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# Teesta water pact can transform ties: Hasina

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 10

INDO-BANGLADESH ties will undergo "another transformation" if a pact on Teesta water sharing is inked, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Monday.

Stressing that common water resources must act as a uniting force, she pitched for a comprehensive solution to the sharing of waters of all common rivers between the two countries.

"We strongly believe our common water resources must act as a uniting force. A comprehensive, basin-wide solution with an in-built solution to water sharing of all common rivers holds the key to our common future," she said while addressing an event here.

On the Teesta issue, Hasina said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has once again reiterated his government's strong resolve to sign the water-sharing treaty as soon as possible.

"Once it happens, the phase of Indo-Bangladesh relations will undergo another transformation," she said.

In a lighter vein, Hasina said she does not know how West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is reportedly not in favour of the Teesta water sharing pact, will react to her statement.

"I don't know what 'Didi' (Banerjee) will do. Had a talk with Didi, she put forward something new. But Modiji has given the assurance that he is there to see what happens," she said.

The Bangladesh PM, however, noted that the West Bengal Chief Minister had offered her electricity. "Paani mangaa to electricity mila. Lekin electricity milaa achha hai kuch toh mila naa (we asked for water, she gave us power, but at least we got something)", Hasina said, in a departure from her prepared speech.



Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina with senior BJP leader L K Advani during a reception in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

While Modi has reiterated his government's commitment to signing of the pact, Mamata has insisted that instead of Teesta, the government should look at other river systems to share water with Bangladesh.

The Teesta deal was set to be signed during former PM Manmohan Singh's visit to Bangladesh in September 2011, but was postponed due to Mamata's objections.

Hasina also asserted that her government has comprehensively addressed India's security concerns. "We have put in place a multi-layered and effective bilateral security architecture with many dedicated joint institutional mechanisms for targeted and coordinated actions," she said.

Observing that the journey towards peace and prosperity is put to peril by the rise of terrorism and violent extremism, she said threats from state and non-state actors tend to undermine efforts to integrate regional economies and societies and pitched for more concerted efforts to strengthen security.

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Hindustan Time

# A bridge from Kolkata to Dhaka

The impasse is a result of the state  
government's opposition to the Teesta

**T**he Indian government laid out all the symbolic and financial gifts it could think of for the visiting Bangladesh prime minister, Sheikh Hasina Wajed. Understandably, Dhaka is at the centre of any number of crucial programmes of the Narendra Modi government whether it is the political stabilisation and integration of the Northeast, the east-west land connectivity projects designed to link India to Myanmar and beyond, and the ambitious plans to make India's eastern shoreline a trading hub again. Bangladesh is also at the forefront of India's security concerns given the increasing attempts by any number of Islamicist terror groups to make inroads in that country. Which is why it is all the more unfortunate that the Modi government was unable to provide Sheikh Hasina what she needed the most: a credible roadmap towards an agreement on the Teesta river waters. With her own elections coming up, the Awami League leader has been banking on such an agreement to deflect the inevitable criticism that will arise over her closeness to New Delhi. She will at least be able to show off the land border agreement and maritime border settlement — but Teesta would have helped seal a remarkable turnaround in Indo-Bangladesh relations.

The present impasse over Teesta is largely a consequence of the opposition of the West Bengal government and, vicariously, the problems it has with Sikkim over the same river. It is a strong reminder why successive attempts to establish a permanent rapprochement between India and its smaller neighbours have failed: the fact that State governments are important and often difficult stakeholders in such relations. The most extreme example of this was the manner Tamil Nadu politics severely distorted New Delhi's attempts to handle the Sri Lankan civil war. A more recent example is how a fear that Madhesi opposition to a flawed Nepalese constitution would lead to a political overspill in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar led to India to support a de facto blockade.

Prime Minister Modi has the political capital to resolve the river dispute to the satisfaction of all three sides. Presumably he will seek to do so when the opportunity arises. In the meantime, he is right to boost Sheikh Hasina at home by making it clear how important she is to India. Nonetheless, he should not expect her to wait forever. Which means the real bilateral diplomatic challenge is working out the differences between New Delhi and Kolkata.

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## सिंधु जल संधि के खिलाफ दायर याचिका खारिज

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): उच्चतम न्यायालय ने भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच सिंधु जल संधि को अवैध एवं असंवैधानिक घोषित करने की मांग वाली एक जनहित याचिका (पीआईएल) आज खारिज कर दी।

प्रधान न्यायाधीश जगदीश सिंह खेहर की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने वकील मनोहर लाल शर्मा की निजी तौर पर दायर जनहित याचिका खारिज करते हुए कहा, "यह संधि वर्ष 1960 में हुई थी और इसने करीब आधी सदी से अधिक समय से अच्छा प्रदर्शन किया है।"

पीठ में न्यायमूर्ति धनंजय वाई. चंद्रचूड़ और न्यायमूर्ति संजय किशन कौल भी शामिल थे। बहरहाल पीठ ने यह स्पष्ट किया कि जनहित याचिका खारिज करने का आदेश किसी का भी अहित नहीं करता है। न्यायालय ने स्पष्टीकरण उस समय दिया जब शर्मा ने कहा कि यदि

### गोपनीयता नहीं

- संविधान के अनुच्छेद 77 के तहत समझौते पर राष्ट्रपति के हस्ताक्षर आवश्यक को याचिका का आधार बनाया था

7-11-17  
सरकार भारत-पाक जल समझौते की समीक्षा करना चाहे तो जनहित याचिका खारिज करने का आदेश उसके मार्ग में किसी प्रकार से बाधक नहीं बनना चाहिए।

संक्षिप्त सुनवाई के दौरान इसमें यह दलील दी गयी कि सिंधु जल समझौता कोई संधि नहीं है क्योंकि इस पर भारत के राष्ट्रपति के हस्ताक्षर नहीं हैं। वकील ने कहा, "यह तीन नेताओं के बीच त्रिपक्षीय समझौता था और यह शुरू से वैध नहीं (शुरूआत से अवैध) रहा है और

इसलिए इस पर कार्रवाई नहीं की जा सकती है।" न्यायालय ने कहा कि उसने समूची अर्जी पर विचार किया और इससे वह सहमत नहीं है। भारत, पाकिस्तान और पुनर्निर्माण एवं विकास के लिये अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बैंक या विश्व बैंक के बीच 19 सितंबर, 1960 को सिंधु जल समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर हुआ था।

इस पर हस्ताक्षर करने वालों में नेहरू के अलावा पाकिस्तान के तत्कालीन राष्ट्रपति मोहम्मद अयूब खान और विश्व बैंक के डब्ल्यूएबी इतिफ शामिल थे। शीर्ष अदालत ने पिछले साल इस याचिका पर शीघ्र सुनवाई करने से यह कहकर इंकार कर दिया था कि मामले में इसकी आवश्यकता नहीं है जबकि न्यायालय ने व्यक्तिगत रूप से जनहित याचिका दायर करने वाले शर्मा को इस मुद्दे को 'रजनीति से दूर रखने' के लिये कहा था।

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# 'Water available only up to June 15'

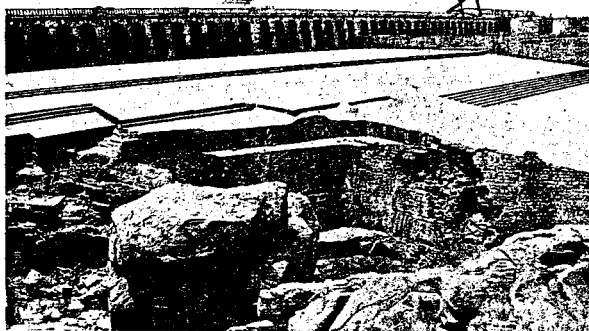
Karnataka govt. tells people to use it judiciously, says rationing is an option

AFSHAN YASMEEN  
BENGALURU

Sounding an alert on the imminent water crisis in Karnataka in the coming days, Water Resources Minister M.B. Patil on Monday said there was just enough water in the reservoirs to meet the drinking water needs till June 15. Karnataka was not in a position to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu now, he added.

Addressing the media after a review of water levels in the State's reservoirs, the Minister appealed to farmers to voluntarily stop using irrigation pump-sets as "the State cannot afford water for the second crop." He also appealed to people to use water judiciously. He said his department would coordinate with other departments and the district administration to ensure there was efficient use of available water.

If necessary, the



**Imminent crisis:** Water in the Krishna Raja Sagar reservoir is inching towards the 'dead storage' level.

Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewage Board, the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board and the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department could resort to water-rationing so that the available water could be used for a longer period, he said.

The State had requested Maharashtra to release two

tmc ft water from Krishna river. "We have been buying water from Maharashtra every year for the villages in Belagavi district. However, this year Maharashtra has said it will release water only after we release 1.2 tmc ft from the Indi Branch Canal to Sholapur. We will be able to release it only after May," he said.

Mr. Patil said he had requested Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to speak to Devendra Fadnavis, his counterpart in Maharashtra, in this regard. A team of senior officials would visit Maharashtra soon.

## Dead storage

The Krishna Raja Sagar reservoir, meanwhile, is inching towards the dead storage level. The major drinking water source for Bengaluru has shrunk into a lake owing to the failure of monsoon in the last three years. The water level was just 75.24 ft. at 6 a.m. on Monday as against the level of 81.39 ft. on the corresponding day last year. While the maximum capacity of the reservoir is 124.80 ft., the dead storage level is 74 ft.

Officials said the reservoir would reach dead storage in eight days if the outflow was not reduced.

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## Centre invites Punjab, Haryana for SYL talks

**Bhadra Sinha**

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**NEW DELHI:** In a major development in the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal case, the Centre has invited Punjab and Haryana for talks to explore the possibility of an amicable settlement to the water-row dispute.

Attorney general Mukul Rohatgi informed the Supreme Court about the development and requested the court to postpone the hearing scheduled for April 12.

Rohatgi said representatives of the two states have been called to Delhi for a meeting on April 20. He made his submission before Justice PC Gose who is heading the bench hearing the SYL row.

Rohatgi's submission came after senior counsel Ram Jethmalani, representing Punjab, requested the court to adjourn the hearing in the wake of a possible out-of-court solution.

However, Haryana government counsel, senior advocate Shyam Divan, opposed the adjournment request.

He said let the matter come up as scheduled. After hearing all the parties, the court declined to postpone the hearing and said let

the case come up on April 12.

In Chandigarh, Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh welcomed the Centre's decision.

A statement released on his behalf said that Punjab had been seeking the Centre's intervention for long. Punjab would be deprived of its much-needed water if the SYL construction was allowed to go ahead.

Punjab has also been requesting the top court to ask the Centre to mediate the dispute and bring the two states to the negotiating table. It had in February informed the court that it was not possible to retrieve the canal land that had been given back to the landowners.

However, solicitor general Ranjit Kumar had said, "I (Centre) can't sit in judgment over the decree... If both the states approach us only then we can mediate..."

SC had in November 2016 declared the law passed by the Punjab assembly in 2004 terminating the SYL canal water-sharing agreement with neighbouring states as unconstitutional. It had answered in negative all the four questions referred to it in a Presidential Reference.

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## केन्द्र का एसवाईएल नहर विवाद में हस्तक्षेप

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): केन्द्र ने दशकों पुराने पंजाब पुराने पंजाब और हरियाणा के बीच सतलुज-यमुना लिंक नहर मुद्दे का समाधान करने के लिए हस्तक्षेप किया है। यह जानकारी आज उच्चतम न्यायालय को दी गई। अटॉर्नी जनरल मुकुल रोहतगी ने न्यायमूर्ति पी.सी. घोष की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ से कहा कि केंद्र ने 20 अप्रैल को एक बैठक बुलाई है, जिसमें मुद्दे का समाधान करने के लिए पंजाब और हरियाणा दो राज्यों को आमंत्रित किया गया है। अटॉर्नी जनरल ने पीठ के समक्ष मामले का उल्लेख किया और 12 अप्रैल को होने वाली सुनवाई को टालने की मांग की। न्यायमूर्ति आर.एफ. नरीमन भी इस पीठ में शामिल हैं। रोहतगी के बयान के मद्देनजर दीवानी मुकदमे पर भी सुनवाई को स्थगित

कर दिया गया। इस मुकदमे को आज सुनवाई के लिए सूचीबद्ध किया गया था।

चंडीगढ़ में पंजाब के मुख्यमंत्री अमरिंदर सिंह ने विवादास्पद सतलुज यमुना लिंक नहर के मुद्दे का समाधान करने के लिए 20 अप्रैल को पंजाब और हरियाणा की बैठक बुलाने के प्रधानमंत्री के कथित फैसले का स्वागत किया। जब पांच न्यायाधीशों की संविधान पीठ के समक्ष मामले पर सुनवाई हो रही थी तो केंद्र ने साफ कर दिया कि वह इस विवाद में किसी का भी पक्ष नहीं ले रहा है। इस विवाद में राजस्थान, जम्मू-कश्मीर, हिमाचल प्रदेश और केंद्रशासित प्रदेश दिल्ली भी शामिल हैं। गत दो मार्च को पंजाब को सख्त संदेश में शीर्ष अदालत ने कहा था कि हरियाणा और पंजाब में एसवाईएल नहर के निर्माण की अनुमति देने वाला उसका फैसला लागू किया जाना है।

