक में रणनीतिक और राजनैतिक विषयों पर बातचीत के बजाय तकनीकी विषयों पर ही बात होने की संभावना है।