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# Uma meets Yogi, discusses purification of Ganga

ARCHANA SRIVASTAVA  
LUCKNOW, 8 APRIL

Union water resources and river development minister Uma Bharti slammed the previous Samajwadi Party government for creating obstacles in the cleaning of Ganga in Uttar Pradesh. Bharti said despite the best efforts of the central government, the previous regime refused to give the 'NOC' (no-objection certificate) required for the implementation of 'Namami Gange' project and cleaning the river. The union minister said the previous governments have only deceived in the name of the Ganga.

Bharti who was a day's visit to the state Capital met chief minister Yogi Adityanath and discussed with him the measures to be taken for Namami Gange and cleaning the Ganga river. She expressed the optimism that Ganga cleaning will now be ensured. She said as an MP, Yogi Adityanath has been quite vocal in parliament on the issue of purifying the Ganga.

Talking to press persons at the VVIP guest house following her meeting with the chief minister, the water resources minister said she told Yogi Adityanath that top priority by



Exuding optimism that Ganga cleaning will now be ensured, she said as an MP, Adityanath has been quite vocal in parliament on the issue of purifying the Ganga.

his government should be accorded to 'Namami Gange', cleaning the Ganga and the irrigation projects.

"The chief minister was asked that a presentation should be made so that funds are released by the central government for completing the pending water projects", Bharti said. The chief minister fixed a time frame of one

week to the irrigation officials present in the meeting for submitting the presentation on a priority basis to the centre, minister added. The rejuvenation of Ganga's tributaries like Ram Ganga, Kali and Yamuna was also discussed in the meeting.

Bharti said Rs. 7000 crore would be released by the central government by May-end

for the construction of ghats along the Ganga river for speeding up the 'swachhta abhiyan'.

"Out of this, Rs. 1600 crore will be spent on cleaning the river when it passes through the villages, construction of ghats on the river in the cities and purification of river water".

About the delay in setting up sewage treatment plants

(STP), Bharti said installation takes time. She was, however, hopeful that work on cleaning the Ganga would be completed by 2018. Bharti said Uttar Pradesh should follow the example of Madhya Pradesh where irrigation facilities were better and the neighbouring state has attained top spot in agriculture production.

She was of the view that Rajasthan government's move to refurbish and charge wells and water bodies can be replicated in Uttar Pradesh.

Incidentally, Bharti also came down heavily on the implementation of the Gomti river front project in Lucknow, which was one of the pet schemes of the Akhilesh Yadav government. The minister said earlier too she had raised the issue of irregularities.

There are many complaints of financial bungling in the project, Bharti stated, adding that no attention was paid to cleaning the river water.

Stating that the Bharatiya Janata Party government will implement the Gomti river front project, the union minister said but, complaints of financial irregularities should be probed. Regarding Ram Mandir the minister said a solution should be found after hearing all the parties concerned.

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groups, the people

# Flood situation eases in Kashmir

## Jhelum level drops in two places; PM assures Mehbooba of Centre's support

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

While the Jhelum river, which runs across the Valley, remained in spate for the second consecutive day on Friday, its levels started decreasing in south Kashmir and Srinagar, bringing relief to the local population.

The Centre also offered help to the government in tackling the flood situation. Life in the Valley has been affected by rain over the past three days.

In south Kashmir, the gauge at Sangam showed 18.70 feet at 6 p.m. compared to 22.10 feet on Thursday night. Similarly, the water level at the Ram Munshibagh gauge in Srinagar came down from 20 feet to 19.60 for the same period. However, the water levels at both gauges continue to flow above the danger mark. "People should not panic as the water level in the river and other tributaries is receding," said Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control department, Muhammad Hanief Lone.

The Srinagar-Jammu Highway continued to be closed



**Water world:** The Hanuman Mandir at Amira was inundated on Friday after rain lashed Srinagar for the last three days. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

due to the slippery condition of roads. Several areas remain inundated in Srinagar.

PM Narendra Modi spoke to Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Friday. A tweet sent from the official handle of the Prime Minister's Office said: "The PM offered all possible support in dealing with the flood situation in

the Valley." Home Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to Ms. Mufti and offered support.

### Soldiers' bodies found

Meanwhile, the bodies of three soldiers, who were trapped in an Army post after an avalanche in Kargil's Batalik sector, were recovered on Friday.

Five soldiers were trapped in the post on Thursday. Later, two soldiers were rescued. The deceased have been identified as Havaldar Prabhu Kirke (43), Lance Naik Bihari Marandi (34), and Sepoy Kuldeep Lakra (22), all hailing from Jharkhand.

(With PTI inputs)

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to communicate to create necessary infrastruc- one court in each district.

# Ken-Betwa link hits green hurdle

## Advisory panel disagrees with forest land allocation, wants canal re-aligned

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

India's apex forest advisory body has imposed tough conditions on the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project. Given the ecological and environmental impact posed by the project, it had to pass multiple authorities for clearance. A forest advisory clearance was seen to be the last step before the project was to begin.

The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), the apex environment ministry authority that clears requests for diverting forest land for projects, usually rejects or recommends a proposal,

sometimes with conditions, for the diversion of forest land. As minutes of the March 30 meeting – made public on Friday – show, in the case of the Ken-Betwa project, the FAC has refrained from explicitly giving its opinion either way and only seconded an earlier sub-committee's report that had cleared the project subject to strict caveats.

### 'Not unprecedented'

"This is unusual for the FAC but not unprecedented," a person privy to the forest clearance process told *The Hindu*. the FAC's recommendations are passed on to

the environment minister, who can abide by them or reject them.

The ₹18,000 crore river interlinking project requires 4,141 hectares of forest in the heart of the Panna Tiger reserve, and some more besides, to build a dam and a 230-km canal to transfer water to several drought-afflicted villages in Bundelkhand.

As compensation for the pristine tiger habitat that would be inundated by the project, the Water Ministry had agreed to acquire about 8,000 hectares of forest land from the Madhya Pradesh government and revive them as forest.

But the FAC said this land was not good enough as it was fragmented, and, to meaningfully revive a forest that is part of tiger habitat, the land acquired ought to be contiguous. This would require, according to the FAC, "revenue lands/non-forest lands by way of purchase or otherwise by the project proponents and the government".

While a State can relatively allocate forest land for Central projects, transferring private or revenue land is harder, time-consuming and costly. The FAC has also asked for the project's main canal to be re-aligned.

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# Nagarjunasagar dam to be automated soon

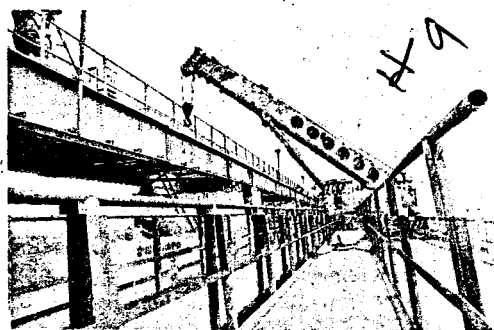
Move will ensure optimum use of water, regulate discharge levels and reduce human intervention

V. GEETANATH  
HYDERABAD

The imposing giant edifice is almost dry with water flowing in a trickle at the corners. The Nagarjunasagar reservoir is at dead storage level. But this summer has also provided an opportunity for the dam authorities to repair the 50-year-old structure.

It is not exactly repair though. It is more about bringing the dam located in Nalgonda district into the digital age by automating the systems. This also entails serving the drinking water and irrigation needs of both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Nagarjunasagar will perhaps be the first dam in the country where automation is being introduced for operations and maintenance in order to make optimum usage of water along with electricity generation. "The ageing dam needs improvement to



Set for facelift: A 150-ft crane at the Nagarjunasagar dam site in Telangana. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

meet the present-day demands to ensure safe and reliable operations with new age technology for opening and closing crest gates during the times of flood and water management during the dry season," says Commissioner of Command Area and Development Authority G. Malsur.

The automation of 26

crest gates and 18 other gates control – costing ₹8 crore from World Bank funds under the modernisation project – will result in generating real-time data which can be monitored from any part of the world through the Internet.

When water is found to be excess in the reservoir, the control panel will trigger the

gate control unit to open the gates and allow the water to evacuate to the lower levels. Engineers say it will help in reliability of the gate structure and operation machinery so that problems with the gate-operating equipment are reduced considerably, thus improving the overall dam safety.

Automation is built into the computerised remote control system for flood and discharge regulation from the dam through data received from local sensors at the main dam, gates – crest gates, chute gates and right canal gates, directly wired from the Master Control Facility (MCF).

Data can be received at predefined times of five minutes to 24 hour intervals using GSM/GPRS/VSAT wireless telemetry and also GSM based information management system for transmitting online information of re-

quired data on the cell phones of project authorities.

## Real-time forecast

Using the real-time flood forecast, application software will have the facility to operate the gates in 'anticipatory mode' i.e. moderate releases from crest gates in anticipation of receiving water. "All these works were being done manually all these days. This was a tedious process. Once automated, we can reduce human intervention and measurement errors," says Dr. Malsur, also the Project Director of Water Sector Improvement Project.

A steel bridge is coming up across the length of the dam at a cost of ₹1.5 crore. A 150-ft crane at the dam site is helping engineers install the pre-fabricated bridge which will help workers reach the far corners of the gates for maintenance and repairs.

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# UP, Uttarakhand look to resolve disputes over assets along Ganga *April-10-2017*

## Centre Sets Up Body For Better Coordination

Vishwa Mohan  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Taking advantage of the new political alignment, the governments in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have stepped up efforts to resolve their long-pending disputes over control of different assets along the Ganga with the Centre playing a key role in arriving at an acceptable solution.

The Union water resources ministry brought both states to the discussion table and decided to constitute a joint body — Ganga Management Board

### BOARD & ITS OBJECTIVES

- Centre to set up the board in May
- It will have representations from UP, Uttarakhand and ministry of water resources
- It will intervene in case of any dispute over distribution of the Ganga water between UP and Uttarakhand
- Board will also look into planning of future water



resources development projects having inter-state ramification

- Office of the board will be located in Okhla, New Delhi

(GMB) — next month to look into disputes between them over distribution of river waters and management of assets including irrigation canals. The board will also help in better coordination between the two states on various components

of the ongoing Ganga rejuvenation programme.

Chaired by water resources secretary Amarjit Singh, the meeting on Friday deliberated on modalities to set up the GMB.

UP government officials

informed the participants that the matter had already been put up before chief minister Aditya Nath Yogi for approval.

"Both states agreed in principle to take final concurrence of their respective governments by May 9 when the next meeting is scheduled here at the behest of the water resources ministry," said an official.

Singh is learnt to have told the state representatives that the ministry would notify the GMB irrespective of any response from them as the Uttarakhand HC had recently ordered the government to act fast on the issue.

Though the board was supposed to be constituted long ago under the UP Reorganisation Act, 2000, it couldn't be set up due to differences over

many issues between the two states which included administrative control over assets.

Uttarakhand was carved out of UP over 16 years ago, but both states continue to be in possession of each other's assets. For example, the VIP ghat in Haridwar and many canals in Uttarakhand are still under UP's control.

As many as 43 canals partly lie in both states and their management control is not clear — a scenario which affects their maintenance and water distribution for irrigation.

"Both states have agreed to finalise their control and operation within one month. The objective of this exercise is to rationalise operation and control of these 43 canals for their efficient management," the official said.

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#### IN BRIEF

#### 871 km of Brahmaputra to be dredged

GUWAHATI

- A total of 871 km of the mighty Brahmaputra in Assam will be dredged with the Centre bearing its expenditure, said a senior official of the Inland Water Transport department.
- Survey of 300 km of the Brahmaputra has been completed so far by the State PWD department for dredging of the river, said Inland Water Transport director B. B. Dev Choudhury while participating in an All India Radio news talk show last night. Mr Choudhury said help of experts will be taken for the dredging. PTI

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# आखिर कब निर्मल होगी गंगा?



मधुकर मिश्रा  
patrika.com

**लखनऊ.** चुनाव के दौरान भले ही नदी मुद्दा न बन पाई हो, पर अब गंगा को लेकर देश-प्रदेश की सरकारें हरकत में हैं। साथ ही नालों में तब्दील होती या तिल-तिल मरती छोटी नदियों को भी सुध ली जाने लगी है। केंद्र सरकार ने नमामि गंगे प्रोजेक्ट के तहत गंगा को प्रदूषण मुक्त बनाने के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश को 7 हजार करोड़ रुपये और सिंचाई परियोजना के लिए 20 हजार करोड़ देने की बात कही है।

यह सब कुछ सूबे के सीएम योगी आदित्यनाथ और केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री उमा भारती के बीच घंटों चले महामंथन के बाद संभव हो पाया है। यह पहली बार नहीं है जब गंगा को मोक्ष दिलाने के लिए किसी भी सरकार ने दरियादिली दिखाते हुए धन की गंगा बहाई हो। पूर्ववर्ती सरकारों ने भी गंगा के लिए दिल खोल के पैसे बांटे, पर अफसोस गंगा तो नहीं साफ हुई पैसे जरूर साफ हो गए। 1985 में राजीव गांधी द्वारा बनाए गए 'गंगा एक्शन प्लान' से लेकर फरवरी 2009 में बनाए गए राष्ट्रीय गंगा बेसिन अधारिटी तक गंगा को प्रदूषण मुक्त कराने में सरकार जितने रुपए बहा चुकी है, उससे कहीं ज्यादा गंगा में गंदगी घुल चुकी है।

## अब योगी से उम्मीदें

सूबे में नई सरकार बनी है और उसके काम काज का तरीका भी अलग है। ऐसे में उम्मीदें अब मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ पर जा कर टिकी हैं। सीएम बनते ही जिले तरह योगी गौमती रिवर फ्रंट के काम का जाजया लेने नदी के किनारे पहुंच गए थे और गौमती की दुर्दशा पर अपहरों का फटकार लगाई थी, उसके बाद अब संभावना बलवती होने लगी है कि वह गंगा को लेकर भी वे उज्ज्वली ही तेजी से फैसले ले सकते हैं जैसे अन्य मामलों में ले रहे हैं।



ज्यादा पढ़ें... <http://bit.ly/2oPWd1v>

## पीएम ने किया है वादा

2019 के चुनाव से पहले गंगा को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने का काम इन्होंने भी मानने रखा है, क्योंकि इंदी गंगा किनारे बसी काशी से पीएम मोदी सांसद हैं। 'मुझे किसी ने बुलाया है, वही किसी ने भेजा है। मैं गंगा मैया के बुलावे पर आया हूँ। कुछ इसी अंदाज से गंगा मैया के प्रति आस्था प्रकट करते हुए मोदी ने काशी से अपनी नई सियासी पारी की शुरुआत की थी। फिर चुनाव जीतने के बाद गंगा अमरती में शामिल होकर इसे 2019 तक प्रदूषण मुक्त बनाने का दावा भी किया था।

## किसके राज में मिलेगी प्रदूषण से मुक्ति

गंगा को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने का दम भरने वाले नरेंद्र मोदी न तो पहले प्रधानमंत्री हैं और न ही योगी आदित्यनाथ पहले सीएम हैं। इससे पहले पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री राजीव गांधी ने भी गंगा सफाई का अभियान छेड़ा था। उसके बाद दूसरे प्रधानमंत्री भी इसे प्रदूषण मुक्त बनाने के दावे करते नजर आए। पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह ने तो इसे राष्ट्रीय नदी का दर्जा तक दिला दिया था, पर कई कोशिशों के बाद नतीजा ढाक के तीन पात रहा। पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री अखिलेश यादव ने भी नदियों के प्रति अपना प्रेम जग जाहिर किया था, फिर भी गंगा सफाई का अभियान का परिणाम शून्य ही रहा। कहना गलत न होगा कि गंगा की हालत बद से बदतर होती चली गई। गंगा में सीधे गिरते नाले और लगातार बढ़ते प्रदूषण के चलते गंगा एक गंदे नाले में तब्दील हो गई है।

## क्यों उपेक्षा की शिकार है गंगा

तिल-तिल मरती प्रदेश की नदियों को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने की बात संतों से लेकर सत्ता में बैठे नेता तक करते नजर आते हैं, लेकिन बावजूद इसके वह कभी भी चुनौती मुद्दा नहीं बन पाती। हालांकि यह बात अलग है कि जो चीजें मुद्दा बनती भी हैं वह भी धरातल पर कम ही उतर पाती हैं लेकिन नदियों की तरफ शायद ही कोई दल या नेता गंभीरता से नजर डालने की कोशिश करता हो। न्यायालय के आदेशों का भी खुलेआम उल्लंघन किया जा रहा है। तमाम शहरों से गंगा और उसकी सहयोगी नदियों में कल-कारखानों का कचरा, चमड़ा फैक्ट्रियों का गंदा पानी, केमिकल आदि सीधे गिराया जा रहा है। गंगा किनारे बसे उत्तर प्रदेश के कन्नौज, कानपुर, इलाहाबाद, बनारस जैसे तमाम शहरों के नालों से सीधे गंगा में गंदगी गिराई जा रही है।

## मोदी का सपना सीएम योगी करेंगे पूरा

गंगा को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने को लेकर सरकार ही नहीं तमाम संत और सामाजिक संगठन भी सक्रिय हैं, पर उन्हें भी गंगा की याद तीज-त्योहार या मीडिया में किसी बड़ी खबर के खुलासे के बाद आती है। बहरहाल गंगा को लेकर योगी सरकार ने अपना रुख स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि वह इसकी निर्मलता, अखिलता और संरक्षण के लिए हर कदम उठाएंगे। साथ ही उन्होंने इसके लिए सरकारी तंत्र को युद्धस्तर पर काम करने को कहा है। दरअसल, जिस तेजी से योगी आदित्यनाथ आनन-फानन में फैसले ले रहे हैं उसका सरोकार उनके संकल्प पत्र से ज्यादा 2019 में होने वाला लोकसभा चुनाव है। यह महज संयोग है कि उसी वक्त इलाहाबाद में अर्द्धकुंभ भी होगा, जिसमें गंगा की निर्मलता और अखिलता को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए योगी सरकार ने अभी से काम कस ती है।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on April-10-2017 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CV/C.

### **TEESTA: No visible change since 2015**

**2017:** Hasina requested Modi for the conclusion of the Interim Agreement on Sharing of the Water of Teesta as agreed upon by both governments in January 2011. Modi reiterated that his government is working with all stakeholders in India for an early conclusion of the Agreement.

**2015:** Hasina requested Modi for immediate conclusion of the Interim Agreement on Sharing of the Water of Teesta as agreed upon by both governments in January 2011. Modi conveyed that deliberations were under way involving all stakeholders.



News item/letter/article/editorial published on April-10-4-2017 in the

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

## Teesta waters can't be shared: Mamata

'Other rivers in the area can be tapped'

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL  
KOLKATA

Expressing her displeasure at the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, on the Teesta, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday said the river is the lifeline of north Bengal which can't be taken away.

"There is very little water in Teesta river, it is our lifeline, the lifeline of north Bengal," Ms. Banerjee said.

She said other trans-national rivers could be diverted to attend to Bangladesh's water needs. "Your problem is water, not Teesta. I am willing to look at any alternative proposal. There are many other rivers in the area, we can use water from them," she said.

### No pact signed

On Saturday, Ms. Hasina said India's support would help resolve all issues, including Teesta water sharing, expeditiously. Meanwhile, no pact on Teesta was signed between the two



nations. Mr. Modi said: "I am very happy that the Chief Minister of West Bengal is my guest today. Her feeling for Bangladesh is as warm as my own. I assure you and the people of Bangladesh of our continuing efforts on Teesta. It's only my government and your government that can and will find an early solution to Teesta water sharing issue."

The Teesta runs through West Bengal and Bangladesh and if a treaty is signed it would allow for equal share of water. Bangladesh welcomed Mr. Modi's commitment to an early solution on the Teesta.

9.4.17

The Times of India (N.D.)  
Indian Express  
Tribune  
Hindustan (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
The Hindu  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)  
Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle  
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The Times of India (A)  
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and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section. CWC.

# Mamata-Hasina bonhomie over dinner raises hopes for water accord

## Bengal CM Offers Water From Torsha, Electricity To B'desh

Mohua Chatterjee  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee met Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over a private dinner at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Saturday. The bonhomie between the two is expected to find a way for the accord to share Teesta waters without hurting the interests of people on either side of the border.

In fact, during her meeting with Sheikh Hasina, Mamata is learnt to have suggested that since Bangladesh needs more water, both sides should explore water-sharing from other river systems in the region too and not just from Teesta. With fears that too much water from Teesta flowing into Bangladesh could leave North Bengal dry, Mamata's suggestion is to provide water to Bangladesh from Torsha river instead, which would be easier for Bengal as there are three river systems in the region, said sources.

Making sure that she had more on the plate to offer Dhaka as good relations with Bangladesh is to the advantage of Bengal which shares the longest border with the neighbouring country, Mamata offered to provide electricity during her meeting with Hasina in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier in the day. Claiming that Bengal has excess electricity which could be sold to Dhaka, Mamata made the offer which Modi immediately accepted, it was learnt. Soon after, Mamata sent an official letter to Modi on the issue, sources said. It is also easier for Dhaka to take power from Bengal rather than from Bhutan as is the case at present.

During her meeting with Sheikh Hasina and PM Modi at the Hyderabad House, held before an official lunch hosted by the PM with a traditional Bengali spread, sources said Mamata expres-

## Kol-Khulna-Dhaka bus service trial on

The trial run of the Kolkata-Khulna-Dhaka bus service began in Kolkata on Saturday with an aim to take forward Indo-Bangla bilateral relations. Three buses were flagged off from 'Nabanna', the state secretariat, as a part of the trial run that will be operational from June, official sources said.

Senior state ministers Partha Chatterjee, Subrata Mukherjee and Fajrul Hakeem flagged off the buses. The bus will travel 409 km in around 13 hours to reach Dhaka, sources said. The price of the ticket is yet to be finalised. The total time to reach Khulna, including security checks, at the border will be around seven hours.

sed her reservations against sharing too much of Teesta waters with Bangladesh.

Referring to the Teesta agreement, Modi said the pact is important for India-Bangladesh relations and expressed hope that Mamata will eventually support it. "I am very happy that the chief minister of West Bengal is my honoured guest today. I know that her feelings for Bangladesh are as warm as my own. I assure you and the people of Bangladesh of our commitment and continuing efforts," Modi said.

When Hasina arrived at the Delhi airport on Friday, she told reporters that she would be meeting Mamata exclusively on this trip. After the Bengal CM arrived in the capital, she sent across her gifts, including a 'Baluchari sari', to Sheikh Hasina who is staying at the Rashtrapati Bhavan as a guest of President Pranab Mukherjee. Hasina also sent across gifts, including the famed Dhakal sari, to Mamata on Friday evening.

Before her dinner meeting with Hasina, Mamata also met Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

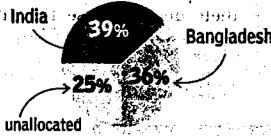
## Why Delhi, Dhaka can't agree on Teesta deal

Dhaka has been pushing for this a long time but the Teesta water agreement still remains a pipe dream. While PM Narendra Modi conveyed his hopes for an "early solution" to visiting Bangla counterpart Sheikh Hasina, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee is reportedly not too enthusiastic about the treaty...

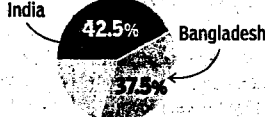
### What is the dispute

► Bangladesh wants 50% of Teesta's water between Dec and May annually; India claims a share of 55%

Negotiations on since 1983, preliminary deal gave



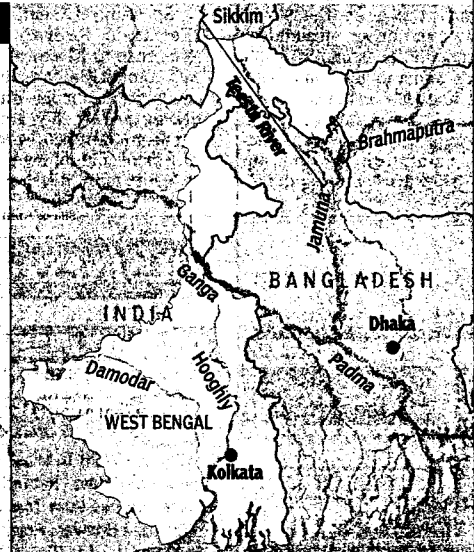
In 2011, Delhi & Dhaka struck interim deal for 15 years – India would get



► But Banerjee opposed it; signing shelved to later that year

► Teesta water-sharing agreement waiting to be signed since 2011

Hydropower on Teesta is another point of conflict; At least 26 projects on the river mostly in Sikkim, aimed at producing some 50,000MW



### What is the Teesta

► Teesta originates in Sikkim from the Khangse and Zemu glaciers  
► Its major tributary – Rangeet – joins it at Darjeeling's Teesta Bazaar  
► At Mekhliganj in north Bengal's Cooch Behar, it enters Bangladesh, joins Brahmaputra  
► Teesta is Bangladesh's fourth largest transboundary river for

Irrigation and fishing  
► Teesta floodplain covers 2,750sq.km in Bangladesh  
► Of Teesta's catchment, 83% in India; 17% in Bangladesh  
► Its catchment supports about 10m people – and 14% of crop  
► Nearly 1 lakh hectares across 5 districts impacted by upstream draws from the Teesta in India

### The Mamata factor

► In 2011, Mamata Banerjee was to accompany then PM Manmohan Singh to Dhaka for signing deal, but cancelled trip

► Trinamool was a key UPA partner then & water is a state issue. So, deal couldn't be inked without CM's approval

► Then Bangladesh foreign minister Dipu Moni had warned bilateral ties would get complicated if India failed to deliver on Teesta



### Modi bid

► PM Modi went to Dhaka in June 2015, but visit did not yield a deal

► Following Mamata's re-election in 2016, some reports say she's a little more conciliatory now

► On a visit to Dhaka, Mamata reportedly urged Bangladesh to have confidence in her on Teesta

