

# Climate policies stuck in 1992

Armin Rosencranz and  
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**A**head of the scheduled December 2015 UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, India's Power Minister, Piyush Goyal, has consistently taken the position that the West should pay for the pollution and harm caused to the environment and it should also support the efforts pledged by India to promote renewable energy.

Since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, India has supported the notion of "common but differentiated" responsibilities based on the premise that the industrialized countries caused climate change and should therefore bear the cost of remedying it. The 1997 Kyoto Protocol allowed developing countries to avoid reducing their emissions until developed countries reduced their emissions.

At the Bali climate conference in 2007, this policy of waiting on Western emissions reductions seemed to undergo a change: India announced that it would take steps to curb its emissions and develop a forward looking plan. Today, this progress is threatened since India now seems to be reverting to the same policy stand that it took in 1992.

Over the past few years India has unquestionably suffered the effects of global warming such as floods, droughts, heat waves, inundation of coastal areas and food shortages. If Prime Minister Modi wants India to actively lead in the global negotiations, India will have to leave behind its old climate change policy and move forward policies that will reduce huge carbon emissions. Low carbon emissions combined with sustainable development towards relieving poverty will enable India to become a global environment leader.

Though 'Make in India' campaigns are beneficial for India's GDP growth, it harms



India on the environmental front because India's pro-development approach means high carbon emissions.

India's large population and accelerating rate of carbon emissions makes critical its need to limit emissions. India is the fourth-largest emitter of carbon dioxide after the U.S., China and the European Union. Reliance Industries has been named among the top 10 corporations producing carbon emissions.

India submitted to the UN its "Intended Nationally Determined Contribution" (INDC) just before the 1 October deadline. In this document, India promises to reduce its carbon intensity per unit of gross domestic product by 33-35 per cent of its 2005 level by the year 2030. Additionally, the INDC predicts India will get at least 40 per cent of its energy mix from renewable energy sources by 2030. Part of the pledge includes

a potentially massive price tag that would have to be met by the international community.

One aspect of India's INDC requires that financial aid be provided by the developed countries in order to achieve the targets set. To achieve these targets, India has asked for a whopping \$2.5 trillion. (Only five countries in the world, not including India, have gross domestic products greater than \$2.5 trillion.) Although India has made some progress towards mitigating climate change, it proposes to place an enormous burden on the international community. One can only wait to see how the international community responds to India's demand of \$2.5 trillion of financial support.

In the past, India has maintained that its national contributions will address domestic obligations to provide for basic development needs, electricity for all and a minimum standard

of living. India has avoided making any sector specific commitments though it has pledged to reduce overall emissions. India will not accept any constraint on its development goals. Indian Ambassador to the US, Arun Singh, observed that the Indian people must decide what is in the best interest of the country. Though the INDC targets that India has set are ambitious, there must be sufficient means to achieve those targets.

India has not committed to any numeric reduction in carbon emission levels. Its pledges represent a sort of compromise, ambitious on renewable energy but timid on reducing emissions without foreign help. The Ministers in the Union government seem to believe they can alleviate poverty and maintain low carbon sustainable development while expecting other countries to provide the \$2.5 trillion necessary to meet the 2030 reduction level.

In the recently concluded talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Germany has pledged around \$1.2 Billion to support solar power projects in India. This is still a long way from the requirement of \$2.5 trillion, but every bit will help.

The Union government is in need of stern and smooth governance towards both the environment and climate. At the same time the government needs greater clarity and guidance from the international community. India also needs a mechanism or institution for regular tracking, reporting and verification of all implemented climate actions as they occur. These actions would aid India in responding to droughts, heat waves and the other climate impacts that will increasingly affect it.

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# 15 दिन में सफाई की योजना बनाएं

गाजियाबाद | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

एनजीटी ने हिंडन नदी की सफाई को लेकर उत्तर प्रदेश के प्रमुख सचिव पर्यावरण की अध्यक्षता में 15 दिन के भीतर बैठक कर कार्ययोजना प्रस्तुत करने को कहा है। साथ ही नदी का दौरा कर उसकी फोटो कार्ययोजना के साथ लगाने के निर्देश दिए गए हैं। अगली सुनवाई में इस योजना को प्रस्तुत किया जाना है।

हिंडन नदी की सफाई के लेकर एनजीटी में बुधवार को सुनवाई हुई। अदालत ने सहारनपुर से गौतमबुद्ध नगर तक नदी की सफाई को लेकर किए जा

## हिंडन नदी का मामला

- एनजीटी ने कार्ययोजना प्रस्तुत करने को कहा है
- हिंडन नदी की सफाई के लेकर एनजीटी में बुधवार को सुनवाई हुई

रहे कामों पर नाराजगी जताई। कहा कि सफाई को लेकर विभाग एक-दूसरे पर जिम्मेदारी डाल रहे हैं। नदी की गंदगी को लेकर जो फोटो दिखाए गए हैं, उससे लगता है कि नदी बहुत अधिक प्रदूषित है। इसकी सफाई को लेकर गाजियाबाद विकास प्राधिकरण, नगर निगम, जिला

प्रशासन एक-दूसरे पर जिम्मेदारी डाल रहे हैं। अदालत ने प्रमुख सचिव पर्यावरण उग्र की अगुवाई में 15 दिन के भीतर बैठक करने को कहा है।

इसमें जीडीए, गाजियाबाद नगर निगम, प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, नोएडा प्राधिकरण, नगर विकास विभाग शामिल होंगे। इसके साथ ही यह टीम नदी का दौरा करेगी। रिपोर्ट में दौरे की तस्वीरें भी लगाई जाएंगी। ये सभी मिलकर नदी की सफाई की कार्ययोजना तैयार करेंगे। साथ ही यह कमेटी तय करेगी कि किस विभाग की क्या जिम्मेदारी रहेगी। यह कार्ययोजना अगली सुनवाई में रखनी होगी।

## उमा से मिले पाली के सांसद व विधायक

नई दिल्ली @ पत्रिका . पाली के सांसद पीपी चौधरी एवं सुमेरपुर विधायक मदन राठौड़ ने पाली में पीने व सिंचाई के पानी की समस्या के संबंध में गुरुवार को केन्द्रीय जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण मंत्री उमा भारती से मुलाकात की। उन्होंने केन्द्र सरकार से आर्थिक मदद की मांग की। बैठक में सीलू पॉइन्ट से सिंदरू बांध तक ( धनापुरा-पालड़ी-कानपुरा-पुराड़ा-पोमावा-रोजड़ा-नेतरा होते हुए सिंदरू बांध तक पाइप लाइन ) या वाकल, कायाना, रोहिणी एवं देवास-4 बांध का पानी कालीबोर टनल के माध्यम से जवाई बांध तक लाने का प्रोजेक्ट तथा मोरस एवं फटिया बांध का पानी जवाई बांध तक लाने के प्रोजेक्ट पर चर्चा हुई।

# Heavy rains wash away crops

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A couple of districts continued to receive rainfall in the State on Wednesday.

Heavy rainfall in the last couple of days in Ballari district has left several crops damaged. Two cows and a buffalo have been washed away in the rainfall at Mincheri village in Ballari taluk.

According to the Revenue officials, crops including, chilli, maize, cotton, cultivated on at least 108 acres of land have been destroyed. The survey work is on and a report on the number of houses that have collapsed is also being compiled.

At least 30 houses have collapsed in Ballari district, the Revenue officials have estimated. So far, one house in Mincheri, one in Sanjeevarayana Kote, 10 in Kollegal, four in Honnalli, two in K Veerapur, have been confirmed as collapsed.

Though rainfall receded on Tuesday in Dakshina Kannada district, Mangaluru experienced moderate rainfall on Wednesday. In the last 24 hours, Bantwal taluk has received 18.1 mm followed by Mangaluru - 7.9 mm.

Udupi district experienced drizzling throughout the day. Karkala has received 9.9 mm in the last 24 hours.

**DH News Service**

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The state government has not declared drought in Bihar, as central rules suggest there should be 60% deficient rainfall and less than 50% crop coverage. Moreover, assignment of field staff of agriculture and allied departments for poll

Meanwhile, trains passing through north Bihar have been unusually overcrowded, filled mostly with farm labourers moving out of Bihar in search of jobs.



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 9/10/15 in the

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Hindustan (Hindi)

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Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

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The Times of India (A) —

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## GREEN CRISIS

### NGT EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER DETERIORATION OF HINDON RIVER

# 'Dire need to curb pollution'

Akanksha Jain

**W**ith the Hindon river becoming a victim of indiscriminate waste disposal by residents, industries and civic agencies, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday said that "there is a dire need for controlling pollution of the water body (Hindon and its tributaries) as they are tributaries of river Ganga".

Anguished at the photographs showing pollution before the Hindon joins the Yamuna, which were placed before the tribunal by an NGO, a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Swatanter Kumar directed the Principal Secretary (Environment), UP, to personally visit the Hindon, particularly the sites shown in the photographs.

It has also sought that onus be fixed on agencies and officers who allowed the deterioration of Hindon.

"The photographs placed before the tribunal clearly show very high pollution of river Hindon because of industrial discharge, indiscriminate dumping of municipal waste and even sewage. Strangely the chemical and other pollutant contents are of such high density that the foam from the river is moving to the road," the Bench said.

"All that we hear is that public authorities shift responsibility to others and at the best that notice

## RIVER OF WOE

The tribunal has asked for onus be fixed on agencies that allowed the river's condition to worsen

◆ Hindon is a tributary of the Yamuna, which originates in Saharanpur district in the lower Himalayan range

◆ It is used as a water resource for **domestic, agricultural and industrial uses**

◆ There are as many as **172 industries** disposing of their outflow into the Hindon

◆ The river is entirely rain fed. It flows for **400 km** in the **Ganga - Yamuna Doab** through the districts of **Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar** before it joins the Yamuna outside Delhi

◆ Ghaziabad has nearly **300 industrial units** and of them nearly **60** are situated along the catchment of **River Hindon** and its tributaries, the **Kali** and the **Krishni**

◆ The main sources of pollution are **municipal waste and industrial effluents**

◆ As per a study published in the 'Journal of Indian Water Resources Society' in **2012, the Hindon is not fit for bathing**



has been issued. There is no plausible stand taken by any of the public authority," it said.

"Let a meeting be held by the Principal Secretary Environment (UP) with the heads of departments of Ghaziabad Development Authority, Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation, Pollution Control Board, NOIDA Authority and Urban Development, who shall personally visit the river Hindon, particularly the location exhibited in the photographs placed on record; take immediate steps for remedying and controlling the pollution, and to suggest ways and means so that river Hindon at Ghaziabad is not polluted any longer," a disquiet-

ed bench ordered.

The tribunal was hearing a petition filed by the Society for Protection of Environment and Biodiversity and environmental activist Manoj Misra.

It must be noted that many petitions relating to dumping of waste in the Hindon have been placed before the NGT, indicating the sad state of this Yamuna's tributary.

"There are as many as 172 industries situated in Ghaziabad, Meerut, Baghpat, Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur and Gautam Budh Nagar, which are disposing of their outflow into the Hindon. These mainly deal in fabrics dyeing, electroplating, pesticides

formulation, ayurvedic medicines, soft drinks, tannery, frozen meat, paper, cattle slaughter house, sugar, dairy, calcium carbonate and distillery," the petition said.

Ghaziabad has the maximum number of industries with manufacturers in diesel engines, electroplating, bicycles, picture tubes, tapestries, glassware, pottery, vegetable oil, paint and varnish, heavy chains, automobile pistons and rings, steel pharmaceuticals and liquor, among others.

For feedback, please mail us at [cityeditor@delhi@thehindu.co.in](mailto:cityeditor@delhi@thehindu.co.in)

**THERE ARE AS MANY AS 172 INDUSTRIES THAT ARE DISPOSING OF THEIR OUTFLOW INTO THE HINDON**



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# 'Involve farmers in fight against climate change'

Gargi Parsai

**NEW DELHI:** A regional consultation on agro forestry on Thursday underscored the need for enabling policies to ensure that farmers get technology and financial incentives to integrate trees and shrubs on farmland for developing resilience to climate change.

"India has the most progressive agro forestry policy in the world," Director-General of Kenya-headquartered ICRAF (World Agro forestry Centre) Tony Simons told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the conference here. "This needs to be followed up with investments and better coordination between States."

"There is a lot of degraded land and farm land without trees in India. The key is to add trees to the landscape," he said. Agro forestry is defined as a land use system which integrates trees and shrubs on farmlands and rural landscapes to enhance productivity, profitability, di-

versity and ecosystem sustainability. It is practised in both irrigated and rain-fed conditions and is an important component for bringing about resilience in agriculture to face up to climatic changes.

Mr. Simons does not believe Indian farmers need to earn carbon credits especially the ones with small holdings so long as the country moves in the direction of increasing its green cover. "The important thing is to align the needs of small farmers with that of the village, the State, the country and the world," he said. And for this, he feels, small private sector entrepreneurs as well as big multi-national companies will have to be incorporated in public-private partnership mode.

Former Director-General of Indian Council of Agriculture Research and the Chief of the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) R.S. Paroda pointed out that the agro for-



*People should be encouraged to plant trees on degraded farmland, says ICRAF Director-General Tony Simons. - FILE PHOTO: M. PERIASAMY*

estry policy was targeted at increasing the tree cover to 33 per cent from the present level of less than 25 per cent. "This will require an aggressive approach and in a mission mode."

According to him, of the 140 million hectares under cultivation, 100 million hec-

tares was facing one or the other kind of degradation. India's Green House Gas emission levels were not as high as several other countries but it has to take action on several counts for which policy decisions were required. Cow dung, for instance, remains a source of

fuel in large parts of rural India. The need is to provide alternative source of fuel or for gobar gas plants that allow the slurry to go back into the fields.

## Integrated approach

"Agro forestry requires an integrated approach—a convergence programmes that integrates trees, crops, water use, livestock, fodder and other livelihood initiatives -- which is missing in the present system. Availability of investment, appropriate planting material for tree species in different agro-climatic zones, insurance, de-regulation, market linkages, extension services and above all capacity building for farmers to undertake an integrated approach are all the requirements that need urgent attention."

For the programme to take off and succeed, it will be appropriate to have a proper pricing policy and to incentivise farmers with funds.



Hindustan Times (Delhi)  
The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)  
The Times of India (Mumbai)  
The Telegraph (Kolkata)  
The Deccan Herald (Bengaluru)  
The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)  
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# NGT bars sale of Srivaikundam dam sand

## State government told to stock it, Collector asked to supervise desilting

Sureshkumar

**CHENNAI:** The Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Wednesday directed the State government to ensure that the entire sand mined in the process of desilting Srivaikundam dam is not sold and kept in the stockyard till further orders.

The NGT made the directions following allegations that the contractors are keener in mining sand than desilting the dam.

Pointing out the amount of sand and silt mined from the dam site, the Bench of judicial member P. Jyothimani and expert member Nagen-dran observed that the work in the last one month was focused mostly on mining the sand-rich river bed than in the silt-ridden area close to the dam shutters.

The dam is being desilted for last one month after years of demands by the farmers



Lorries transporting sand from the Srivaikundam dam on Tuesday.

and the litigation before the tribunal. The accumulated silt in the dam was rendering the dam useless and the river water was draining into the sea. Based on the petition filed by S Joel, a local functionary of the MDMK party, the

tribunal ordered desilting of the dam on July 1.

When the case came up for hearing on Wednesday, MDMK leader Vaiko, who was representing the petitioner and CPI leader R. Nallakannu, who was member of

the supervising committee appointed by the tribunal, submitted that the hundreds of lorries were being engaged in taking away the sand from the river bed, in name of desilting.

Responding to the allega-

The NGT issued the directions following allegations that the contractors are keener in mining sand than desilting the dam

tions, Abdul Saleem, government pleader, admitted that the desilting was done in phases and removal of the sand in the riverbed was part of the process.

Taking serious concern of the fact that the sand was sold by contractors, the Bench stated that it must be sold as per rules.

The Bench further ordered not to mine sand from the dam site and store in stock yard until its orders on how to dispose it of.

The District Collector was directed to personally supervise the desilting.



Corals reefs are suffering a severe underwater heatwave this year for the third time on record, including a mysterious warm patch in the Pacific known as “The Blob“, scientists said on Thursday . The bout of record high temperatures in parts of the oceans, stoked by climate change, is expected to kill more than 12,000 sq kms of reefs, or about 5% of the global total, they said.

The experts, including the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), said similar alerts about damage to reefs had been issued only in 2010 and 1998, both extremely warm years.

Corals, tiny creatures which build stony skeletons, eject the colourful algae they live with when under stress. That bleaches the reefs -some corals can bounce back when temperatures fall but many die from long-lasting whitening.

Corals are nurseries for many species of fish and provide livelihoods for millions of people.

“This is the third time we've had a global bleaching event,” Mark Eakin, coordinator at NOAA 's Coral Reef Watch, said. Experts would have spotted such wide damage to reefs even decades ago when monitoring was less thorough. “Now, 2015 has seen coral bleaching occurring in reefs in the northern Pacific, Indian, equatorial Pacific, and western Atlantic Oceans,” the alert said. A vast mass of warm water known as “The Blob“ in the north eastern Pacific has harmed corals, including in Hawaii, it said.



Corals, tiny creatures which build stony skeletons, eject the colourful algae they live with when under stress. That bleaches the reefs. Some corals can bounce back when temperatures fall but many die from long-lasting whitening