

News item/letter/article/editorial published on February 8.2.2017 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

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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 Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Nobody's river

Not a drop cleaned under Modi's Ganga project

THE National Green Tribunal, asked by the Supreme Court, has taken up on a "day-to-day" basis hearing on the execution of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious 'Namami Gange project'. Its opening observation was that "not a single drop of the Ganga has been cleaned so far." After two years of the latest "clean Ganga" project, all that has been accomplished is a few meetings of the authorities concerned and endless bickering between the state and Central agencies involved. Despite the fact that the project has been transferred from the Environment to the Water Resources Ministry, the Supreme Court has had to step in to do what is essentially the executive's job.

In view of the practical takeover of the mission by the NGT, it may well be declared already that the NDA government has failed in cleaning the Ganga, one of the star points in Narendra Modi's election campaign in 2014. This is in keeping with a similarly spectacular failure over the previous 30 years, during which thousands of crores of rupees were sent down the river, starting with the Rajiv Gandhi government in 1985, and then renewed under the UPA. The Ganga has not remained soiled for want of funds, but the will to take action against the defaulters, including industries that have been identified as violators of pollution norms. Another factor is the inter-departmental walls; these perhaps can only be brought down through judicial intervention.

Allotting funds is only the first part of a mission. Imposing any environmental protection law is bound to hurt someone's commercial interest. That requires a will that the political executive can find only if there is public (read electoral) pressure, which is something that has been found lacking on all environmental issues. After two years in government, the BJP is not making the Ganga a poll issue in Uttar Pradesh; the Samajwadi Party is only too happy. People place immediate personal interest before environmental, which is the reason why keeping our planet clean and green is a task that has been left only to NGOs, activists and courts.

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Ministry of Water Resources,
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation



is organizing

7th National Level Painting Competition on Water Conservation and Pollution

on
8th February, 2017 at

August Kranti Lawn, India Gate, New Delhi (Opposite Patiala House)

1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners of State Level Painting
Competition organized during Nov-Dec 2016, will
participate during the occasion

Sushri Uma Bharti

Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

will be the Chief Guest and will distribute the prizes

Shri Vijay Goel

Minister of State for Sports & Youth Affairs (I/C) & Minister of State for Water Resources,
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

and

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan

Minister of State for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

will be the Guests of Honour on the occasion.

Over 13 lakh students from more than 13,500 schools
across the country have participated in the School Level Painting Competition.

Out of which, 93 students have been selected
for participation in the National Level Painting Competition.



Central Ground Water Board
Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR
West Block-2, Wing-3, R.K. Puram, Sector-1
New Delhi-110066
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Government of India
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'1892 Cauvery pact an unequal bargain'

It can claim no validity after birth of Indian Constitution, Karnataka counsel tells Supreme Court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI: The 1892 agreement between the erstwhile Mysore and Madras Governments was an "unconscionable bargain" to share the Cauvery river water, Karnataka told the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

The submission was made before a Bench of Justices Dipak Misra, Amitava Roy and A.M. Khanwilkar on the first day of hearing of appeals filed by Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala against the final award on the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal's decision on water sharing.

Karnataka counsel and senior advocate Fali Nariman, who opened the arguments, said both the 1892 and 1924 pacts between the then princely State of Mysore and the Madras government reflected an "inequality of bar-



AGE-OLD DISPUTE: Tamil Nadu maintains that the Cauvery pact was concluded to the satisfaction of both States. — FILE PHOTO

gaining power" which was "without conscience" and which could claim no validity after the birth of the Indian Constitution.

Irrigation infrastructure

Mr. Nariman submitted that the 1892 agreement, which, he said, was the par-

ent of the 1924 pact, dictated that Mysore could not develop any irrigation infrastructure on the river without the previous consent of the Madras government. Any grievances could be addressed only through arbitration.

The same issue was ad-

ressed in 2002 before the Cauvery tribunal, when Tamil Nadu had countered that the 1892 agreement was preceded by a good deal of mutual consideration of the interests of both the Madras presidency and the Mysore State.

Tamil Nadu had in the tribunal traced the correspondence between the State of Mysore and Madras for nearly two years culminating in the agreement to the satisfaction of both the States. Mr. Nariman, for Karnataka, had even then claimed before the tribunal that Mysore could have been pressured to enter the agreement.

Tamil Nadu had in 2002 argued that the agreement was a result of a mutual realisation for a pact which would allow Mysore reasonable freedom in dealing with its irrigation works and also give Madras practical secur-

ity against injury to its interests.

On January 4, the Supreme Court had asked Karnataka to continue releasing 2,000 cusecs of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu while posting the appeals for day-to-day hearing.

The Bench had not found favour with submissions made by senior advocate Shekhar Naphade for Tamil Nadu that an interim order should be passed on the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board.

"Several years have gone by... the river is perennial but the litigation should not be," Mr. Naphade had submitted. The Bench had agreed with Mr. Nariman, observing that its primary focus was the appeals filed by the three States.

The Supreme Court will resume hearing on the appeal on March 21.