



The Art of Living event is a disaster from ecological point of view due to removal of the shrubs and trees. The area has been flattened...

DELHI HIGH COURT

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 10 MARCH 2016

03

THUMBNAILED

CISF hosts at home ceremony: Ahead of 47th Raising Day of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Surender Singh, Director General, CISF, hosted 'At Home' ceremony at paramilitary force headquarter in the Capital. On this occasion Vice President Hamid Ansari, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Ministers of State for Information and Broadcasting, Kiren Rijiju and Haribhai Chaudhary, both Ministers of State for Home, were also present. The paramilitary force will celebrate its 47th Raising Day on March 11. **SNS**

2 children reunited with family: Two missing children were reunited with their family under 'Operation Muskaan' by North West Delhi Police. According to police, on March 8 one Deepak came to Bharat Nagar Police Station and handed over two children - one boy and one girl both aged around three years. "Mr Deepak told that these children were found abandoned and crying near Chhabra Sweets in Bharat Nagar. Deepak reported that he tried his level best to trace the parents of the children but to no avail," police said. **SNS**



ITBP dog squad team inspecting the visitors area as workers prepare the stage for the three-day World Peace Festival organised by spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. In the Capital on Wednesday. **SNS**

HC: ART OF LIVING EVENT ECOLOGICAL DISASTER

PREPARATIONS GOING ON AT YAMUNA FLOOD PLAIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 9 March

Taking note of news reports on the Art of Living event to take place on the banks of Yamuna, Delhi High Court today said it appears to be a "disaster" from the "ecological point of view".

"That (AOL event) is a disaster from ecological point of view due to removal of the shrubs and trees. The area has been flattened. You (government) have given permission for a big pandal on the flood plain," a bench of justices Badar Durrez Ahmed and Sanjeev Sachdeva said, adding, "we are only going by newspaper reports".

The observation was made during hearing of a PIL on the issue of unauthorized constructions on the flood plain of Yamuna in the Jaitpur and Mithapur areas of the national capital. The court said that the government should consider making the structures in the area compliant with building bye-laws as well as norms for seismic zone IV if the unauthorized colonies there were going to be regularised.

It said that making the structures in these areas compliant with the norms was important because if an earthquake or flood hits Delhi, "these areas would be most vulnerable and there could be massive loss of lives".

It advised the authorities, including the Lieutenant Governor, Delhi



Development Authority (DDA) and the municipal corporation to take action against the builders who "duped many poor people" into buying houses in that area.

"Even if demolition is not carried out, police action should be there," the bench said. Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Sanjay Jain, appearing for DDA, told the court that in a recent meeting held by a joint task team, set up to address the issue, it was decided to prevent further unauthorized construction in the two areas.

The ASG said an action plan has been formulated for "containment" of construction in the area by setting up CCTV cameras, initiating proceedings against people engaged in fresh construction, confiscation of building material and various other measures, including police patrolling. During the hearing, the ASG said demolition of the 40 odd

properties mentioned in the PIL would not solve the problems around 20 unauthorized colonies having about 56,000 dwelling units housing approximately 2.5 lakh people have come up in the two areas apart from hundreds of religious structures, schools and health centres. The areas also receive electricity and water supply from Delhi Jal Board, he told the court adding that if entire colonies are demolished it would lead to a housing problem of rehabilitating the 2.5 lakh people living there.

He said DDA and LG had never shied away from addressing the problem and were instead taking a holistic view rather than focusing on demolishing a few dwelling units.

He also said that objections and suggestions had been invited in 2013 from public for delineation and re-zoning of the two areas which fall in the eco-sensitive 'O' zone. However, this step which was taken with the intention to remove the two areas from the 'O' zone was stayed by the National Green Tribunal in October 2013 and the restraint is still in force, the ASG added. After hearing the submissions made by the ASG, the court listed the matter for further hearing on April 27 to "enable the LG and the joint task force to come out with a concrete proposal".

FOUNDATION HAS TO PAY RS 5 CR FINE

NGT clears AoL fest on Yamuna flood plain

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, 9 March

Amid protests by environmentalists and parliamentarians, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) today gave its nod for the three-day 'World Cultural festival', a mega extravaganza organised by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's Art of Living (AOL) foundation on the Yamuna flood plains but imposed a fine of Rs 5 crore on it as environmental compensation.

The tribunal also slapped a fine of Rs 5 lakh on the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Rs 1 lakh on Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) for not discharging statutory functions. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar has asked AOL to deposit the Rs 5 crore fine before the event begins on 11 March. Almost 35 lakh people are expected to participate in it.

During the hearing of petitions seeking stoppage of ongoing construction on the Yamuna flood plains for the cultural festival, the Water Resources Ministry today told NGT that it has not granted permission for the event. The counsel for the Ministry told the bench that, "We have not granted any permission



regarding the event and no application is pending with us on the same." The AOL foundation, however, informed the bench that all necessary steps for safety of the people have been taken, saying any untoward incident at the venue will be detrimental to country's image.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) told NGT that no environment clearance was required for setting up temporary structures on Yamuna flood plains. The ministry's submission came after the tribunal had pulled it up for not filing an affidavit regarding environmental clearances.

NGT also asked the Centre, Delhi government and DDA if any environment impact assessment was carried out regarding preparation and consequential effects of the festival. The tribunal was informed by the Delhi

government that the police, after inspecting the site, had asked the foundation to show if they have structural safety clearance for pontoon bridges and vehicle parking clearance.

The Delhi government also told the tribunal that CPWD has asked the foundation to build a separate stage for the Prime Minister due to issues over structural safety, a claim denied by the AOL which said it was being built for better view of the event. AOL also provided details of the expenditure incurred on the event and informed the green panel that a total of Rs 25.63 crore has been spent on the preparations.

During the hearing yesterday NGT had questioned the building of pontoon bridges by the Army on the river Yamuna for the festival, and asked DDA who gave the permission for setting it up.

ISIS holding 29 Indians captive in Ir

A member of the
Asia News Network **ANN**

ASIAN VOICES

Indus Waters Treaty

The Senate resolution asking the government to 'revisit' the Indus Waters Treaty with India is bizarre. What is even more confusing is the eagerness with which the resolution was supported by senators from the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) who have had many opportunities in power to do exactly that, but had made no mention of it until now. It appears the senators are either not aware what 'revisiting' the treaty would entail or are not serious about what they are saying.

Either way the resolution does not cast the Senate in a positive light at a time when its chairman is trying to get the government to take resolutions more seriously. In fact, there ought to have been more homework before launching the vote for a resolution.

The PPP's Karim Ahmed Khwaja has done enough work

on water issues in Pakistan.

He should know that the treaty took a decade to negotiate, and has held sway for more than half a century even as ties deteriorated between the two signatories.

Revisiting this treaty could open a Pandora's box for Pakistan, and may not work to its advantage given India's far greater autonomy of action today as compared to the years following Partition, when the treaty was negotiated.

What must also be realised is that Pakistan's water woes are more a result of domestic realities than anything connected with the treaty.

Agriculture accounts for the bulk of freshwater utilisation

tion in Pakistan, and the problems are linked more to the entitlements regime that govern water allocations, as well as wasteful farm practices. Hardly any effort has been made to rectify these or build more reservoirs.

It would have been better if the senators had come to the session with ideas on how to improve entitlements and utilisation practices. And if revisiting the treaty was still deemed necessary after this, the least one would have expected was more information.

What legal options does Pakistan have to force India to 'revisit' the treaty? What would we seek to get out of this process? And what leverage do we have to obtain compliance with our terms? The hapless minister of state for water and power tried to point out these issues, but the chair sent the resolution for a vote before they could be addressed.

As a result, the situation ended up looking a little absurd, with the Senate holding a bombastic resolution in its hands but without a clue about what to do next.

AAP corners Cong on SYL

Shows 1982 advt of Capt 'welcoming' the project

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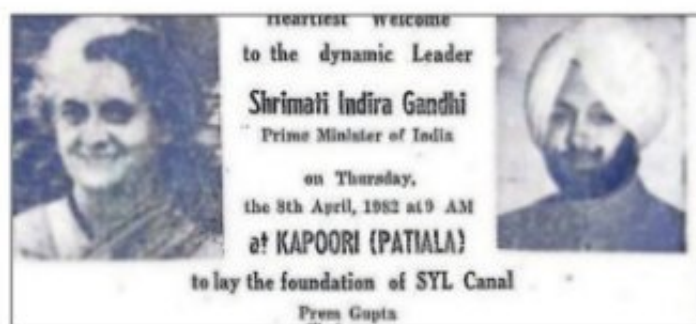
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 9

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) today blamed the Congress for initiating the process of constructing the controversial SYL canal.

AAP circulated advertisements printed on behalf of Congress leaders who welcomed then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to the state for laying the foundation stone of the project on April 8, 1982. PPCC chief Capt Amarinder Singh is reportedly seen welcoming her at Kapoori village to lay the foundation.

The advertisements were carried in The Tribune on that date on Page 5. One of the advertisements was by Patiala district youth Congress and another by the Punjab Vikas Sabha. Both had pictures of Capt Amarinder Singh.

Amarinder later as Chief Minister in 2004 acted against the project by termi-



PPCC chief rubbishes claim

Reacting sharply, Amarinder reiterated his opposition to the SYL canal and sharing of Punjab's water with non-riparian states, saying he opposed the canal even at the time when it started. Rubbishing AAP's campaign, he claimed he had told the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1982 itself that the project would never be viable. Amarinder pointed out the very fact that the advertisement welcoming Gandhi in the newspapers was not issued by the Patiala District Congress Committee, but by some other organisation conveyed the message loud and clear that the Congress did not approve of it at that time also. "But, we did attend the function as Indira Gandhi was our party president as well as the Prime Minister," he clarified.

nating all river water sharing agreements.

AAP MP Bhagwant Mann and senior leader Sukhpal Khaira said Amarinder might have delayed the construc-

tion of the SYL canal, he must admit to the fact, that it was the Congress which created the entire dispute revolving around the SYL canal and the river waters of Punjab.

After slapping Rs. 5 crore fine, NGT gives the nod for Sri Sri event

- [Bindu Shajan Perappadan](#)

Imposing an initial fine of Rs. 5 crore, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Wednesday gave the go-ahead to the 'World Culture Festival', a three-day cultural extravaganza being organised by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's Art of Living Foundation on the flood plains of the Yamuna.

It also directed the Art of Living to bear the cost of restoring the area into a biodiversity park after the completion of the event, holding it responsible and liable for the damage caused to the environment, ecology, bio-diversity and aquatic life of the river. After imposing the initial token 'environmental compensation' on Art of Living — which has to be deposited before the event begins on March 11 — the green watchdog also pulled up the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), stating that they hadn't discharged their statutory functions.

A Bench, headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar, slapped a fine of Rs. 5 lakh on DDA and Rs. 1 lakh on DPCC.

The Tribunal directed Art of Living to give an undertaking by Thursday that enzymes will not be released into the Yamuna and no further degradation of environment will happen.

Art of Living said that it would file an appeal in the Supreme Court against the fine. A spokesperson said: "The festival will go on as planned and since we have not violated any rules we will appeal against the NGT order."

The event came under the scanner of the NGT after petitions were filed demanding its cancellation.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) which imposed a fine of Rs. 5 crore on Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's Art of Living (AoL) Foundation on Wednesday, before giving the go-ahead for its World Culture Festival on the flood plains of the Yamuna, said it was unable to prohibit the event.

Pronouncing the verdict of the Bench, Justice Swatanter Kumar said: "For reason of delay and laches on the part of the applicant in approaching the Tribunal and for the reason of fait accompli capable of restoration and restitution, we are unable to grant the prayer of prohibitory order and a mandatory direction for removal of construction and restoration of the area in question to the applicant at this stage."

The Tribunal pointed out that the applicant had written to the Lt. Governor, Delhi in December last year but filed the present application in the Green Tribunal only on February 8 this year.

Coming down heavily on the AoL, the Tribunal stated that it had not obtained any permission as yet from the Delhi Police, Fire Department, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. The AoL has been directed to obtain all required permissions. Justice Kumar noted that as per the documents on record "the flood plains have been drastically tampered with while destroying the natural flow of the river. Ramps, roads, compaction of earth, pontoon bridges and other semi-permanent or temporary structures have come up even without permission."

He said: "We hereby direct the Principal Committee constituted under the judgement, to submit a report within four weeks from today, in relation to the steps required to be taken for restoration, restitution and rejuvenation of the flood plains to its original status. It will also state the approximate cost that would be incurred for such restoration and restitution."

Petitioner Manoj Misra of Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan welcomed the order, stating that the direction clearly indicated that violations had taken place and that the court had viewed them seriously.

"This is also a huge message to the government agencies and custodian of natural resources to ensure that they function properly. As for us appealing to the court late we accept it in all humility," said Mr. Misra.

Environmental activist Anand Arya rued that over 1000 acres of mostly marshland had been stripped.

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AOL told to develop site as biodiversity park

• [Sidhartha Roy](#)



The National Green Tribunal on Wednesday asked the Art of Living Foundation to develop the entire area in question on the Yamuna floodplains into a biodiversity park. The site, however, is already planned to be turned into a biodiversity park as per the Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

The DDA plans to create a 42-km-long riverfront (including both banks) spanning from Palla in north Delhi to Jaitpur in south Delhi. The riverbank, according to plans, will be divided into three zones with varying accessibility for the public. The plan envisages development of biodiversity at the Yamuna Biodiversity Park, Golden Jubilee Park, Qudsia Ghat and near NH-24. As part of the development, there would be three types of zones with varying accessibility for the public. While the first zone would be protected biodiversity, the second would be more interactive with limited access to public. The third zone would include public zones meant for recreational purposes.

As part of Phase I of the project, the DDA has developed the Yamuna biodiversity park near Wazirabad village and is already working on Phase II. The project is being funded by the DDA and developed by the Delhi University's Centre for Environmental Management of Degraded Systems. An area of 9,700 hectares on the banks of the Yamuna has been designated as O-Zone under the Master Plan for Delhi 2021.

On Tuesday, the Art of Living had said that the Yamuna riverbank should be converted into a biodiversity reserve to rebuild its flora and fauna so that it becomes a green lung for the Capital. The Foundation had said that it would extend its 'fullest support, including volunteering by thousands of its members, to help set up such a biodiversity reserve'.

The Delhi government's Environment and Forest Department has offered to carry out plantation on the floodplains after the event.

Ashwani Kumar, Environment and Forest Secretary, said: "We would be happy to carry out plantation. We can use our Air Ambience Fund, which is around Rs. 160 crore, for the same."

The Forest Department had earlier told the DDA that it would be open to setting up biodiversity parks on the floodplains. In an ongoing case, the High Court has asked the DDA to respond to the Forest Department on the availability of land for biodiversity parks. The next hearing is on Thursday.

[CITIES](#) » [DELHI](#)

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Authorities failed to exercise diligence, says NGT

• [Bindu Shajan Perappadan](#)



The green panel has asked a committee to inspect the Yamuna floodplains and issue directions to ensure that there is no future environmental degradation

It was not a great day for the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), the Delhi Police and Fire Department, Union Ministries of Environment and Water Resources as the National Green Tribunal (NGT) pointed out on Wednesday that “all these authorities have failed to exercise due diligence in fulfilment of their public duties.”

Pronouncing its verdict on a plea seeking a stop on ongoing construction at the Yamuna floodplains for the Art of Living’s World Cultural Festival, a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar noted: “The DPCC has failed to discharge its statutory obligation despite the fact that the Foundation had submitted an application for obtaining its consent.”

Expressing its displeasure over how the entire operation had been handled, the Bench noted that a committee with representatives from the DPCC, the Ministry of Environment and the Central Pollution Control Board will immediately inspect the site and issue directions by tomorrow (Thursday) with regard to the source of water, collection and disposal of municipal solid waste and sewage generated during the event, besides issuing directions to ensure that there is no future environmental degradation or adverse impact on public health.

“They shall also issue directions with regard to the source of water and power and its utilisation thereof,” the Bench noted.

Hauling up Sri Sri Ravi Shankar’s AOL, the NGT added that the information provided by the Foundation was “incomplete, vague and uncertain since it did not provide any specific data, supporting documents, comprehensive plan with regard to carrying on of such a huge construction, levelling activity and also construction of other approach roads, pontoon bridges, ramps, parking and a huge stage measuring 40 feet high, 1,000 feet long and 200 feet wide to any of the authorities”.

Earlier during the day, the Tribunal had severely criticised the Ministry of Environment for allowing construction on the banks of the Yamuna for the mega event.

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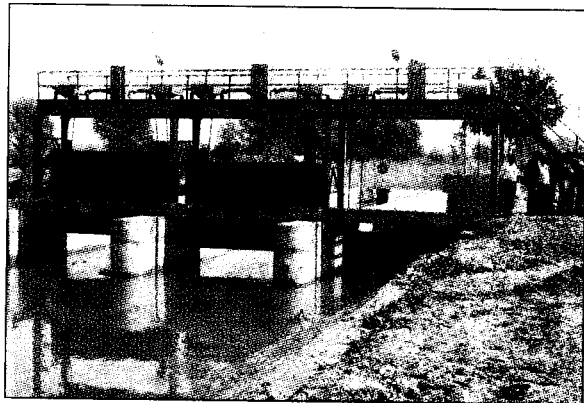
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मुनक नहर शुरू, नहीं होगी पानी की किल्लत

नई दिल्ली, (ब्यूरो): हरियाणा में चले जाट आंदोलन की वजह से टूटी मुनक नहर आखिर करीब 20 दिन बाद चालू हो ही गई। हरियाणा से छोड़ गया पानी बुधवार की देर रात दिल्ली के हैदरपुर प्लांट पर पहुंच गया। दिल्ली के जल मंत्री खुद मुनक नहर का दौरा करने पहुंचे और छोड़े गए पानी की स्थिति का ब्यौरा लिया। उम्मीद की जा रही है वीरवार से दिल्ली के विभिन्न वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट में पानी पहुंचने से दिल्ली को बिना किल्लत के पानी मिलना शुरू हो जाएगा।

बता दें कि हरियाणा में चले जाट आंदोलन में आंदोलनकारियों ने दिल्ली को पानी देने वाली दोनों मुनक नहर को प्रभावित किया था। छोटी



नहर को मिलने वाली पानी के दरवाजे बंद करके चाबियां नदी में ही फेंक दी थीं, तो वहीं पक्की नहर को हरियाणा के खुदरू में

आंदोलनकारियों ने तोड़ दिया था। जिसकी वजह से दिल्ली को मिलने वाले कच्चे पानी की सप्लाई बंद हो गई थी। जब इस बात की खबर दिल्ली

सरकार को लगी तो सरकार ने इस मामले पर कोर्ट से हस्तक्षेप करने की मांग की थी, लेकिन वहां से भी कुछ नहीं मिलने के बाद दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने इस नहर को दिन रात एक करके ठीक किया। दिल्ली सरकार के अधिकारियों का कहना है कि चूंकि इसके लिए हरियाणा सरकार ने पूरी तरह मदद नहीं मिली जिसकी वजह से यह काम करीब 20 दिनों तक चला। दिल्ली को कच्चा पानी मिलना बंद होने के बाद दिल्ली के कई इलाकों को पानी की किल्लत से जूझना पड़ा था। इसमें द्वारका जैसे इलाकों में तो केवल तीन दिन ही पानी की सप्लाई हो रही थी तो वहीं कई इलाकों में जल बोर्ड के टैंकर द्वारा पानी पहुंचाया जा रहा था।

हलक तर करने की जुगत

पाली जिले के
सुमेरपुर क्षेत्र के
रोजड़ा गांव में
बुधवार को पानी
भरने के लिए
हैण्डपम्प पर लगी
महिलाओं व बच्चों
की भीड़।

पत्रिका



10-3-16

मुनक से आने लगा पानी, द्वारका प्लांट शुरू

✽ वरिष्ठ संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

रॉ-वॉटर की सप्लाई शुरू कर दी गई थी।

18 दिन बाद द्वारका वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट शुरू हो गया है। मुनक कनाल से पानी सप्लाई चालू होने के बाद

अब दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के सभी नौ प्लांट में पानी का प्रोडक्शन होने लगा है। जल बोर्ड के अनुसार 10 मार्च की शाम तक

**जल
बोर्ड के
सभी 9 प्लांट
में होने लगा
प्रोडक्शन**

द्वारका प्लांट अपनी पूरी क्षमता के अनुसार पानी तैयार कर पाएगा। वॉटर मिनिस्टर कपिल मिश्रा ने बताया कि मुनक से पानी मिलने के बाद द्वारका प्लांट शुरू हो गया है। अभी केवल 25

एमजीडी पानी ही प्लांट ट्रीट कर रहा है, लेकिन 10 मार्च तक कनाल में भी क्षमता के अनुसार पानी सप्लाई की



मुनक कैनाल

गुड न्यूज

आज शाम तक द्वारका प्लांट पूरी क्षमता से काम करने लगेगा और 50 एमजीडी पानी तैयार करेगा

जाएगी और द्वारका प्लांट भी अपनी क्षमता के अनुसार 50 एमजीडी पानी तैयार कर पाएगा। जाट आंदोलन के बाद दिल्ली में जो पानी का संकट बना था, अब वह खत्म हो गया है। द्वारका में 11 मार्च तक पानी की सारी किल्लत खत्म हो जाएगी।

जाट रिजर्वेशन की मांग को लेकर हरियाणा में आंदोलनकारियों ने 19 फरवरी

को मुनक कनाल पर कब्जा कर लिया था और दिल्ली में पानी की सप्लाई को रोक दिया था। कनाल को इतना डैमेज कर दिया गया था कि रॉ वॉटर सप्लाई रोकनी पड़ गई। नौ प्लांट में से सात प्लांट ठप हो गए थे, केवल सोनिया विहार और भगीरथी प्लांट में 240 एमजीडी पानी का प्रोडक्शन हो पा रहा था और पूरी दिल्ली इसी पानी के भरोसे थी। यह संकट 22

फरवरी की शाम तक जारी रहा। 22 फरवरी को सेना ने मुनक को अपने कब्जे में लिया और उसी रात मुनक के कच्चे नाले से पानी सप्लाई जैसे-तैसे शुरू की गई। उधर पक्के नाले को रिपेयर करने की जरूरत थी, तभी पानी की सप्लाई हो सकती थी। इसके लिए दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने मुनक को रिपेयर करने के लिए अपनी एक टीम भेजी।