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Technical Documentation Directorate  
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section  
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The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

*P. Maham*  
9.8.18  
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director TD Dte, & Publication Division

*Vm*  
9/8/18

Director TD Dte on leave

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## MODI'S FARM POLICIES

# Govt laps up Swaminathan endorsement after flak

**SANJEEB MUKHERJEE**  
New Delhi, 8 August

After criticism for its handling of agrarian issues, the government found some support from an article written a few days earlier by eminent agricultural scientist M S Swaminathan, considered one of the fathers of the country's earlier Green Revolution.

Swaminathan praised the Narendra Modi government's handling of the country's agriculture. He also said it had implemented several of the suggestions made by him as chairman of the earlier National Commission on Farmers (NCF, constituted in 2004 by the earlier government), while the former government only gave lip service.

"The recent announcement of a remunerative price based essentially on the recommendation of NCF is a very important step to ensure the economic viability of farming... As for farmers' agitations still continu-

ing, a major demand is the waiving of loans and implementation of the NCF recommendations on MSP (minimum support price). Both these problems are now receiving attention and appropriate action," Swaminathan wrote. The piece came days ahead of a big agitation planned by a bunch of farmer groups from August 9. It was lapped up by government ministers across domains. Interestingly, one big demand of the ongoing farmers' agitation is implementation of the Swaminathan Commission report. Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan saw the Swaminathan article as support for the Modi government's efforts to redefine farming and farmers in India. Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh issued a long statement of support for the article, also mentioning it in a written reply to Parliament. Finance Minister Piyush Goyal repeatedly referred to the article in his reply on supplementary grants, on

how effective the government's handling of agriculture had been.

However, opinions differ. Ajay Jakhar, head of the Punjab Farmers Commission, tweeted: "Doubt if @msswaminathan wrote this (the article); seems like an advertorial...something fishy...either way, I disagree."

All India Kisan Sabha, farmer arm of the CPI(M), spearheading the stir from Thursday, stated on Wednesday: "It is time to ensure genuine implementation of the recommendations of the NCF, with priority to three components - an MSP based on the formula of C2+50 per cent; a favourable procurement policy to ensure farmers actually receive the MSP; and increasing mass consumption through the effective implementation of the Food Security Act, school noon meal programmes, etc."

Swaminathan had also said he supported the farmer demands and requested the government to listen to these.



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## Basmati rice exporters face Iran default woes

DILIP KUMAR JHA  
Mumbai, 8 August

Default by Iranian importers on some Indian basmati rice brands under bilateral deals have hit our export of these products in the June quarter. The government has cautioned exporters to avoid private transactions with Iranian importers.

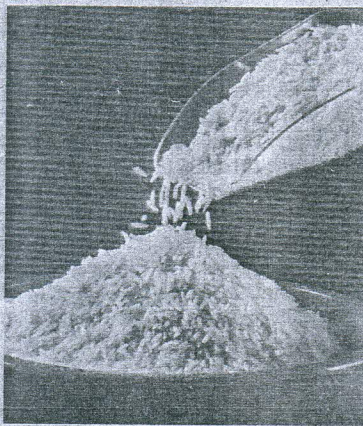
Data from the government's Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Apeda) show our shipment of basmati declined by 7.2 per cent to 1.17 million tonnes for the April-June period, first three months of the financial year, from the same period last year.

Iran is the largest importer of India's branded and unbranded aromatic rice (it took a third of all its export in the June quarter). Hit by trade restrictions from America, Iranian importers pay to Indian basmati exporters in rupees.

Many such transactions are done on a private basis without involving banks and regulators. Informed sources say a number of importers dealing primarily with private basmati exporters had defaulted in making payment of around ₹5 billion.

"Usually, exporters get a certificate from Apeda and proper processes are followed. As per trade sources, several large basmati rice exporting firms have become non-performing assets with their bankers, due to non-receipt of payments against export of large volumes to importers in these brands," said a senior Apeda official, on condition of anonymity.

According to trade sources, some Indian exporters were dealing privately with Iranian importers without opening of Letters of Credit, which guarantee the receipt of money from importers. According to the Apeda official, around



### GOING DOWN

Basmati rice export

Year	Value (\$ bn)	Quantity (mn tonnes)
2011-12	3.22	3.17
2012-13	3.56	3.46
2013-14	4.86	3.75
2014-15	4.52	3.70
2015-16	3.48	4.04
2016-17	3.22	4.00
2017-18	4.17	4.05
2018-19#	1.28	1.17

# Up to June 2018, compiled by BS Research Bureau, Source: APEDA (DGCI)

a third of India's basmati exported to Iran faces threat of default.

"We have taken up the issue with the trade ministry in Iran. But, it seems, Indian exporters would have to go only through the legal route to recover the money," added the official.

Apeda has advised exporters not to register contracts for export of basmati or make arrangement for payment before applying to it in this regard. Exports should be against formal orders which include quality specifications and a mechanism for resolution of disputes.



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# Costly wheat to push up biscuit prices

**RAJESH BHAYANI, AVISHEK RAKSHIT & TE NARASIMHAN**  
Mumbai/Kolkata/Chennai, 8 August

The biscuit with your tea could soon be more costly, thanks to a sharp rise in wheat prices, both in the domestic and international markets.

Britannia, which makes both bread and biscuits, and Parle are considering price hikes for their products, as is ITC that sells biscuits, along with Aashirvaad atta. Smaller manufacturers are also likely to follow suit. In the past month, wheat prices have increased 6.3 per cent. The reason: production is expected to be 1.5 per cent lower, in terms of crop acreage, than the earlier estimate.

The government has this year procured more than targeted wheat, in a bid to ensure food security. This has resulted in lower stock in the open market.

Varun Berry, managing director, Britannia Industries, said, "We will need a price increase. We have ensured adequate wheat supply but at some stage this struggle is going to end. It's probably going to be a 3-4 per cent price increase, starting in the fourth quarter of 2018-19."

While wheat imports are not significant, global wheat prices, too, are on the rise. In the past month, wheat prices on the Chicago Board of Trade went up 13.4 per cent.

The burden of wheat price rise is likely to pinch the smaller players more, given that they do not have the brand loyalty that the larger companies enjoy.

An ITC spokesperson said, "India is self-sufficient in the seasonal crop. Usually there is a normal inflation reflecting carrying costs, handling and freight experienced on the base prices discovered by the farmer."

The spokesperson added that unlike other commodities, the speculation in this crop was minimal. "The atta market prices respond to prevailing wheat prices, which in turn, are driven by the current wheat stock position in the country. The prices of Aashirvaad Atta and its variants accordingly get corrected in a calibrated manner over time," he added.

Leading manufacturer of biscuits and confectionery, Parle, said it might look at increasing prices. Mayank Shah, product category head at Parle Products, said, "Input costs have gone up by about 15-20 per cent. The net impact depends on the material cost of production, which went up by 8-12 per cent. To compensate this in certain varieties, price increase needs to be around 10 per cent, while in price-sensitive categories it would be 7-8 per cent."

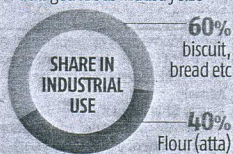
The reason for the jump in price, apart from lower acreage and crop damage in some areas, is also because government procurement has been higher than estimated.

Last year, government agencies procured 29.5 million tonnes (mt). This year's target was to procure 32 mt, but the actual procurement

## TAKING A HIT

**₹1.3 trillion**

Packaged foods industry size



**43-44 mn tonnes**

of packaged wheat products are consumed

Source: CRISIL Research



has been 35 mt. Wheat production estimates were lowered by 1.4 per cent over the previous year to 97.11 mt in 2017-18.

Hetal Gandhi, director, CRISIL Research, said wheat prices would remain firm because of higher demand from industrial consumers such as biscuits and other packaged food manufacturers. Thanks to the demand, the prices might even increase.

Gandhi said: "Many of the manufacturers, mostly small and medium enterprises, are resorting to buying excess wheat and flour to insulate themselves against rising prices resulting in higher working capital needs. Unorganised players, con-

sisting of small players such as local bakeries and snack shops, are expected to be more affected with the sharp rise in wheat prices as they do not have a strong procurement chain and have limited ability to pass on the rise in input costs."

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# Why agri-surpluses have shallow roots

Production trends and current income levels suggest India may not remain a surplus producer for long, but the situation offers opportunities for deeper structural reform



**WHEN IT POURS:** Farmers destroy milk stocks to protest low prices and shrinking returns

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE  
New Delhi, 8 August

**M**ilk, sugar, pulses, vegetables. Name any agriculture commodity in India today, and the most compelling image that comes to mind is of farmers dumping them by way of protest against falling prices and rock-bottom returns.

All of a sudden, agri-surpluses, the proximate reason for falling prices and farmer distress, appear to have become a pervasive problem from Uttar Pradesh to Maharashtra. Long habituated to shortages, this problem of plenty is causing headline-attracting farmer agitations against falling rural incomes, worsened by 2016's demonetisation and the rushed introduction of the Goods and Services Tax in 2017.

This is a novel experience for Indian policy-makers, who are struggling to come up with adequate responses. The fact is, however, that this is not a one-off development; steady growth in agricultural output has become more frequent over the past few years. This novel situation, however, raises a key question about the future: Is India about to become a surplus agri-producer from here on? Are we looking at food mountains and milk lakes just as Europe did in the eighties, under the impact of generous farm subsidies?

Sceptics say it is too early to predict whether India has entered into a prolonged period of surplus in agricultural commodities. In fact, they add, unless fundamental problems associated with markets, storage, distribution, rainfall not to forget tariffs are addressed, surpluses can turn

into shortage at very short notice.

"I don't think the situation of over-supply will remain for a long time. It is possible over the next one or two years that supplies of some crops may exceed demand. But once economic growth improves and prices start moving north, it remains to be seen, how the supply situation responds," said Mahendra Dev, Director of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) and former chairman of Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP).

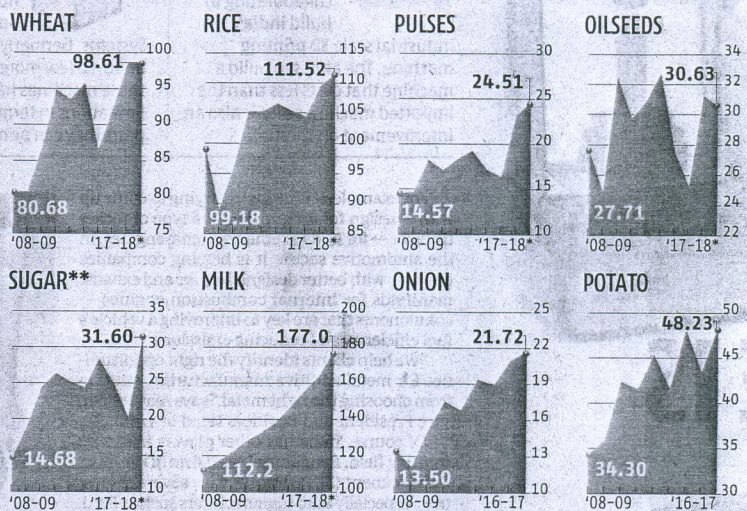
Data of the past ten years, sourced from a range of official sources, show that, except for milk, the production of most food crops has fluctuated sharply, depending upon that year's rainfall distribution, price and trading curbs.

Consider pulses before the current jump, India reached its highest-ever production of pulses at 19.25 million tonnes in 2013-14, but two consecutive drought years pulled output to 17.15 million tonnes in 2014-15 and 16.35 million in 2015-16. As a result the prices of some pulses, mainly arhar, had touched almost ₹200 per kg, before the government intervened by fast-tracking imports and even scouting for countries in Africa to grow pulses for Indian consumers.

And all this happened only a few years back. In other words, it could happen again unless India finds a major technological breakthrough, such as the introduction of the new high-yielding arhar variety PUSA-16. Indeed, such developments have been the key reason for the dramatic upswing in sugarcane production, principally the new CO-0238 variety, developed at the Karnal regional centre of the

## GROWING FORTUNES

(Production in mn tonnes)



## MONSOON: ACTUAL RAINFALL AS A % OF NORMAL RAINFALL



NOTE: 2014-15 and 2015-16 were drought years; \*The crop season for wheat, rice, pulses and oilseeds runs from July to June and the data is based on the third advanced estimate; \*\*The sugar crop season runs from October to September. All other crops follow the financial year. Normal rainfall is 889 millimeters which is the average rainfall of last 50 years starting from 1951

Source: Department of Agriculture, Parliament Questions, IMD and NHDRF.

Sugarcane Breeding Institute. This and other high-yielding varieties of sugarcane can be expected to ensure that, apart from significant climate change in sugarcane growing areas or if farmers replace sugarcane for other crops in the face of repeated payment failures, production will expand at a steady pace.

The current surpluses may also be an indicator of low demand. "The surpluses that we are seeing in many commodities is now could also be due to the fact that a significant section of the population hasn't seen a big rise in income levels in the last few years; demand will rise when incomes rise," said Shashanka Bhide, Director of Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS).

In the short-term, he added, there could be sudden surpluses in some commodities, but the long-term perspective of any surplus situation in agriculture should be seen in the context of income growth at lower levels, which represents potential demand that hasn't been realised.

"Unless prices decline more or this hidden demand is fully realised, we can't say that India has reached a position of perpetual surplus in farm commodities," he points out.

"No one can predict, as of now, whether there are perpetual surpluses, although for the next

two or three years or so, India is very comfortable in most agriculture commodities. But these surpluses can disappear quickly, if India hits a back-to-back drought as in 2014-15 and 2015-16," said Ashok Gulati, Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).

The question, of course, is how the government should respond. Whether in surplus or shortage, Gulati points out, the government needs to shift from a pro-consumer bias to a pro-farmer or, at least, give him (farmer) a neutral platform. "What this implies is that we need to abolish the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), allow the private sector to hold stocks, and enable organised retail. It also requires contract farming, especially in perishables, bypassing the Mandi system and pushing through reforms of the Agriculture Price Market Committees, which are long overdue," Gulati added. "Only then one can hope some structural turn around. Short term fixes of export subsidy or government stocks may not help much," he said. This possibly temporary problem of plenty, therefore, could provide a good opportunity for deeper reforms that the shortage economy precluded.



Hindustan Times ✓

Statesman

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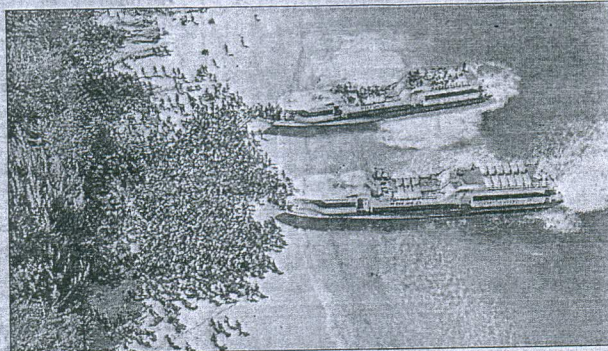
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■ People wait to be evacuated from Gili Trawangan island.

AFP

## Indonesia quake death toll hits 131

**TANJUNG:** The death toll from a powerful earthquake on the Indonesian island of Lombok rose above 130 on Wednesday, as authorities appealed for food, clean water and medical help for some 156,000 people forced from their homes.

Many frightened, displaced villagers are staying under tents or tarpaulins dotted along roads or in parched rice fields, and makeshift medical facilities have been set up to treat the injured.

Evacuees in some encampments say they are running out of food, while others are suffering psychological trauma after the 6.9-magnitude quake, which

struck just one week after another tremor surged through the island and killed 17.

"We still need long-term aid, even though we have already received help from various (regional) governments," national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said. Around 1,477 people were severely injured in the disaster, with tens of thousands of homes damaged, and authorities say the toll of 131 is likely to rise.

Workers with heavy machinery are searching the rubble of homes, schools and mosques, with hope of finding any survivors fading.

AFP

New Delhi



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## Impasse over Massanjore dam continues

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
KOLKATA

West Bengal and Jharkhand held talks on Wednesday to end the impasse over the Massanjore dam in Dumka but both sides stuck to their stand.

West Bengal's Irrigation Minister Soumen Mahapatra admitted that the meeting was "not fruitful" but added that there is no reason why the State government, which had been maintaining the dam since 1955, cannot paint it the way it likes.

"I will get the details of what happened at the meeting from the officials and

✓  
speak to the Chief Minister in this regard," he told *The Hindu*.

Controversy over painting the reservoir wall blue and white, the colours of West Bengal, erupted last week when members of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, youth wing of the BJP, stopped the painting of the dam located at Dumka in Jharkhand.

Since then, a war of words ensued between the leaders of the ruling parties from both the States. Dumka MLA and Jharkhand Minister Louis Marandi warned against painting the dam.



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## Welcome clouds

The forecast is optimistic, but changing monsoon trends are a challenge

**T**he most recent assessment put out by the India Meteorological Department, that the southwest monsoon will be "normal" after a short break, comes as a relief. At the end of two months the total rainfall has met the criteria for 'normality,' although there are wide variations in the patterns of showers, leaving some districts hit by drought as others face floods. Official data show that the realisation of 384.7 mm of rain as of July 25 is only a 3% negative departure from the Long Period Average. Yet, within this phase of the monsoon, some districts of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana and Vidarbha experienced deficits ranging from 20% to 59%. In the case of Gujarat, it has been a story of both deficiency and heavy rainfall within the State. As with many previous monsoons, this rainy season has so far witnessed a lot of death and destruction: at least 465 people have died this year. Roads and infrastructure have been destroyed, and it will take massive investments to rebuild them. Thousands of people have had to shift to relief camps as floods have ruined their houses. Such displaced families urgently need relief to resume normal life. The rainfall patterns, with their spatial variations, have major implications for agriculture and groundwater recharge as well.

Water is the key determinant of India's agricultural output and the National Commission on Farmers chaired by the scientist, Professor M.S. Swaminathan, had several recommendations for its optimal use. Given that 60% of the 192 million hectares of gross sown area assessed by the Commission was found to be rainfed, an accelerated programme to harness the monsoon is vital. State programmes must take all measures to expand surface water storage, launch more minor irrigation schemes, and improve the recharge of groundwater. Altered rainfall trends in terms of intensity and variations across regions pose a new challenge. Scientists contend that the alluvial soil of the northern States benefit more from slow precipitation, while the hard-rock geography of the south needs heavy showers for groundwater recharge. Yet, many districts have been receiving short, heavy spells and not steady rain. A future-ready approach should therefore focus on augmented storage and greater participation of the farming community in managing the vital resource. The IMD has issued a "normal" outlook for August, which is encouraging, and there are signs of fresh monsoon activity in Odisha, south Chhattisgarh, north coastal Andhra Pradesh and parts of Telangana. If the forecast is accurate, and the trend of favourable climate conditions in the Indian Ocean continue, a further normal course of the season through September can be expected.



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## Assam flood situation improves

Over 77,000 people still suffering in Biswanath, Golaghat districts: ASDMA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GUWAHATI

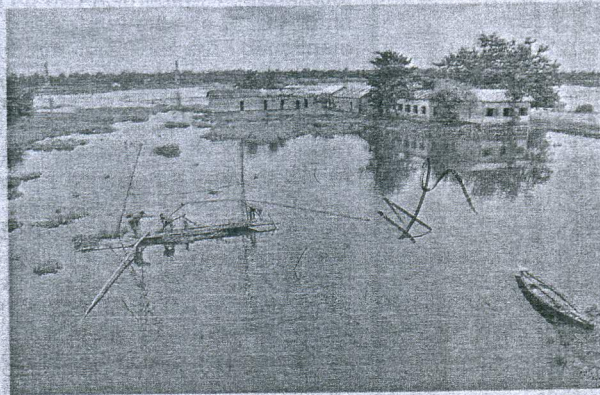
The flood situation in Assam improved marginally on Wednesday even though over 77,000 people were still affected in two districts.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), over 77,200 people are still suffering due to flood in Biswanath and Golaghat districts.

Till Tuesday, over 81,000 people were affected in flood in Golaghat district in the State.

### Death toll 46

The total number of persons who lost their lives in



Villagers preparing to cast fishing net in floodwaters in Barpeta on Wednesday. •PTI

the two spells of flood this year in the State stands at 46, including three in the

landslides.

Currently, 107 villages are under water and 6,883 hec-

tares of crop areas have been damaged, the ASDMA said.

The ASDMA said authorities are running 109 relief camps and distribution centres in the two districts, where 19,636 people are taking shelter at present.

### Rivers above danger

Currently, the Brahmaputra at Nimatighat in Jorhat and Dhansiri at Numaligarh in Golaghat are flowing above the danger marks, it added.

Roads and bridges have been damaged in Lakhimpur, Biswanath and Kamrup Metropolitan, it added.



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# Heavy rain wreaks havoc in Kinnaur

Six shops washed away | Kinner Kailash pilgrim dead; yatra suspended 9-9

IANU P LOHUMI

BUNE NEWS SERVICE

IMLA, AUGUST 8

Heavy rain wreaked havoc in Kinnaur district on Wednesday, washing away six shops and endangering some houses in Powari Bazar, about 220 km from here. A sudden rise in the water level of the Sutlej

Tuesday evening has caused massive soil erosion. The district administration has also suspended the annual Kinner Kailash pilgrimage due to adverse weather conditions and flashfloods. The yatra was suspended on Wednesday after a pilgrim, identified as Sanjay (60) from Jaffarpur, died near the river due to hypothermia. Nearly 100 pilgrims were stranded in flashfloods.

They were rescued in the evening, said SP, Kinnaur, Rakshi Verma.

Officials said shops and houses had been evacuated. No loss of human life had been reported, while the loss of property was being



Efforts on to clear NH-5, near Ribba, of debris; and (right) endangered shops and houses at Powari in Kinnaur. TRIBUNE PHOTOS

assessed. Rescue operations by the police, the Army, the ITBP and Home Guard personnel were in full swing.

A bridge near Ribba has been declared unsafe due to soil erosion. Efforts are being made to open Nation-

al Highway-5, near Ribba, which was blocked due to flashfloods.

Landslides triggered by heavy rain have blocked 325 roads in the state. As many as 211 roads were blocked in Mandi zone, 85 in Shimla

zone, 17 in Kangra zone and 12 in Hamirpur zone. At least 308 JCBs, tippers and other vehicles have been pressed into service. A PWD official said 200 roads were expected to be opened for traffic by Thursday evening.

The local MeT office has warned of heavy rain in low and middle hills on August 11 and very heavy rain in low and middle hills on August 12. It has forecast a wet spell in the region till August 14.



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The Times of India (A)

Business standard

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## To help clean the Ganga, visit an ATM

*You can donate by just pressing a button*

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

The cleaning of the Ganga is not only an environmental imperative but also an issue weighted by public sentiment and national prestige. In a bid to make it easier for the public to participate in the efforts, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is talking to the State Bank of India to make it possible to donate to the Clean Ganga Fund from ATMs.

"A major aspect of the CGF is that it isn't about collecting a lot of money but about ensuring that people from all walks of life are involved in the task of cleaning the river," said Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, director, NMCG. "Many individual donors contribute fixed amounts, and the ATM facility could be useful for them."

### Separate corpus

While the NMCG, an affiliate of the Union Water Resources Ministry, is executing the government's ₹20,000-crore commitment to clean the Ganga, the CGF is a separate corpus made up of donations from corporates and individuals. At present, it has ₹250 crore in its kitty, which is being managed by the NMCG.

"We are in talks with the SBI to discuss how we can do this," said Rozy Agrawal,



ATMs will come in handy for individual donors to contribute funds.

executive director (Finance), NMCG. The Mission already has an agreement with Yes Bank, under which its ATMs display messages on keeping the river clean. Since Ganga rejuvenation projects have been notified as Corporate Social Responsibility activities, donations to the CGF qualify for income tax exemption. A web page on CSR activities lists projects such as ghat/crematoria construction and development and cleaning of ghats and drains through bio-remediation, river surface cleaning, solid waste disposal and afforestation.

As of now, about 90% of the CGF comes from State and Central government public sector units, according to information from the Lok Sabha. About ₹250 crore was collected as of July, and projects worth ₹225 crore sanctioned, Mr Agrawal said.



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# NGT orders FIR against 124 units on banks of Hindon, other rivers

## 30 Told To Shut Operations For Releasing Polluting Toxins Into Waterbodies

Sharmila Bhowmick &  
Sandeep Rai | TNN

**Noida/Ghaziabad:** The National Green Tribunal on Wednesday directed the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board to initiate prosecution proceedings against 124 industrial units mainly on the banks of Hindon and also near Kali and Krishna for releasing highly toxic pollutants into the rivers. Of these, 30 factories have been ordered to shut down completely while many others have been served show-cause notices. The board has been given 60 days' time to the comply with the tribunal's order.

The orders were issued by NGT's principal bench headed by Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel while hearing a petition filed by an NGO, Doaba Paryavaran Samiti (DPS), in October 2014.

The tribunal also asked the Union and state governments to start a special health scheme for people affected by contaminated water and also consider providing jobs to those rendered disabled. The offending industrial units would be liable for prosecution at the special court in Lucknow for violating Section 44 of The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, it said.

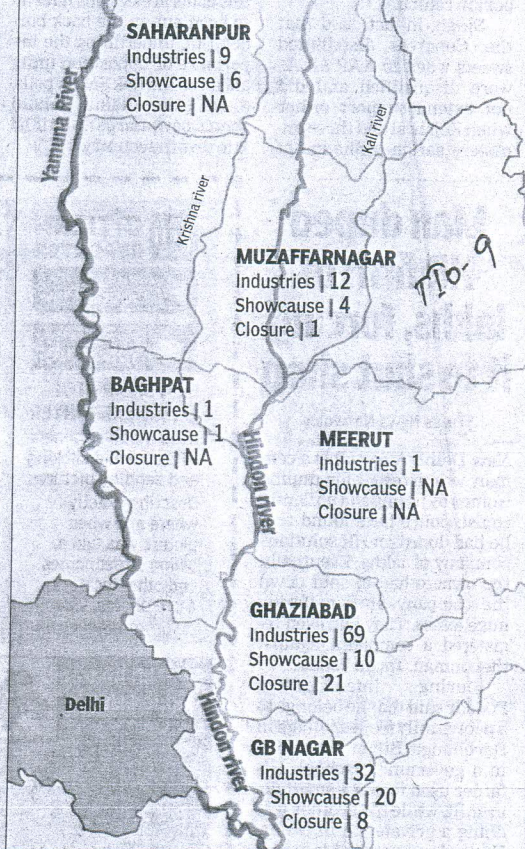
"The action against the industries is part of a graded revival proposal for Hindon river. Earlier, the tribunal had passed several orders like setting up of a committee to test water in Hindon and other rivers for heavy metals, sealing of handpumps spewing con-

### THE TOXIC UNITS

**Total number of industries | 124**

**Closure | 30** in which effluent discharged is not as per norms and mercury (Hg) was found in borewells

**Showcause | To many industries** in which effluent discharged is as per norms but Hg was found in borewells



### NGT defers decision over tree felling

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Wednesday deferred proceedings on applications against the proposed felling of trees in south Delhi colonies, citing that "simultaneous consideration" of the same issue at different legal forums was not appropriate. A bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said the Delhi high court was already hearing the issue and that parallel proceedings should be avoided in such a case.

The green panel has said that it will look into the case only after the high court decides on the matter. The tribunal, in its last two hearings, asked the project proponents to categorically state the exact number of trees being cut. The tribunal was hearing three different pleas that sought quashing of the environmental clearances and a permanent stay on felling of trees in these colonies. TNN

taminated water and making provision for potable drinking water for villagers. But the ground reality hasn't changed and people residing in villages along Kali, Krishna and Hindon rivers continue to suffer," said advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal, representing petitioners at NGT.

The rivers Hindon, Krishna and Kali flow through seven districts—Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Shamli, Saharanpur, Baghpat, Muzaffarnagar and Meerut. These rivers ultimately join the Yamuna.

Of the 124 polluting industries, Ghaziabad has 69, Gautam Buddha Nagar 32, Muzaffarnagar 12, Saharanpur 9, Meerut 1 and Baghpat 1.

"While most of these industries have been detected to be discharging untreated effluents into the rivers, at least eight of them have been found to be extracting groundwater from contaminated borewells," a senior officer at the regional office of UPPCB, Gautam Buddha Nagar, said. "We are awaiting the order

and will take action as directed by NGT today," A K Tiwari, regional officer, UPPCB, Ghaziabad, said.

Speaking to TOI, Chandraveer Singh, president, Doaba Paryavaran Samiti, said, "I had filed a petition in NGT highlighting the plight of Gangnauli village in Baghpat where a large number of residents were found to be suffering from cancer and bone deformities, among other ailments, because of high level of toxicity in Krishna river. Several tests conducted by government-approved labs corroborated this. Not just Gangnauli, hundreds of villages situated on the banks of these rivers in half-a-dozen districts are facing this problem. Today's order will have far-reaching consequences and will certainly make life better for people in these villages."

"If allegations against these industries are proven true, their owners/managers will have to face a minimum imprisonment of 18 months that can extend up to six years," said advocate Bansal.



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# नदी पहले से ही प्रदूषित, अब कुओं तक पहुंचा रासायनिक पानी

दलपत धतरवाल  
rajasthanpatrika.com

**बालोतरा (बाड़मेर).** पिछले तीन सालों से लगातार अच्छी बरसात से लूनी नदी में पानी आया और किसानों तटवर्ती क्षेत्रों के कुएं रिचार्ज हो गए। कुओं में पानी आने से किसानों की समस्या भी काफी हद तक मिट गई, लेकिन पाली की वस्त्र धुपाई फैक्ट्रियों से नदी में बहाया जा रहा रासायनिक पानी कुओं के पानी को दूषित कर रहा है। इससे क्षेत्र के कई गांवों में सैकड़ों कुओं का पानी प्रदूषित हो गया है। यह पानी न तो पीने के लायक बचा और ना ही इसका खेती में उपयोग किया जा सकता है।

पाली से करीब 100 किमी. दूर जिले के गांवों तक प्रदूषित पानी बहकर आता है। नेहड़ा बांध में जमा प्रदूषित पानी भी बांडी नदी से धुंधाड़ा गांव में आकर लूनी नदी में शामिल हो जाता है। कुछ दिन पहले

## फैक्टफाइल

- 8 - सालों से प्रदूषित पानी की आवक
- 2 - सालों से गंदे पानी में बढ़ोतरी
- 1500 के करीब किसान प्रभावित
- 15 गांव प्रदूषित पानी की झेल रहे समस्या
- 100 किमी है रामपुरा से पाली की दूरी
- 60 किमी. नेहड़ा बांध की रामपुरा से दूरी
- 350 के करीब कुएं प्रदूषित पानी से खराब

मुख्यमंत्री के निर्देश पर ऊर्जामंत्री ने नदी में प्रदूषित पानी के बहाव का अवलोकन किया था। किसानों के अनुसार उसके बाद एक बार बहाव थम गया, लेकिन अब प्रदूषित पानी का बहाव पुनः तेज गया। इससे कुओं का पानी प्रदूषित हो गया। कुओं में

## आठ सालों से आवक जारी

पाली जिले की औद्योगिक इकाइयों से निस्तारित प्रदूषित पानी की लूनी नदी में पिछले आठ से आवक जारी है। दो साल पहले तक प्रदूषित पानी रामपुरा, प्रदूषित पानी भर जाने से सिंचाई प्रभावित हो रही है।

प्रदूषित पानी से भूमिगत जलस्तर पर भी बुरा असर पड़ रहा है। इससे रामपुरा, गोदों का बाड़ा, महेश नगर, पातो का बाड़ा, अजीत, चारणों का बाड़ा, भलरो का बाड़ा, भानावास, सामूजा, दीहस, खरटिया, मजल, कोटडी, लाखेटा, लालिया गांवों के कुएं प्रदूषित हो गए।

**दिया था धरना :** करीब 4 माह पहले लूनी नदी में प्रदूषित पानी की आवक से प्रभावित किसानों ने समदडी कस्बे में धरना देकर विरोध जताया। इसके बाद सिवाना विधायक हमीरसिंह भायल ने अधिकारियों के साथ प्रभावित गांवों

गोदों का बाड़ा गांव तक ही आता था। अब प्रदूषित पानी भानावास गांव तक आ रहा है। इससे बड़ी संख्या में किसान प्रभावित हुए हैं।

का दौरा किया। पाली जिले के प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडल के अधिकारियों के साथ नेहड़ा बांध का अवलोकन कर गेट बंद करवाए। पाली जिले की औद्योगिक इकाइयों को भी कुछ दिनों तक बंद करवाया गया। इसके बाद पानी की आवक थम गई। इस बीच उद्यमियों ने फिर से चोरी-छुपे प्रदूषित पानी को नदी में छोड़ना शुरू कर दिया और रासायनिक पानी फिर से समदडी तहसील के गांवों तक पहुंच गया। मुख्यमंत्री के निर्देश पर ऊर्जामंत्री, प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडल चेयरमैन के निर्देशन में एक विशेष टीम ने अवलोकन किया। फिर से पाली के उद्यमियों को सख्ती से इकाइयां बंद रखने के निर्देश दिए गए।