

News item/letter/article/editorial published on March 6 - 08.03.2017 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.) ✓

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

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

Centre to fight arsenic in groundwater in states

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Centre will prepare an exhaustive plan to meet the challenges of arsenic contamination in groundwater in the Ganga-Brahmaputra fluvial plains which has severely affected many districts of UP, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Assam and Manipur.

Announcing the move, Union water resources minister Uma Bharti on Tuesday said there was an urgent need to start a nationwide movement to make people aware of arsenic contamination and urged individual and NGOs to join the government in this task.

Arsenic in groundwater is caused by natural geological processes. Long-term exposure to arsenic in drinking water can cause skin cancer and other diseases.

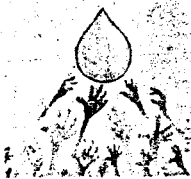
Though numerous measures,

including alternate arrangement for supply of arsenic-free water and planting arsenic removal plants, have been taken in the last three decades, the entire population of the affected districts could not be covered.

The minister also spoke about "tapping alternate safe aquifers (water bearing permeable rock) for supply of arsenic-free groundwater".

"Under the national aquifer mapping programme of the central groundwater board, special attention has been given to this aspect. Water wells have also been constructed tapping arsenic-free aquifers using state-of-the-art technology in parts of Ballia and Ghazipur districts of UP," she said.

The issue was discussed on Tuesday during a day-long workshop attended by about 300 experts from across the country.



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ग्रामीण भारत पीता है 85 प्रतिशत भूजल...

आर्सेनिक से पतित हो रही है गंगा

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

rajasthanpatrika.com

नई दिल्ली. कभी पतित पावनी कहलाने वाली गंगा और उसका बेसिन आर्सेनिक से पतित हो रहा है। भारी मात्रा में आर्सेनिक से जूझ रही इस नदी तथा उसके कैचमेंट एरिया को टास्क फोर्स बनाकर इस प्रदूषण से मुक्त कराना होगा।

यह जानकारी यहां केन्द्रीय भूमि जल बोर्ड की ओर से 'गंगा बेसिन के भूजल में आर्सेनिक की समस्या एवं निराकरण' विषय पर आयोजित कार्यशाला के उद्घाटन समारोह में भारत सरकार के अधिकारियों ने दी। इससे पहले केन्द्रीय जल संसाधन,

नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण मंत्री उमा भारती ने कहा कि गंगा बेसिन में आर्सेनिक की समस्या से करोड़ों लोग प्रभावित हो रहे हैं और इस समस्या के बारे में लोगों को जागरूक करने के लिए एक समग्र आंदोलन चलाए जाने की जरूरत है। भूजल में आर्सेनिक की समस्या से निपटने के लिए इस कार्यशाला की रिपोर्ट आने के बाद मंत्रालय एक व्यापक कार्य योजना तैयार करेगा जिसमें राज्य सरकारों एवं गैर सरकारी संगठनों का भी सहयोग लिया जाएगा। सुश्री भारती ने कहा कि ग्रामीण भारत में पीने के पानी की जरूरतों को पूरा करने में 85

प्रतिशत के आस-पास भूजल काम आता है। सरकारी योजनाओं में भूजल संसाधनों की स्थिरता एक बड़ा एजेंडा है। क्योंकि बदलती जीवन शैली और बस्ती जनसंख्या के साथ पानी की मांग भी बढ़ रही है। सुश्री भारती ने कहा कि भूजल में आर्सेनिक की मौजूदगी जहर के समान है और यह मानव स्वास्थ्य के लिए गंभीर खतरा है। केन्द्रीय जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण मंत्री ने विश्वविद्यालयों, आईआईटी और अनुसंधान संस्थानों में काम कर रहे भूजल विशेषज्ञों से आह्वान किया कि वे भी अपने महत्वपूर्ण सुझाव दें।

पत्रिका-8-3-17

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गंगा सफाई पर कानपुर निगमायुक्त के नाम वारंट

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): राष्ट्रीय हरित
अधिकरण ने कानपुर के निगम

4-जुलाई-8-3-17

आयुक्त के खिलाफ गंगा नदी की
सफाई से जुड़े मामले में पेश नहीं
होने के कारण जमानती वारंट
जारी किया है। एनजीटी अध्यक्ष
न्यायमूर्ति स्वतंत्र कुमार की
अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने
अधिकारी से कल पेश होने को
कहा है और कहा कि निर्देशों
के बावजूद वह अधिकरण के
समक्ष पेश नहीं हुए।

25 हजार रुपये का वारंट
जारी करते हुए पीठ ने चेतावनी
दी कि नदी की सफाई के लिए
जिम्मेदार विभाग अगर भ्रामक
जवाब देना बंद नहीं करते तो
इसे कुछ कड़े आदेश पारित
करने होंगे। पीठ गंगा की सफाई
से जुड़े मामले पर रोजाना
सुनवाई कर रही है और पहले
इसने जल संसाधन मंत्रालय
और उत्तरप्रदेश जल निगम पर
25-25 हजार रुपये का जुर्माना
किया। इसने उत्तर प्रदेश के गढ़
मुक्तेश्वर क्षेत्र में गंगा से जुड़े
30 नालों के बारे में गलत सूचना
देने के लिए जुर्माना लगाया।

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गंगा सफाई पर 1500 करोड़ खर्च

नई दिल्ली। गंगा को पवित्र और निर्मल बनाने के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन के तहत तीन साल में 1515 करोड़ रुपये खर्च कर दिए गए। सरकार ने मिशन को इस अवधि में 3,633 करोड़ रुपये जारी किए हैं। एनएमसीजी को गंगा को प्रदूषण से मुक्त करने के लिए केंद्र ने वर्ष 2018 तक अपशिष्ट शोधन यंत्र लगाने का लक्ष्य दिया है।

→ ब्योरा पेज 19

हिन्दुस्तान 19

नई दिल्ली • बुधवार • 08 मार्च 2017

गंगा सफाई पर 3 साल में 1515 करोड़ खर्च

नई दिल्ली | पीयूष पांडेय

गंगा को पवित्र और निर्मल बनाने के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन (एनएमसीजी) के तहत तीन साल में 1515 करोड़ रुपये खर्च कर दिए गए। सरकार ने मिशन को इस अवधि में 3,633 करोड़ रुपये जारी किए हैं।

एनएमसीजी को उत्तराखंड के गोमुख से बंगाल की खाड़ी तक गंगा को प्रदूषण से मुक्त करने के लिए केंद्र ने वर्ष 2018 तक अपशिष्ट शोधन यंत्र (एसटीपी) लगाने का लक्ष्य दिया है। उसे शहरों से निकलने वाले 118 बड़े नालों में ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट और एसटीपी स्थापित करना है। इस काम को पूरा करने में एनएमसीजी की ढिलाई को देखते हुए राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (एनजीटी) उसे कई मौकों पर फटकार लगा चुका है। एनजीटी ने उसे समय और संसाधन की बर्बादी के लिए भी जिम्मेदार

आधे पैसे ही खर्च हुए

आरटीआई के मुताबिक 2014-15 में सरकार ने अभियान के लिए 326 करोड़ रुपये जारी किए। इसमें से 170.99 करोड़ ही खर्च हुआ जबकि 2015-16 में 1,632 करोड़ रुपये में महज 602.60 करोड़ ही परियोजनाओं में लगा। 2016-17 में भी 1,675 करोड़ सरकार से मिले जिसमें से अब तक 741.39 करोड़ खर्च किए गए। सूत्रों की मानें तो अभियान की अधिकतर परियोजनाएं देरी से चल रही हैं।

ठहराया। इसी दौरान नोएडा निवासी रामवीर तंवर की आरटीआई में यह हकीकत सामने आई है कि एनएमसीजी सरकार द्वारा जारी कोष से 1514.98 करोड़ खर्च कर चुकी है, जबकि वित्त वर्ष 2014-15 से 2016-17 तक उसे 3,633 करोड़ रुपये मिले।

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Polavaram project: Fabrication work of 48 crest gates to begin this week

SREENIVAS JANYALA

HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

FABRICATION WORK of 48 crest gates for the Polavaram Project, a multi-purpose irrigation dam, is set to start this week. The massive gates for the dam over the Godavari are likely to be installed in November.

About 300 metric tonnes of steel for the purpose has already arrived at the Gates Fabrication Centre at Polavaram Project site in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. By the end of

April, another 2100 MT of steel will arrive. Around 15,000 MT of steel will be used to make the gates. The fabrication of the gates and installation would be completed by June 2018, sources said after Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu held a review meeting on Monday.

On February 1, the construction of the diaphragm wall was started at the project site. The diaphragm wall, which is 1,500 metre long, 120 metre wide and 40 and 100 metre deep, would be the world's biggest such wall.

In the first phase, 750 metre

of wall would be constructed by June end after which work will stop during monsoon. The remaining construction would start in December and completed by June 2018. The project may be completed by end of 2018 or early 2019, officials said.

On March 3, the Union Water Resources Ministry released Rs 1,981 crore for the Polavaram Project. After it was accorded national project status, and Centre agreed to fund it through loans from NABARD. The Centre will release around Rs 3,000 crore for the project.

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The choppy Indus

THE MAIN CHALLENGE TO THE INDUS WATERS TREATY, NOW AS IN THE PAST, IS NOT TO BE FOUND IN ITS INTRINSIC COMPLEXITY SO MUCH AS IN THE UNCERTAIN RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. AS HAS BEEN SEEN TIME AND AGAIN, A DOWNTURN IN BILATERAL RELATIONS CAN LEAD TO DEMANDS TO RE-EXAMINE THE RELEVANCE OF THE IWT, WITH IT BEING ARGUED THAT THERE IS NO BENEFIT IN CONTINUING TO REMAIN ENGAGED AT TIMES WHEN INDIA IS BEING TARGETED BY TERRORISTS SUCCOURED FROM ACROSS THE BORDER

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) of 1960 is an important landmark in the bilateral affairs of India and Pakistan. When the country was divided in 1947 no issue seemed more likely to lead to violent conflict than the sharing of the waters of the Indus and its tributaries. For each of the two new countries, the Punjab, already torn and devastated, was the crucial breadbasket, source of food security and repository of hopes for the future, and neither felt it could afford to lose any part of the water supply from the elaborate modern irrigation system of the Indus that had brought prosperity to the expanses of the north Indian plains. But the terms of Partition took little account of this requirement; the boundary line bequeathed by the British made an impossible tangle of the irrigation system of Punjab, with the head works often located in India while the canals were downstream in Pakistan. In the seriously disturbed conditions of the time it was feared that unresolved claims on the waters could drive the two countries to war. In the event, these apprehensions proved unfounded but in the charged situation of the time there was real fear that the issue could spin out of control, which brought the two countries to make a serious effort to come to agreement so as to head off risk of conflict.

The IWT needs to be seen against this background as something more than a water-sharing arrangement, for it has features of a basic agreement aimed at preserving the peace. The gravity and complexity of the issues is such that negotiating the IWT was a long-drawn and immensely complicated process. Apart from the sustained effort of the two principals, it also needed the good offices of the World Bank to bring it to a conclusion, both as a facilitator and as a source of funding for dams and other structures that neither of the countries at that stage could readily provide on their own. To ensure that the agreement would function as envisaged, and that there was no tampering with the agreed arrangements, a bilateral Commission was established to meet regularly and keep a watchful eye on Treaty implementation. It was also decided that in the event of the two countries failing to agree among themselves, neutral experts acceptable to both sides would be appointed to go into the issues, and, eventually, should the need arise, for third party arbitration to decide on conflicting demands and claims. Thus implementation of the IWT is backed by groups of experts who can help maintain agreed procedures and resolve problems of implementation.

Since 1960 when the IWT came into operation, the regular consultation process mandated by the treaty has been maintained, not always smoothly or without dispute, but without any threatening disruption. With this, the IWT has survived decades of the troubled relations between India

and Pakistan because both countries continue to find value in what it provides, and also because from the start it has been strongly backed by the World Bank. Meetings of the Commission have helped resolve many complex technical differences that could have threatened the IWT if left to themselves. As the lower riparian, Pakistan has always been very alert to anything that can look like denial by India of its proper downstream share of the water, and from time to time it has indulged in allegations of large-scale diversions by India. However, such suspicions have only reflected the general mistrust that affects bilateral ties and were unsupported by evidence, for it is obvious that engineering works for diversion structures cannot be constructed by stealth or be concealed from view.

Another supposed infringement by India that figured at one stage in Pakistan's complaints arose from what were believed to be the military implications of India's upstream projects. At least two of them, respectively on the Jhelum in Kashmir and Baglihar in Jammu, were held up because military strategists in Rawalpindi feared the storages could be manipulated to cause floods to gain tactical advantage in the event of Indo-Pak hostilities - the fears were always fanciful and had no tangible basis but give an idea of some of the hidden fears that may lie within the IWT.

The main challenge to the IWT, now as in the past, is not to be found in its intrinsic complexity so much as in the uncertain relations between India and Pakistan. As has been seen time and again, a downturn in bilateral relations can lead to demands to re-examine the relevance of the IWT, with it being argued that there is no benefit in continuing to remain engaged at times when India is being targeted by terrorists succoured from across the border. Some considerations of this nature seem to have led India to suspend its participation in the IWT Commission after the Uri attacks

last September. Though India did not rescind its commitment to the IWT, it showed its unwillingness to maintain even minimum relations owing to these cross border attacks. Thereafter for some months implementation of IWT was suspended but now it seems the World Bank has been active in persuading the two sides to resume engagement and a meeting of the Commission is imminent. This is to be welcomed for the complicated issues of the IWT require attention if they are not to

fester and lead to further complications.

It is not the standoff in the IWT alone that could be affected by the limited resumption of contact now planned, and India's decision to attend the Lahore meeting can perhaps become a small step towards restoring a measure of normality in overall ties. Dialogue between the two countries has been in suspension but maybe some signs of easing are to be discerned, as in India's readiness to acquiesce in the appointment of a Pakistani Secretary-General to head the SAARC Secretariat. This is not the first time that India has given its support to a Pakistani candidate, and SAARC has always sought to diversify its Secretariat by making room for all member states. Whatever may be its reservations about Pakistan's role in South Asia, India has been supportive of SAARC and has tried to enhance its effectiveness by giving it more room for initiative, especially at the level of the Secretariat, so that it can hold its own in a diverse and fast changing world. Bilateral differences within SAARC have thus not been permitted to stand in the way of what can benefit the organization as a whole. The Indian decision to join the consensus in favour of the Pakistani candidate as SG of SAARC can be a small chink to encourage better cooperation in the region and perhaps even help restore some of the presently moribund ties.

THE WRITER IS INDIA'S FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY



SALMAN HAIDAR

