



Uma Bharti hopes Mahanadi-Godavari river link project will take off

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, 8 February

Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti today expressed hope that the much awaited Mahanadi-Godavari link project in Odisha would soon get clearance from all stakeholders, including the state government.

"The Inter-linking of Rivers (ILR) programme is very important for enhancing water and food security of the country and would be very helpful in providing water to water-short, drought-prone and rainfed farming areas," Ms Bharti said here while chairing the eighth meeting of the Special Committee for Inter-Linking of Rivers.

She said the government is committed to implementation of ILR programme with consensus and cooperation of the concerned state governments.

Referring to her meeting with Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik in Bhubaneswar on 3 February regarding Mahanadi-Godavari link project, the minister said it was decided that a team of officers from

the Centre and the state government will discuss all issues about this link and will submit its report within six months.

"After this report is submitted, I will have another meeting with the Chief Minister (Naveen Patnaik) to finalise Mahanadi-Godavari link project and I am very hopeful for a positive response from Government of Odisha in this regard," she said.

Giving an update about Ken-Betwa link project, the minister said various

clearances in respect of Ken-Betwa link project Phase-I are in the advanced stage.

Referring to the status of Par-Tapi-Narmada link project, Ms Bharti said the issue of water sharing between Gujarat and Maharashtra in respect of Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada link projects is being taken up on priority.

The chief ministers of Maharashtra and Gujarat have expressed their desire to resolve all issues relating to water sharing under the proposed link project for taking up their implementation, she said.

Yamuna shows no signs of healing, murky road ahead for its clean-up

Mallica Joshi

mallica.joshi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Activists had cheered a year ago the National Green Tribunal (NGT)'s order to authorities to ensure a minimal flow of water in the Yamuna, which industrial waste has reduced to a noxious black thread covered by a sea of foam.

But joy has turned to cynicism with the river, which is revered by many Hindus and plays a key role in several religious rituals, remaining as polluted as it was last year, if not more.

The NGT's instruction has been ignored and the Yamuna, which meets 70% of Delhi's water needs, resembles a sewage channel despite nearly ₹5,000 crore being spent over two decades to clean it.

According to river expert Manoj Misra, if the Yamuna is allowed to maintain a minimum flow of 10 cusecs (cubic metres per second), it will clean itself. But, this has been a contentious issue for Delhi and Haryana, two neighbouring states the river traverses, and no solution is in sight.

The NGT also asked the Delhi government to start work on sewage interceptors and the Najafgarh drain, the Yamuna's



■ The Yamuna, Delhi's lifeline, is as polluted as it was last year. HT FILE

biggest polluter, at full throttle. A year later, there's no visible change. Government officials say infrastructure projects so massive in scale need time to appear on the ground.

However, cultural and sporting activities have picked up, including music festivals, Yamuna aarti as well as kayaking and canoeing. Efforts are on to bring people to the river so they appreciate its importance.

Critics though say the way the AAP government is pursuing the plan is flawed.

"The sewage treatment plants we install will only bring the BOD (biochemical oxygen demand, a measure of oxygen needed by

microorganisms) in the river to about 10. BOD for bathing water is less than 3," said water activist Vijay Kumar Jain. "This means even after all the investment, the water will not be fit to bathe in."

Officials from the Delhi Jal Board, responsible for supplying potable water to most parts of the Capital, blame lack of cooperation from other states for the lagging clean-up plan. A special purpose vehicle, or subsidiary company, was created but it has not done any substantial work.

DJB chairperson Kapil Mishra pledged last year that he would bathe in the river in 2017. He told HT he was sticking to his commitment.

The Times of India

Title : Guj-Maha dispute stalls river project

Author : Vishwa Mohan

Location :

New Delhi:

Article Date : 02/09/2016

2 Interlinking Plans Run Into Trouble Over Water Shares

Differences over water sharing between two BJP-ruled states Gujarat and Maharashtra continue to block the Centre's ambitious plan to go ahead with its two river-linking projects -Damanganga-Pinjal and ParTapi-Narmada. Though the detailed project reports (DPRs) of these river links had been submitted to the Centre in August last year, the matter has not yet been resolved as Gujarat wants the Maharashtra government to share more water from the Tapi river if it wants additional share from the proposed Damanganga-Pinjal link which will supply water to Mumbai. The differences between the two states over the issue was discussed in the review meeting on inter-linking of river (ILRs) projects here on Monday .

Referring to the matter, Union water resources minister Uma Bharati, who chaired the meeting, said it was decided to hold officer-level meeting to sort out issues. "After this, I will hold a meeting with the CMs of both the states on the issue," said Bharati.

Looking to meet Mumbai's drinking water demand till the year 2060, the Centre as well as Maharashtra and Gujarat governments had last year formally agreed to link Damanganga and Pinjal rivers through multi-purpose dams and tunnels. Besides augmenting water supply to meet the domestic requirement of Mumbai, the project will also benefit Gujarat as the state would be free to utilise water spilled from Bhugad and Khargihill dams.

The project, having three dams and two tunnels, is expected to be completed in seven years once both the states agree to start its implementation. It will divert surplus water of Damanganga river to Bhugad and Khargihill reservoirs to Pinjal reservoir in Vaitarna basin from where the combined water of Damanganga and Pinjal rivers will be further taken to Mumbai.

Besides these two inter-linking of river projects, the ministry in its meeting also reviewed the progress on the implementation of the Ken-Betwa link project (Phase-I) of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The Ken-Betwa link is the first project that had got the Cabinet's nod under the present NDA government, but it has not moved forward in the absence of forest, wildlife and environmental clearance.

Bharti said she had spoken to the Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar in this regard and was very hopeful of getting the necessary clearances very soon.

For the full report, log on to <http://www.timesofindia.com>



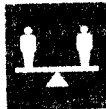
Union minister Uma Bharati will hold talks with the CMs on the issue

WATER RELIEF

The Aam Aadmi Party released a white paper on water titled 'Jal Swaraj' before the polls

1 PROVIDE WATER AS A RIGHT:

Universal access to clean drinking water to all citizens at an affordable price. Amendment in the DJB Act to make clean drinking water a right



• **Status:** Under process. Work on expanding access is on, but no action on amending the Act yet

2 FREE LIFELINE WATER: Up to 20,000 litre of

free water to every household with a metered connection



• **Status:** Implemented. About 8,99,686 households have benefitted from the subsidy that costs the government Rs. 165 crore per year



3 TIME-BOUND PLAN FOR COVERING ALL OF DELHI WITH PIPED WATER AND SEWAGE NETWORK:

There will be no discrimination based on the legal status of the area

• **Status:** Implemented. Action plan drawn up. DJB expects to cover the entire city by December 2017, currently 81.9% of households covered by piped network

4 EQUITABLE AND ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY: New pipe-



lines, underground reservoirs, booster pumping stations and water treatment plants to make supply equitable across city

• **Status:** Under process. Over the past year, about 120km of new water supply pipelines were laid, taking the total to 14,000 km. In addition, three new WTPs and 12 new UGRs started functioning

5 CRACKDOWN ON TANKER MAFIA:



Tough steps to eliminate water mafia, as well as regulating private tankers to ensure low cost to the consumer

• **Status:** Not implemented. With more colonies being added to the piped network, DJB says the reliance on the tanker mafia has decreased. But, the mafia is still very present in areas that lack adequate water supply

6 RESOLVING THE MUNAK CANAL DISPUTE WITH HARYANA:



Implementation of the High Court order to ensure that Delhi gets additional supply

• **Status:** Implemented. Delhi's supply has been at the highest level in history, with additional water from Munak Canal. The Dwarka, Bawana and Okhla plants are working after years of lying unused

7 SET UP A NETWORK OF WATER KIOSKS:

Public hydrants to ensure availability of safe drinking water free-of-charge in underdeveloped areas



• **Status:** Delayed. The e-Piaos were supposed to come up last year. Now, the DJB has tweaked the project and expects the work at 105 locations to start by March

DUAL WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM: Programme to reduce

demand for potable water and promote conservation by reclaiming waste water for reuse after recycling



• **Status:** Under process. The pilot project will start in six locations soon

Capital's glass finally loo

As the Kejriwal govt. completes one year in office, *The Hindu* takes a look at the promises

Delhi is getting the most quantity of water it has ever got, with treated water supply reaching a peak of 900 million gallons per day (MGD) in the past one year. Three new water treatment plants, 12 new underground reservoirs and 120km of new pipelines have been laid in a year.

When the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government came to power in February 2015, it promised to carry out key changes in the water sector in its election manifesto. The AAP even brought out a special white paper on water with 13 broad goals. Giving free water (up to 20,000 litres) to all households; scrapping the annual hike in rates that the Sheila Dikshit government had introduced; and cracking down on the tanker mafia that thrived because of the city's unplanned nature – these were the promises.

AAP
Port card

WATER

A year later, the government's record on water has been mixed. Water supply has been increased by 60 MGD on average and 205 colonies have been added to the network, but projects like installing GPS on all tankers and setting up drinking water kiosks have been delayed.

The increase in supply has been largely due to Haryana releasing additional water through Munak Canal after the High Court in March 2015 ordered that State to release water to Delhi.

For the first time in its history, the sub-city of Dwarka in South-West Delhi has got piped water. The area was planned by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), even though there was no additional water supply.

Dwarka resident and the head of the Dwarka Forum, Rejimon C.K., said the tankers and borewells that sustained the sub-city since 2000 have almost disappeared.

"Though the quantity of water may be less in the summer, we have almost stopped using borewells and tankers completely in the past year," he said.

He added that the health of

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to meet the demand for water and promote reuse after recycling

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Dwarka residents had also improved, as the DJB's treated water was cleaner than the groundwater that had higher TDS (total dissolved solids) content.

"Every winter we had to change the element of water heaters three times. But, this winter with the DJB supply we haven't had to change the element," said Mr. Rejimon.

DJB Member (Water Supply) R.S. Tyagi said 120 wells had been sealed in Dwarka, and 45 DJB tankers and 72 DDA tankers had been phased out.

"Delhi is getting 930 MGD of raw water, of which about 80 MGD is from groundwater sources. By starting treatment at three plants that were unused for years, we have reached a

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peak of 900 MGD," said Mr. Tyagi.

He added that soon 15MGD of water would be added to the supply from Palla.

The other important promise, with both political and practical implications, was giving 20,000 litres of free water.

There were concerns that the DJB wouldn't be able to survive the financial implications of the subsidy. But, even though 38.8 per cent of the DJB's 23 lakh con-

sumers avail of the rebate, the revenue has gone up.

"The free water scheme of ours is a case study for others. We were told that the DJB would go bankrupt, but we have earned Rs.178 crore more," said DJB chairperson Kapil Mishra.

Though Delhi has more water, and more Delhiites have access to piped water than before, some of the big infrastructure projects of the DJB look like they will miss their deadlines.

The ambitious interceptor sewer project was supposed to be completed by June 2015, then the deadline got pushed to December 2016.

And now, Mr. Mishra says that it will be between December 2016 and March 2017.

'Difficult to wean away those getting free water'

Scheme hasn't encouraged illegal users to switch to paid connections

Reducing the charges for new water and sewer connections has not done much to encourage illegal users to switch to paid connections, Delhi Jal Board officials have admitted.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, which came to power last February, had made it a goal to get residents of unauthorised colonies to get legal connections after being added to the piped network. The scheme of reduced water and sewer development charges has recently been extended for another six months, but so far only 1.4 lakh consumers have benefitted from it, as per the DJB's own admission.

The charges were reduced by nearly 80 per cent to a flat rate of Rs.100 per square metre for properties in D, E, F, G and H categories of unauthorised colonies. To be eligible, the plot has to be up to 200 square metres and being utilised for domestic or mixed use only.

"This policy has not had a big impact on new connections, but we had not anticipated it as well," said a senior DJB official.

In fact, an AAP MLA admitted that most people were still unwilling to switch over to metered connections.

"On a recent visit, residents of an unauthorised colony told me that the charges were still too high. But, then I pointed out that they had expensive two-wheelers parked outside their homes. They were not ready to pay for water as they have been getting it for free," said the Aam



GETTING CONNECTED

In the past year, the water network has grown, but many still left out

MGD treated water supply — up from 835 millions of gallons per day

households have access to piped water supply

METERED CONNECTIONS

21,23,403

ACTIVE CONNECTIONS

19,11,467

FUNCTIONAL METERS

METERED CONNECTIONS

23,18,694

ACTIVE CONNECTIONS

19,58,111

FUNCTIONAL METERS

9.19% INCREASE IN TOTAL CONNECTIONS

Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA.

The total number of new water connections has gone up over the past year, with a 9.19 per cent increase from March 1, 2015 to February 1, 2016.

R.S. Tyagi, the DJB Member (water supply), said: "We are working towards regularising

connections in unauthorised colonies as we provide piped water to them."

Of the 1,639 unauthorised colonies in Delhi, 1,105 colonies have been extended piped water as of now, with 205 of them being added in the past one year.


'Summer of 2016 will be the best so far'

Delhi Jal Board Chairperson and Cabinet member Kapil Mishra speaks to

Damini Nath about how the AAP government's pre-election focus on water has sustained a year on.

Water was one of the biggest areas of concern for AAP. What were the challenges you faced when it came to implementing your poll promises?

We came to power in February when summer was just a few months away. The summer action plan of the DJB was not ready. We had a big challenge of how we would face the summer. The other worry was how we would make our assets, like the Dwarka and Bawana treatment plants, functional as they had been lying unused for years for lack of raw water. Everyone was either questioning or laughing at us about the 20 kl free water scheme.

 I will consider myself successful as DJB chairperson when no Delhiite knows where their zonal revenue office is, or who the Water Minister is or that there is even an organisation called the Delhi Jal Board. Everyone should get water in their homes at all times and pay their bills online

Kapil Mishra,
DJB Chairperson



How did you deal with these?

We had the summer action plan drawn up after consultations with all MLAs about the water situation in their constituencies. In three months, we had both the Dwarka and Bawana plants operational. They are both functioning at near full capacity. Almost all unauthorised colonies of Dwarka and Bawana are getting water now. The 20 kl scheme has become a case study, we have not

only provided free water, but our revenue has increased.

How has the consumer experience changed?

One of the biggest problems is our billing system. We are still dealing with it. The meter readers would not go regularly. Sometimes people would not get bills for six months and then suddenly get huge bills. We have improved a lot. Earlier there

would be 2 lakh meter readings in one cycle and now its about 16 lakh readings. We have also recently launched the app 'mSeva', which will really make it easy for people to pay their bills.

There had been allegations of corruption, from bribes for new connections to the tanker mafia. What have you done on that?

Till the Anti-Corruption Branch was under us, the DJB had the msot officials of any department who had been caught. Even after that, when we brought out the scheme for new connections we had to suspend four zonal revenue officers as they were not complying. We have re-launched the scheme with changes, CCTV cameras have been installed, there are volunteers on the ground. So far, we haven't got complaints of corruption like we did last time the scheme was launched.

GHMC ignores water-friendly road tech

COREENA SUARES | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Relaying of 1,800 km of city roads prior to the GHMC elections was done with concrete, but without any modern technology or ideas being used.

In the Netherlands, the roads are constructed with material that absorbs rainwater, which allows for recharging of groundwater. In Hyderabad, after a single downpour there is water logging on roads but no change in groundwater levels.

The cost per kilometre is almost the same.

Several areas, like Habsiguda, have been declared dry as there is zero groundwater.

Experts hold GHMC responsible for not apply-

NO JUMP IN COST

■ **ROADS** IN the Netherlands have a simple technology that allows them to absorb water. It costs about ₹54 lakh per km.

■ **GHMC PAYS ₹50 lakh per km of concrete road, 'pervious tech' will cost ₹60 lakh in India.**



ing such techniques or working on water harvesting pits.

Prof. N.V. Ramana Rao of JNTU's civil engineering department said, "This technology is called 'pervious concrete roads' in which there are open pores

on the road surface. Whenever it rains, the road absorbs water and this recharges the groundwater level. Indian roads are normally made of solid blocks. The pervious concrete road technology is currently used in Delhi. Some apart-

ments and gated communities have laid these roads."

"Pervious roads are also designed to take the traffic load. It is a mixture of 'aggregate' - small broken pieces of stone and a special grade of cement - when water flows on it, it gets absorbed into the ground below. Foreign nations spend around \$80,000 (about ₹54 lakh) on one km of this road. "In India, going by present calculations, it will cost around ₹60 lakh per km of pervious concrete road," said Mr Rao.

"There are two advantages with this technology. Rainwater is absorbed into the ground. So roads do not break down and have a longer life. Rainwater directly seeps through the pores in the road and joins

the groundwater, slowly resulting in the rise of groundwater levels," said Prof. G.K. Viswanadh of civil engineering at JNTUH.

A senior engineer from GHMC said, "The amount spent on 1 km of road is ₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh keeping in mind the past condition of the roads. In case of a concrete cement road, almost ₹50 lakh is spent per km.

"While experts suggest alternative ways, the GHMC in association with residents' welfare associations should encourage people to lay pervious concrete roads within colonies on partnership bases, with 70 per cent of the cost paid by GHMC. Secondly, it should construct rainwater harvesting pits free of cost in every colony."

पुराने स्वरूप में लौटने लगी खान

5/17 का
9-2-16

**पत्रिका उम्मीदों
महाअभियान की खान**

इंदौर @ पत्रिका. खान नदी शुद्धिकरण के काम में अब तेजी आ गई है। 25 दिन में एक किलोमीटर का हिस्सा साफ कर दिया गया है। इस हिस्से में नदी का पुराना स्वरूप दिखने लगा है।

नगर निगम ने 12 जनवरी को कार्ययोजना बनाकर सफाई का काम शुरू किया था। पहले चरण में तेजपुर गडबडी पुल से लोखंडे ब्रिज तक के 11 किलोमीटर के हिस्से की सफाई शुरू हुई। इसके लिए निगम ने दो माह की टाइम लाइन तय की थी। निगम ने 13 जनवरी से इसकी शुरुआत भी कर दी थी। पहले दौर में चाल धीमी रही, लेकिन अब काम में गति आई है।

सफाई के लिए निगम ने पांच पोकलेन मशीनें लगाई हैं। निगम ने 25 दिन में एक किलोमीटर के हिस्से में मौजूद गाद और गंदगी बाहर कर दी है। यहां नदी गहरेकरण का काम भी हो गया है। नदी के किनारों को भी चौड़ा किया गया है। नदी किनारे जमी मिट्टी को काटकर नदी को वापस उसकी चौड़ाई के बराबर कर दिया गया है। इससे नदी के पाट चौड़े हो गए हैं और वह अपने पुराने स्वरूप में दिखने लगी है।

याचिकाकर्ता पहुंचे

नदी सफाई के काम की प्रगति देखने को नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल में याचिका दायर करने वाले किशोर कोडवानी भी पहुंचे। सफाई के काम को देखकर वे भी संतुष्ट हैं।

खान नदी शुद्धिकरण : 25 दिन में एक किलोमीटर का हिस्सा हुआ साफ



चोइथराम सब्जी मंडी के पिछले हिस्से में कुछ इस तरह चौड़ी नजर आने लगी है खान नदी।

and documented at Ehadirath(English)& Publicity Section, CVIC.

नदी जोड़ो योजना जल व खाद्य सुरक्षा को मजबूत करेगी

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): केंद्रीय मंत्री उमा भारती ने कहा कि नदियों को जोड़ने की योजना देश में जल एवं खाद्य सुरक्षा की स्थिति को बेहतर बनाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है और इससे जल की कमी वाले, सूखाग्रस्त एवं वर्षा की कमी वाले क्षेत्रों में पानी उपलब्ध कराने में काफी मदद मिलेगी। नदियों को जोड़ने की योजना संबंधी विशेष समिति की आठवीं बैठक के दौरान यहां जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण मंत्री उमा भारती ने कहा कि भारत सरकार नदियों को जोड़ने की योजना को राज्य सरकारों के साथ सहमति और सहयोग के आधार पर लागू करने को प्रतिबद्ध है। बहुप्रतीक्षित केन-बेतवा नदी जोड़ो



नई दिल्ली में सोमवार को नदियों के अंतर्योजन हेतु विशेष समिति की आठवीं बैठक में केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री उमा भारती, राज्यमंत्री सांवर लाल जाट और राज्यों के जल संसाधन मंत्री। (छाया : प्रैट)

संबंधित कई तरह की मंजूरी प्रक्रिया परियोजना की 22 सितंबर 2015 को हुई अंतिम चरण में है। "मझे यह बताते हुए बैठक में आगे बढ़ाने की सिफारिश की

योजना समिति की बैठक

सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों को भी मिल सकेगा पानी : सरकार योजना आगे बढ़ाने को प्रतिबद्ध है

को मंजूरी के लिए भेजा गया है।" उमा ने कहा कि उन्होंने इस बारे में वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्री प्रकाश जावडेकर से बात की है और उन्हें जल्द ही मंजूरी मिलने की उम्मीद है। महानदी-गोदावरी लिंक प्रोजेक्ट के बारे में उन्होंने इस महीने की तीन तारीख को ओडिशा के मुख्यमंत्री नवीन पटनायक के साथ हुई चर्चा का

राज्य सरकार के अ इसके विभिन्न आय और छह महीने में रि भारती ने कहा, "रि महानदी गोदावरी अंतिम रूप देने के के मुख्यमंत्री से एव मुझे इस बारे में ओ काफी सकारात्मक है।" पार तापी नर्म के बारे में उन्होंने क परियोजना रिपोर्ट अ और महाराष्ट्र सरकार और उनकी टिप्पणि प्रतीक्षा है। उन्होंने महाराष्ट्र के बीच जल में दमनगंगा पिंपल

कलकल नदी को नहर में तो न बदलें

गोमती या हिंडन नदी का मुकाबला चंबल से नहीं हो सकता और न ही टेम्स और हडसन से।

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अंबरीश कुमार
वर्षिष्ठ पत्रकार



देश के विभिन्न हिस्सों में शहरों से बहने वाली नदी पर रिवर फ्रंट बनाने की योजना शुरू हो चुकी है। इस योजना की प्रेरणा अहमदाबाद के बीच से बहने वाली साबरमती रिवर फ्रंट से मिली, तो विदेश में न्यूयॉर्क की हडसन नदी से। इसी के चलते गोमती पर काम चल रहा है, तो हिंडन और यमुना पर शुरू होना है। यह कल्पना बहुत अच्छी लगती है और जो सब बताया जाता है, वह भी मध्य वर्ग को बहुत लुभाता है। मंद-मंद बहती नदी के दोनों छोर पर पक्की चमचमाती सड़क। बैठने के लिए शानदार बेंच। संगीत के साथ तरह-तरह के व्यंजन परोसते रेस्तरां और नदी में वाटर स्पोर्ट्स, साथ ही अत्याधुनिक नाव, होवरक्राफ्ट व कूज। बस उसमें नहीं होगा, तो नदी का अपना साफ पानी।

जिस नदी पर यह बनेगा, उसका हाइड्रोलिक सिस्टम पूरी तरह बिगड़ जाएगा। जो जलचर नदी के कच्चे किनारे पर आते-जाते अंडा देते हैं, वे सब निपट जाएंगे। नदी अपने को रिचार्ज करने के लिए जो पानी अपने कच्चे किनारों से बरसात में लेती है, वह व्यवस्था खत्म हो जाएगी। साफ पानी कम मिलेगा, सीवेज का ज्यादा। इससे शहर का कुछ सौंदर्य भले बढ़ जाए, लेकिन पर्यावरण को जो नुकसान होगा, उसकी भरपायी सौ साल में भी संभव नहीं। इससे पानी का बढ़ा संकट भी पैदा होगा। साबरमती में ही बार-बार नर्मदा का उधार का पानी डाला जाता है, तब जाकर वह बची हुई है, वरना वह भी कई महीने नदी की जगह नाला नजर

आएगी। इसकी कितनी कीमत साबरमती ने चुकाई है, यह भी जरा जान लें। शहर के बीच साबरमती की औसत चौड़ाई 1,253 फुट थी, जो रिवर फ्रंट योजना के बाद 902 फुट रह गई। यह जो कटौती हुई है, उसी पर रिवर फ्रंट बना और इसका एक हिस्सा निजी क्षेत्र के हवाले भी हुआ।

गोमती हो, हिंडन हो या फिर यमुना हो, जिस भी नदी पर रिवर फ्रंट बनेगा, वह नदी को छोटा करके ही बनेगा। नदी और नहर में एक फर्क होता है। नदी पानी देती है और खुद ही पानी लेती भी है। कहीं भूजल से अपने को रिचार्ज करती है, तो कहीं पर बरसात के पानी से। जबकि नहर अपने को स्वतः रिचार्ज नहीं कर सकती। फिर हर नदी की प्रकृति अलग होती है। गोमती का मुकाबला चंबल से नहीं हो सकता और न टेम्स और हडसन से। टेम्स और हडसन को किस तरह पुनर्जीवित किया गया है, यह लोग नहीं जानते। वैसे, शहर से बहने वाली नदी पर रिवर फ्रंट प्राकृतिक रूप से भी बनाया जा सकता है। चीन के शंघाई में ह्वांगपू रिवर फ्रंट पार्क इसका नया उदाहरण है, जहां नदी के किनारे बिना सरिया-सीमेंट की दीवार बनाए प्राकृतिक ढंग से रिवर फ्रंट बनाया गया, ताकि इस व्यवस्था से नदी का पानी भी साफ रहे और उसके पर्यावरण को कोई नुकसान न पहुंचे। अपने देश में ज्यादातर नदियां, जो शहर से गुजरती हैं, बुरी तरह प्रदूषित हो चुकी हैं। अब उनके दोनों किनारे सड़क, मॉल और बाजार बनाकर हम उसे पूरी तरह खत्म कर देंगे।

(ये लेखक के अपने विचार हैं)

केन-बेतवा नदी जोड़ परियोजना लटकी

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नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

उत्तर प्रदेश और मध्य प्रदेश के सबसे पिछड़े इलाके बुंदेलखंड के लिए जीवन रेखा मानी जा रही देश की पहली नदी जोड़ परियोजना केन-बेतवा को अभी और इंतजार करना पड़ेगा। सारी शुरुआती कार्रवाई पूरी होने के बाद यह परियोजना वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्रालय के राष्ट्रीय वन्य जीव बोर्ड की मंजूरी का इंतजार कर रही है।

नदियों को जोड़ने की योजना संबंधी विशेष समिति की आठवीं बैठक में सभी 30 नदी जोड़ परियोजनाओं की समीक्षा करते हुए इनकी धीमी प्रगति पर चिंता व्यक्त की गई है। हालांकि जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण मंत्री उमा भारती ने कहा है कि केंद्र सरकार नदियों

महाराष्ट्र व गुजरात का विवाद भी अनसुलझा

पार-तापी-नर्मदा और दमनगंगा-पिंजाल नदी जोड़ परियोजनाओं को लेकर महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात का विवाद भी अभी नहीं सुलझ सका है। विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट अगस्त 2015 में गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र सरकार को दे दी गई है। अभी उनकी टिप्पणियों और विचारों की प्रतीक्षा है। उमा ने कहा है कि जल के बंटवारे के संबंध में दोनों राज्यों के मुख्यमंत्रियों ने इन विषयों को सुलझाने की इच्छा जताई है।

को जोड़ने की योजना को राज्य सरकारों के साथ सहमति और सहयोग के आधार पर लागू करने को प्रतिबद्ध है। केंद्र में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी सरकार बनने के बाद नदी जोड़ परियोजना में तेजी लाने के लिए सितंबर 2014 में एक विशेष समिति का गठन किया गया था।

जावड़ेकर से बात की : उमा भारती ने कहा कि उन्होंने इस संबंध में वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर से बात

की है और जल्द ही मंजूरी मिलने की उम्मीद है। परियोजना की खिलाफत कर रहे ओडिशा के बारे में उमा ने कहा कि महानदी-गोदावरी जोड़ परियोजना को लेकर उन्होंने तीन फरवरी को सीएम नवीन पटनायक से बात की थी। इसमें तय हुआ कि केंद्र और राज्य सरकार के अधिकारियों का दल इसके विभिन्न आयामों पर चर्चा करेगा और छह महीने में रिपोर्ट पेश करेगा।