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Hindustan Times  
Statesman  
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Hindustan (Hindi)

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

M.P.Chronicle  
Aaj (Hindi)  
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Nai Durīya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Blitz

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# SC: Settle SYL or we decide

Asks Centre, Punjab, Haryana to finish talks 'as soon as can be'

**SATYA PRAKASH**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 12

The Supreme Court today asked the Centre, Punjab and Haryana to finish their talks on construction of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal "as soon as it can be", saying it will decide the matter if it remained unresolved.

At the very outset of the hearing, Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar said the Government of India was very keen to find a solution to the SYL issue. "A meeting has been called at the highest level on April 20," Kumar told a Bench headed by Justice PC Ghose.

"If it is settled, it's okay. If

it's not, we will hear and decide it," the Bench said.

As senior counsel Shyam Divan, representing Haryana, expressed apprehension about the matter getting delayed, the Bench said: "We do not want to shut the door to an amicable solution. Try to finish it as soon as it can be. It is an execution of a decree passed by this court. It is the duty of every citizen to obey it," Justice Ghose — who is due to retire on May 27 — said.

If the matter is not finally decided by May 27, it will have to be assigned to a new Bench, which would require some time to peruse the records.

On behalf of the Punjab government, senior counsel Ram

Jethmalani said there was a BJP government in Haryana and the Centre was also ruled by the same party. But he stopped at that without saying anything further.

"We don't go by faces," the Bench said, posting the matter for hearing on April 27.

Amid continued standoff between Punjab and Haryana over construction of the SYL canal, the Centre had on Monday told the top court that it had invited both the states for negotiations to find an amicable solution to the vexed issue.

Chief Secretaries of both the states are likely to hold talks with the Union Water Resources Secretary in New Delhi on April 20.

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# Stricter penalty for polluting Ganga on cards

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**New Delhi:** Days after the Uttarakhand high court granted the status of living entity to Ganga, a committee of experts submitted on Wednesday its draft model law to the government suggesting strict penalty, including jail term, to those polluting the river and its tributaries like Yamuna and obstructing their flow.

If the committee's suggestions are accepted and the relevant bill gets Parliament's nod, all those who contaminate the river by throwing non-degradable plastics, waste batteries or hazardous chemicals will face imprisonment of up to seven years.

The model law, which will be circulated among ministries and states for suggestions, has provisions for jail term and fine for individuals or companies that obstruct the river's flow or allow untreated waste into the river. It has a provision of two years' jail term or fine of up to Rs 100 crore or both for individuals or companies that disrupt the river's flow through construction or change of design of storage capacity of dams.

It also suggests that all agricultural land in the Ganga floodplain be designated as "organic farming zone" banning use of chemical-based pesticides, fertilizers and non-organic inputs, and recommends penalties for violation.

The committee, headed by Justice (retired) Girdhar Malviya, was constituted in July last year to prepare the draft Ganga law. After its report was submitted, minister for water resources and Ganga rejuvenation, Uma Bharti, called it a "historic day" and expressed hope that sufficient provisions have been made in the draft report keeping in mind the need for clean flow of the river.

She said, "The government will soon act on this after due consultations with all stakeholders". She also directed the water resources secretary to constitute a high-level committee to go through the document and submit its report at the earliest. The ministry will then prepare a relevant bill.

The panel has fixed a deadline of December 31, 2020, to free Ganga and its tributaries from environmental pollution. The deadline coincides with the government's 'Namami Gange' project which has been earmarked Rs 20,000 crore for taking various measures to rejuvenate the river in five years during 2015-2020.

The new provisions will help authorities deal with pollution and encroachment as per the new status given to Ganga by the Uttarakhand HC. The court order gave Ganga the same rights as that of a human — it means polluting the river will be considered as harming a human being.

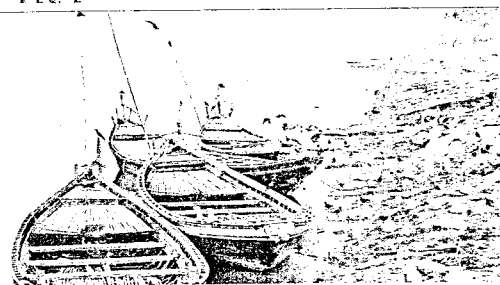
## RIVER CLEAN-UP ACT

### DRAFT GANGA

**ACT:** Centre will bring a bill after consulting states and central ministries

### KEY POINTS

❶ Sets December 31, 2020 as deadline to free the river from pollution



a. No person will spoil or deface 'ghats' and stairs by disposing of any kind of solid waste on river bank by any means, including incineration/burning

Penalty: One-month jail or fine up to ₹10,000 or both

(Exception: Ritual ceremonies of human corpses as per prevailing practice will not be an offence)

b. Encroachments on the river bank or flood plain

Penalty: Three months' jail or fine up to ₹5,000 or both; fine will increase by ₹5,000 for every day during which contravention continues

(Exception: Temporary encroachment for religious or traditional ceremony will be allowed for specific time period)

c. Punishment for adopting non-organic farming in flood plain

Penalty: One month jail or ₹2,000 fine or both. Fine may increase to ₹10,000 if violation continues

d. Punishment for contaminating river by throwing non-degradable plastic, waste batteries or hazardous chemicals

Penalty: Jail up to 7 years with fine as fixed by local bodies

e. Disrupting flow of river through construction or change of design of storage capacity of dams:

Penalty: Two years' jail or fine up to ₹100 crore or both

f. Discharge of industrial effluent or untreated sewage

Penalty: Up to seven years jail or ₹10 lakh fine or both; ₹5 lakh for every day if violation continues

❷ Setting up Integrated Development Council for overall monitoring of Ganga — PM will be ex-officio chairperson, central ministries, CM will be members

❸ Setting up National River Ganga Management Corporation (headed by Ganga rejuvenation minister) for implementation of various river cleaning projects

❹ Setting up Ganga Volunteer Force for protection, security and enforcement activities

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## गंगा अधिनियम का प्रारूप, रिपोर्ट उमा भारती को सौंपी

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

rajasthanpatrika.com

नई दिल्ली. गंगा अधिनियम का प्रारूप तैयार करने के लिए गठित मालवीय समिति ने बुधवार को अपनी रिपोर्ट केंद्रीय जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण मंत्री उमा भारती को सौंपी। रिपोर्ट स्वीकार करते हुए भारती ने इसे एक ऐतिहासिक क्षण करार दिया और कहा कि मैं इसे स्वीकार करते हुए रोमांचित हूं। उन्होंने कहा कि मोदी सरकार सभी संबंधित पक्षों से व्यापक विचार विमर्श के बाद इसे शीघ्र ही कानून का रूप देगी। भारती ने अपने मंत्रालय के सचिव को

निर्देश दिया कि वे इस रिपोर्ट का बारीकी से अध्ययन करने के लिए तत्काल एक उच्च स्तरीय समिति का गठन करें और यह समिति जल्द से जल्द अपनी रिपोर्ट दे। समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में गंगा की निर्मलता एवं अविरलता को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए पर्याप्त प्रावधान किए हैं। रिपोर्ट में गंगा के संसाधनों का उपयोग करने के बारे में जिम्मेदारी एवं जवाबदेही तय करने के बारे में कई कड़े प्रावधानों का उल्लेख है। समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट तैयार करते समय राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन के पास पूर्व में उपलब्ध कानूनी प्रारूपों का भी अध्ययन किया।