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Weather extremes: The deluge after the drought

The Marathwada region’s farmers are facing nature’s wrath yet again — this time from excess rains.

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Written by **Kavitha Iyer** | Mumbai | Published:October 13, 2016 1:00 am



Flooded fields below the bridge connecting Latur to Renapur in Maharashtra. (Express Photo: Narayan Pawle)

Through much of September, Sopan Garje of Dadegaon village in Beed district’s Ashti taluka, was quite a content man. President of a farmer-producer company, a festive Diwali seemed around the corner for his group of farmers cultivating nearly 1,000 acres of moong (green gram) and urad (black gram).

But towards end-September, the water body not far from their village adjoining the Kada Medium Irrigation Project suddenly filled up to 40 per cent capacity, after having been practically bone dry for months. “I knew something was wrong,” says this progressive farmer in his 40s, who uses every available agro-met service to plan his cropping schedule.

Fortunately, it was raining heavily in just the five-km area around the Kada project, covering Dadegaon and nearby villages. Garje’s group managed to harvest their urad and moong crops in the nick of time. But just a few days later, his own onion crop got washed away. Other group members similarly saw their soyabean crops suffer severe damage from the torrential rains through the first week of October. Small patches of bajra (pearl millet) and cotton were also destroyed.





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Pampore Encounter Enters

“Shock after repeated tragedies” is how Amol Jadhav, a local journalist and a farmer himself from Kaij in Beed, describes the latest setback. After consecutive drought years that crippled the rural economy of Marathwada — impoverishing even relatively better-off agricultural households








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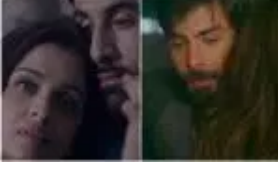
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— it is the excess rains from the withdrawing southwest monsoon that has caused heavy losses for many farmers of the region this time.

Marathwada received 824.8 mm of rainfall during June-September, over a fifth higher than its normal quota of 682.9 mm for the four-month monsoon season. And it hasn’t stooped raining even after September 30. During October 1-12, Latur district has recorded 200 per cent excess precipitation, with these at 197 per cent for Hingoli, 172 per cent for Nanded, 171 per cent for Beed and 159 per cent for Osmanabad. The region’s other three districts have also received excess rains, but not as much as Latur.

So far this month, even if not to the same extent.

In all, out of the 76 talukas in the Marathwada region, 23 have already received more than 125 per cent of their total average annual rainfall quota. And significant part of these rains have come since the last week of September — just when the standing kharif crop has been due for harvesting or closer to maturity. The contrast with the situation just a few months back — when the Maharashtra government pressed in a record number of water tankers for the parched region’s villages and towns — couldn’t have been starker. This time, an estimated 3,800 villages of Marathwada have been affected by excess rains, as opposed to its 9,000 villages that were declared drought-hit earlier in the year.

According to initial estimates made by district collectors, crops worth more than Rs 500 crore have been damaged in Latur, Beed and Osmanabad alone. That figure is likely to go up with more detailed village-level surveys. An early assessment has pegged the total crop loss across Marathwada at 9,15,431 hectares, out of the 49 lakh hectares area that was planted to crops during the current kharif season. Latur has been the worst hit, accounting for nearly 3,94,000 hectares of the regions’ total affected farmland. In Beed, as much as 3,68,000 hectares out of the district’s 7,98,000 hectares of agricultural land have officially sustained crop damage.

“Soyabean has been almost wiped out. Out of the 2,40,000 hectares that was sown under the crop, approximately 2,05,000 hectares has been washed away or damaged,” said Beed district collector Naval Kishore Ram. Soyabean, which has become increasingly popular among Marathwada’s farmers over the past decade, is a light plant particularly prone to losses from either water-logging or extreme dryness.

Besides soyabean, another one lakh hectares under Bt cotton has also been affected in Beed. Areas such Patoda and Majalgaon with fields on the banks of the Sindphana and Bindusara — tributaries of the Godavari — are reported to have suffered damage extending to all crops, including soyabean, cotton, tur (pigeon-pea), moong and urad.

While soyabean has been the worst-affected, farmers say that even the cotton bolls have been soaked and damaged, while tur in many places has witnessed sprouting of the grains. An assessment of damage from fungal infections is also still underway.

The India Meteorological Department’s rainfall map depicting the south monsoon’s performance for the whole season has shown only four sub-divisions in the country to have received excess rains this time. Marathwada is among the four — a rare occurrence for a region that has experienced deficit monsoon in three out of the preceding four years.

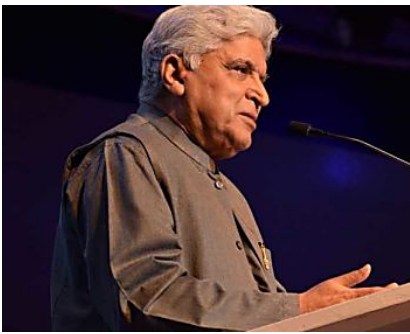
This year, it has rained so much that six of the 18 floodgates on the Dhanegaon dam across the Manjara River had to be opened. Farmlands across one km of either bank in Beed’s Kaij and Ambajogai talukas and in several places of Latur are still water-logged. The same Dhanegaon dam ran dry early this summer, necessitating a dramatic supply of drinking water to Latur city via railway wagons. Latur municipality, then, was in a position to supply water only once a month.

But wouldn’t these excess rains be of help at least in the coming rabi season? Garje isn’t optimistic even about that: “One in every four or five farmers is facing problems of severe erosion of their soils from the latest rains. That will make field preparation for the next crop challenging”. In some areas, the flooded farmland is too soggy for farmers to even enter the fields for any kind of land preparation for sowing, according to Garje.

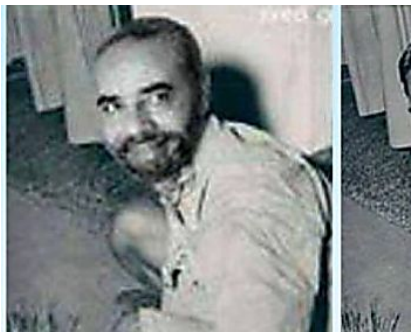
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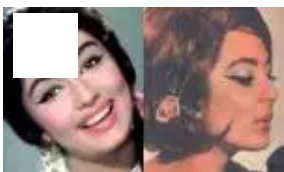
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Law

Can the Cauvery dispute be solved?

Yogesh Pratap Singh and Afroz Alam

Posted at: Oct 13 2016 3:44AM



The Sue generis model of Indian federation has offered diverse constitutional and political problems and one such is inter-state water disputes. No surprise, this problem being political in nature reached its pinnacle at times when the Centre and the respective states were ruled by different political parties. The ever-ongoing Cauvery dispute is one such, for which the old princely state of Mysore and the Madras Presidency had been in disagreement for decades before Independence.

Two agreements, one in 1890 and the other in 1924 were marked out of intense negotiations; while Tamil Nadu wanted to enforce these two agreements, Karnataka contended these were unfair and not pertinent since Karnataka had no political existence then. These have been the prime contention. The Supreme Court order to Karnataka to release 15,000 cusecs (cubic feet per second) for 10 days to Tamil Nadu led to protests by Karnataka farmers and is only continuation of this prolonged dispute.

Constitutional Plan

The constitutional arrangement for resolving inter-state water disputes was derived from Sections 130-134 of the Government of India Act, 1935. Water, as a subject-matter, occupies Entry 56 and Entry 17 of List I and List II respectively. While Entry 17 of List II empowers States to legislate on water-related infrastructural projects viz. irrigation, drainage, storage and power; however, it is subject to Entry 56 of List I, which gives Parliament exclusive power notwithstanding anything in the Constitution, to legislate on regulation and development of inter-state rivers and river valleys as has been declared by law to be in the public interest.

The only legislation dealing with inter-state water disputes is the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956. Article 262 provides for a specific law enacted by Parliament to adjudicate these disputes excluding the jurisdiction of all courts, including the Supreme Court precisely for three reasons; to elude prolonged accusatorial litigation at all costs; dispute was more political rather than legal; and being a matter of high technical magnitude needed to be resolved by a specialized body.

However, states found ways to work around that bar and approached the Supreme Court. The most astounding part is that the Supreme Court has often gratified them by using its imaginative interpretation, inherent cosmic and multiple jurisdictions. Concurrent adjudication by two forums - one for distribution of water and other for enforcement of fundamental rights - complicated the matter. Three SLPs, later converted into civil appeals were admitted against the 2007 order of the Tribunal, not yet heard substantively. Some hearings were done in 2013 but on interlocutory applications filed in civil appeals which are listed along with the original federal suit of Tamil Nadu (Article 131) filed in 2001. The intention of the drafters was battered.

Electoral Compulsions

Thursday, 13 October, 2016

Why do Karnataka and Tamil Nadu reject cooperation when it would appear to be in their mutual interest to accept it? The answer lies nowhere else but in politics. Several attempts have been made in pre and post-Independent India to utilise the water resources of Cauvery basin between both the states, but on every occasion efforts to implement the schemes, agreements and collaborative decisions fell short of their objectives as they are impeded by the persistence of competitive power politics.

The locus of resentment and mass discontent is rooted in electoral and other compulsions of political actors, ruling or opposition. These actors are more interested in reaping electoral dividend than devising a mutually agreeable scheme of water redistribution. In the process, the interests of people in general and farmers in particular from both the states are seriously compromised. Frequent protests and processions are being called by the political parties without exception in both states to appease their people, particularly farmers.

It could be seen in the strategic deployment of emotional language by all political parties in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. A Member of Parliament from Tamil Nadu allegedly threatened in year 2002 that if the Cauvery water sharing dispute was not resolved, Tamil Nadu could go the way of Kashmir. When the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal gave in its verdict (2007) a lion's share of the water to Tamil Nadu, mobilisation and counter mobilisation were made in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

दिनांक 12.08.16 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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TOUGH TASK: The National Highway 66 at Mudaga village near Karwar being cleared for traffic on Tuesday afternoon, following a landslide. DH PHOTO

Moderate rains hit Uttara Kannada district

KARWAR: Many parts of Uttara Kannada district received moderate rain on Monday and continued till Tuesday afternoon.

Bhatkal, Honnavar, Ankola and Karwar taluks of the coastal belt, besides Sirsi, Sidapur and Yellapur taluks of the Ghats region of the district received rain. The Keni stream in Ankola taluk is flowing at the danger mark. People in low-lying areas have been shifted to safer places.

Gruel centres have been opened at the Keni govern-

ment primary school and the Babruwada primary school. More than 100 people have been accommodated there.

Traffic hit

Vehicular traffic was affected for an hour and a half near Mudaga village in Karwar taluk, on National Highway 66, due to a landslide caused by heavy rain on Monday night. The mud was cleared from the highway using earth-movers.

Belagavi city received light showers for about 30 minutes

on Tuesday evening. The sudden downpour caught the people unawares and they ran for cover.

Heavy showers lashed Belagavi and Khanapur taluks and parts of Chikkodi taluk, including Nippani, on Monday.

Good spell

Moderate to heavy rains lashed several parts of Shivamogga district on Tuesday. Thirthahalli, Hosanagar, Sagar, Shikaripur received good spell of rains intermit-

tently throughout the day.

Shivamogga, Bhadravathi and some parts of Sorab received moderate rains intermittently.

Water level in Linganamakki dam rose to 1796.80 feet against the maximum of 1819 feet.

The rainfall figures are as follows: Ankola 31 mm, Karwar 11 mm, Kadra and Kumta 7 mm each, Gerusoppa 5 mm and Honnavar 4 mm (all Uttara Kannada district), and Hungund (Bagalkot district) 0.5 mm

DH News Service

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Cauvery technical panel wraps up field visits

12 Oct - The Hindu
Says would look into farmers' petitions before submitting report to SC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI: The high-level technical committee headed by Central Water Commission (CWC) chairman G.S. Jha, which was constituted by the Supreme Court to assess the ground realities in the Cauvery basin area, completed its visit to Tamil Nadu on Tuesday and left for New Delhi.

The committee also held a meeting with Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary P. Rama Mohana Rao and Public Works Secretary S.K. Prabhakar here over its visits to various parts of the Cauvery basin area in the State before leaving Chennai. Other committee mem-



The technical panel met Chief Secretary P. Rama Mohana Rao in Chennai on Tuesday. — PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

bers - S. Masood Husain, P. Rath and R. Rakesh Singh - were also present during the meeting.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Mr. Jha

thanked both the State governments for organising the visits. Replying to a query on what was the demand from the Tamil Nadu government, Mr. Jha said,

"There is no demand as such and we have not tried to put things in the demand and release manner. We were just assessing the ground realities. Of course, the utilisation part will also be there. So you may say that demand will be in form of what is the utilisation and what can be the best utilisation possible."

Asked about the petitions submitted by farmers, he said the committee had not yet looked into them as some of them were in Tamil and had to be translated; they would be looked into before the committee embarked on preparing the report to be submitted to the Supreme Court, he added.

Inflow into Mettur goes up, crosses 6,000 cusecs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SALEM: There is a reasonable increase in the realisation of water in river Cauvery at Mettur

dam with an inflow of 6,873 cusecs on Tuesday.

This is the first time in the last fortnight that the realisation of water in the Cauvery at Mettur dam

has crossed 6,000 cusecs.

Water level in the dam stood at 69.70 feet on Tuesday against its full level of 120 feet. The storage level was 32.444

tmc against the dam's full capacity of 93.47 tmc.

About 12,000 cusecs is being discharged from the dam since September 20, said PWD sources.

दिनांक 12-05-15 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Dumping of construction debris

Experts warn about reduction in width of rivers; efforts to crack down on the practice

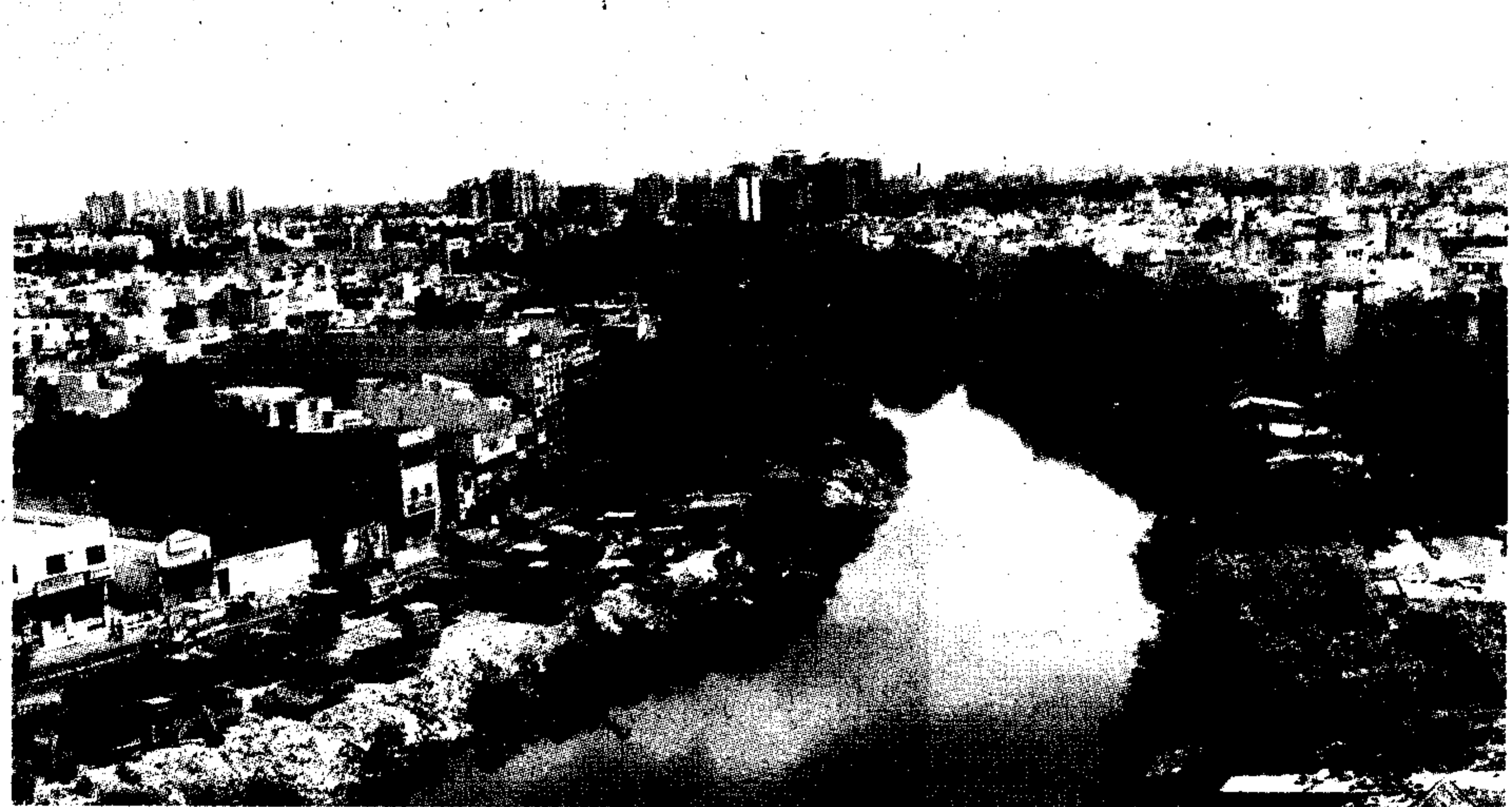
ALOYSIUS XAVIER LOPEZ

CHENNAI: Even as the government is proposing steps to save waterbodies after the floods last year, dumping of construction debris and municipal solid waste has increased in major waterways in the city.

Research scholars on disaster management have pointed to the gradual reduction in the width of rivers such as the Cooum, Adyar and Kosasthalaiyar and also canals and the increase in risk of flooding in surrounding areas. Greater Chennai Corporation has started taking action against people who are responsible for dumping of construction debris.

Officials have also installed boards warning violators, but dumping continues unabated.

"The water carrying capacity of the Cooum, Adyar and Buckingham canal has been reduced. Further dumping of construction debris is likely



to reduce the width of the waterways and lead to flooding of more residential areas," said N.Mathavan, disaster management expert.

Pointing to the flooding of many areas in Mylapore owing to reduction in the width of the Buckingham Canal due to the MRTS project, construction debris and en-

croachments, Mr. Mathavan said a few individuals promote dumping of construction debris to grab vacant land along the river. "Reduction in the width of the Adyar has led to flooding of residential areas one km away from the banks," Mr. Mathavan explained.

Corporation councillors

said the plan for earmarking space for dumping construction debris in each of the 15 zones has not been implemented properly. Many of the councillors have been monitoring the illegal dumping of debris along waterways, roads and canals. "Contractors used to dump debris in some areas. We use

Work on minor bridges begins

T. MADHAVAN

CHENNAI: The State Highways Department has started building culverts (minor bridges) on Tambaram-Somangalam Road as part of flood mitigation works.

The work is on at three locations on the road and is expected to be completed in less than a month, according to Highways Department officials.

Sources with the department said the proposals to construct five culverts on the road was taken after assessment of flood damage last year.

Ready-to-use reinforced cement concrete (RCC) boxes measuring 10 feet in



Work is on at three locations on the stretch that links Tambaram and Sriperumbudur. — PHOTO: G. KRISHNASWAMY

length and 10 feet in width would be created.

The road that connects Tambaram and Sriperumbu-

dur is around 23 km long and passes through villages such as Somangalam and Amarambedu, and also the temple

town of Sriperumbudur.

The road and surrounding areas were devastated during the floods of December 2015.

Residents protest

Residents of Varadhara-japuram staged a demonstration on the road some months ago alleging that the State Highways department was neglecting residents' views on constructing these culverts to satisfy certain vested sections.

Police said they had placed barricades at the entry point from the service road of Chennai Bypass road, but some motorists continue to enter the road by removing them.



CHOKING A LIFELINE: (Above) Construction material dumped on the banks of the Cooum in Nungambakkam. (Left) The width of the river has been considerably reduced due to dumping and encroachments. — PHOTOS: R. RAGU AND V. GANESAN

PREPARING FOR THE MONSOON

IS CHENNAI READY?

machinery to remove debris immediately. We also create awareness among residents," said A. Ezhilarasi, councillor in Thiruvottiyur.

According to estimates,

the city generates more than 50,000 tonnes of construction and demolition debris every month.

An official of the Chennai Corporation said they will monitor demolition contractors who dump debris stealthily in the same neighbourhood to reduce the cost of transportation.

Uncomfortable weather likely for two more days

K. LAKSHMI

CHENNAI: City residents may endure relatively uncomfortable weather for two more days. However, meteorologists note that there is a possibility of light rain on Wednesday towards the evening or night.

On Tuesday, some areas received light showers. However, the rain was not widespread.

The weather observatory in Nungambakkam recorded only 2 mm of rainfall whereas the one in Meenambakkam did not register any rainfall at all.

Chennaiites had to endure

hot weather during the day with Nungambakkam and Meenambakkam recording 35.5 degree Celsius and 35.1 degree Celsius respectively, which is over three degrees above normal for the month of October.

Officials of the meteorological department said Tuesday's rain was due to convective activity, which usually occurs after an intense period of heat.

The delay in the onset of cool easterly winds from the sea kept the day temperature high until evening.

The same weather pattern is set to continue on Wednesday as well.

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12.10.16 Yamuna water taxi project on fast track

Press Trust of India

• htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEWDELHI: The ambitious Yamuna Water Taxi project to ferry tourists from Wazirabad to Fatehpur Jat, a 16-km distance, may gain momentum as the government is evaluating five bids to operate the service.

The project, one of the priority projects of road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari, may shorten the travel time between Wazirabad to Fatehpur Jat from 3.5 hours to 45 minutes.

"Expressions of interest were issued for operators to run vessels on the Yamuna and five bids were received, which are under evaluation," an official said.

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), which has been mandated to implement the project, has sought clearance from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for the project in view of the ban imposed on construction activities. Hearing in the

case is scheduled on October 19, the official said.

A detailed project report for the 16-km Yamuna Taxi Project for operating tourist vessels/ ferry services was prepared by Kitco in September this year.

Tenders were issued for design and construction of three passenger vessels, construction of floating jetties at terminal points and dredging and provision of navigational aids for fairway development, the official said.

The due date for tenders is October 24.

A letter has been issued to the Delhi government for signing a memorandum of understanding.

Last week, IWAI chairman Amitabh Verma said the authority was looking at the Yamuna very closely and surveyed a 16-km stretch.

"I believe by December you would see construction and dredging activities... We have filed application with NGT to get permission," he said.

दिनांक 16.10.16 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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A large number of visitors turned up at Osmandagar in Hyderabad on Sunday. Water level has risen at the lake after the recent rains.
— S. SURENDER REDDY

Dams, full after a long time, are tourist draws

C.R. GOWRI SHANKER | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 9

The Singur project in Medak, about 80 km from Hyderabad, which supplies drinking water to the twin cities, is seeing many visitors. "Singur is full to the brim after a long time thanks to the good rains. This summer it was like a playground. People from not only Medak but also from neighbouring districts are spending weekends here," TRS Sangareddy MLA Chinta Prabhakar told *Deccan Chronicle*.

Some of the most visited irrigation projects

include Singur, Manjeera, Ghanpur, Pocharam (all in Medak district), Jurala near Gadwal, Koilasagar near Deverakadra (Mahabubnagar), Nagarjunasagar, Aljapur waterfalls (74 km from Nalgonda town), Musi project, Nizamsagar, Alisagar, Sri-ramsagar project (Nizamabad), Lower Manair and Mid Manair projects (Karimnagar).

There are 30-odd irrigation projects in the state. Some of them are full to brim after a long gap. The famed Osmandagar (Gandipet) received a lot of water as did neighbouring Himayatsagar, on the

city outskirts in Ranga Reddy district. Once the main source of drinking water for the twin cities, both the water bodies were almost dry due to encroachments in the catchment areas.

People are also thronging to the little known Ajjalapur waterfalls. Sri Bugga Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple is located nearby.

"We have about 50 irrigation projects across the state. Out of 43,800 tanks, 14,650 are full and overflowing," said Sridhar Deshpande, officer on special duty to irrigation minister T. Harish Rao.

दिनांक 10 Oct 1998 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)
The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)
The Times of India (Mumbai)
The Telegraph (Kolkata)
हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

NRI bets on Andhra Pradesh, moots casino on the Krishna

Six projects on table, but the State would have to amend gambling law to consider them

APPAJI REDDEM

VIJAYAWADA: Casino operators are looking at post-bifurcation Andhra Pradesh as fertile ground, and seven proposals to open such clubs have been received by the State government.

A U.S. NRI from Vijayawada is proposing a casino on an island in the Krishna river. The State government, however, has not taken any decision on the proposals, some of which have been pending since the bifurcation two years ago.

A casino is usually a club where gambling, eateries, amusement and entertainment venues are



LEISURE ISLAND: A speedboat races close to a Bodhisiri launch on the Krishna, near Bhavani Island. — PHOTO: VIJAYA BHASKAR

open round the clock. Currently, casinos are in operation in Goa, Daman and Sikkim.

The NRI, Siva Prakash Bobba, told *The Hindu*, "I find one of the islands in the river Krishna very much suitable for setting up a casino. I'm planning to

propose the island to the government."

Bhavani island near Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada has scores of sub-islands, with a total area of over 130 acres, and it hosts a Goa yacht club.

The A.P. government plans to convert it into an

amusement park, on the lines of the Sentosa island which has a casino, and spreads across 122 acres.

Besides Mr. Prakash's, at least six similar proposals are pending, says Andhra Pradesh Project Facilitators and Consultancy Services Limited (APPFCS) Chief Consultant and Director, K. Lakshminarayana.

"Some people have proposed to set up casinos but the government has not yet taken any decision. Getting permission for a casino is difficult as we need to get a regulatory nod from the Centre and the Navy. So far, nothing has moved on these," he said.

A Malaysian firm and a

Goa company are among the casino hopefuls, say government sources.

There was a proposal to set up an offshore casino near Visakhapatnam two years ago, but it has not moved beyond that, say government sources.

The State would have to amend the Andhra Pradesh Gaming Act, 1974, which prohibits gambling, before any approvals can be thought of.

"The amendment Act would need provisions similar to those inserted [two decades ago] in the Goa, Daman and Diu Public Gambling Act, 1976," said P.V.V.S. Murthy, former member, Consumer Forum, Vijayawada.

दिनांक 10.05.2016 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
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The Tribune (Chandigarh)
The Hindu (Chennai)

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The Times of India (Mumbai)
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हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

The Hindu - 100

Spotlight on linking 145 lakes with stormwater drains

Funding agencies have started work on a revised detailed project report for complete integration of the waterbodies with the network

ALOYSIUS XAVIER LOPEZ

CHENNAI: The stormwater drains that are set to be developed in the city will be integrated with the 145 lakes and ponds in the city, to improve the water storage and the mitigating floods in many areas.

Funding agencies, such as KfW and JICA, have begun work on a revised detailed project report for the complete integration of stormwater drains with these waterbodies. JICA is expected to fund the project in north Chennai, and KfW in south Chennai, civic officials said.

The previous detailed project report prepared by the Chennai Corporation in 2011 failed to properly integrate all the 145 lakes and ponds in the project, while taking into account the vanishing waterbodies, officials said. "The earlier proposal gave priority to facilitate the draining of stormwater into the sea. The funding agencies are determined to integrate the waterbodies in the network. Lakes



TAKING ON: While JICA is expected to fund the project in north Chennai, KfW will fund for south Chennai, officials said. — PHOTO: SHAJU JOHN

that are vanishing will likely be rejuvenated. The revised study would assess the change in the level. KfW and JICA will fund the project only after the lakes and ponds are integrated properly with the stormwater drain network," said an official.

The original proposal of the Corporation covered a 1,055-km stormwater drain network in eight added

zones. The revised project is likely to increase the length of drains in some areas. Work on the Adyar and Cooum

PREPARING FOR THE MONSOON

IS CHENNAI READY?

basins have started with funding from the World Bank. But many of the lakes

and ponds in the northern and southern parts of the city were not integrated in the proposed network.

"Only 55 lakes and ponds have to be integrated with the stormwater drain network in north Chennai," said an official.

The revised DPR would take into account the list of water-logged areas in the zones.

After a long wait, flood-affected roads all set to get a makeover

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI: The Chennai Corporation has started the repair of roads affected during last year's floods in congested areas, especially in the low-income neighbourhoods.

Many of the bus route roads were dug up for repairs by Tangedco and Metrowater after the floods.

Chennai Corporation officials say they were unable to take up re-laying work as these agencies had taken months to complete work and had only finished it a few weeks ago.

Now, the Corporation has started work on 30 such bus route roads, including Usman Road Service Road, G.N. Chetty Road,

The Corporation has begun work on 30 bus route roads that were damaged in the 2015 floods

Cemetery Road, Chinna Mathur Road, Konnur High Road and Millers Road.

Residents living close to these stretches say that they had been requesting civic officials to re-lay these roads for many years now.

"The roads were identified for re-laying in October 2014 and work has begun after a long wait," said an official.

"At least Rs. 20 crore will be spent on relaying the 30 bus route roads, many of which were damaged

aged during the floods," officials said.

Of the interior roads that need re-laying, at least 1,000 damaged roads are likely to receive a makeover.

A link to the slums

Many such roads link the congested slum areas in various parts of the city with the main hubs, officials added.

The civic body has had to shelve many proposed road works in slum areas after contractors were unable to move machinery on the stretches as they were very narrow with many encroachments. "Getting these encroachments removed still remains a challenge," a senior official of the corporation said.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 12/10/16 in the
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The Times of India (A)
Blitz
and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

Marathwada drought man-made

OVERSIGHT Study reveals poor water management behind dry spell in region

HT EXCLUSIVE

Snehal Fernandes
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The 2015-16 drought in Marathwada was caused not by climate change but poor management of water resources, a study conducted by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology-Pune and the Indian Institute of Science-Bengaluru has revealed.

The two institutions analysed 145 years of monsoon rainfall data to arrive at the conclusion.

While admitting that the region is prone to droughts, the study states that the magnitude of the last drought could have been reduced with proper management of crop cultivation and water usage. It cited rainfall data extending from 1871 to 2015 to assert that there have been changes in the strategies used for cultivating crops and managing water resources over the last four decades.

STUDY STATES THE SCALE OF THE DROUGHT COULD HAVE BEEN REDUCED WITH PROPER MANAGEMENT OF CROP CULTIVATION

The study categorically stated that the flow of irrigation water, exploitation of ground water, and allocation of water for cultivating water-intensive crops such as sugarcane and pulses have to be examined properly. It also said the administration must identify and promote sustainable strategies that adapt to varying rainfall patterns in the region.

The analysis showed that Marathwada is visited by a drought nearly once in six to seven years on an average. While it witnessed 22 such instances between 1871 and 2015, back-to-back droughts occurred five times — in 1876-77, 1920-21, 1971-72, 1984-85 and 2014-15. Interestingly, the region did not witness a single drought between 1940 and 1970, and there were no droughts between 1999 and 2011 despite rainfall slumping below normal levels.

"Neither the rainfall deficit of the 2015 Marathwada monsoon nor the occurrence of two successive years of drought can be considered exceptional behaviour on the part of the weather gods," the research states. "The current strategies of agriculture and water management, which led to an unacceptably adverse impact on farmers, are obviously inappropriate. Better strategies have

DRY DAYS TURN DEADLY

The factors that led to the killer drought in Marathwada last year



■ On an average, drought hits Marathwada region nearly once in six to seven years.

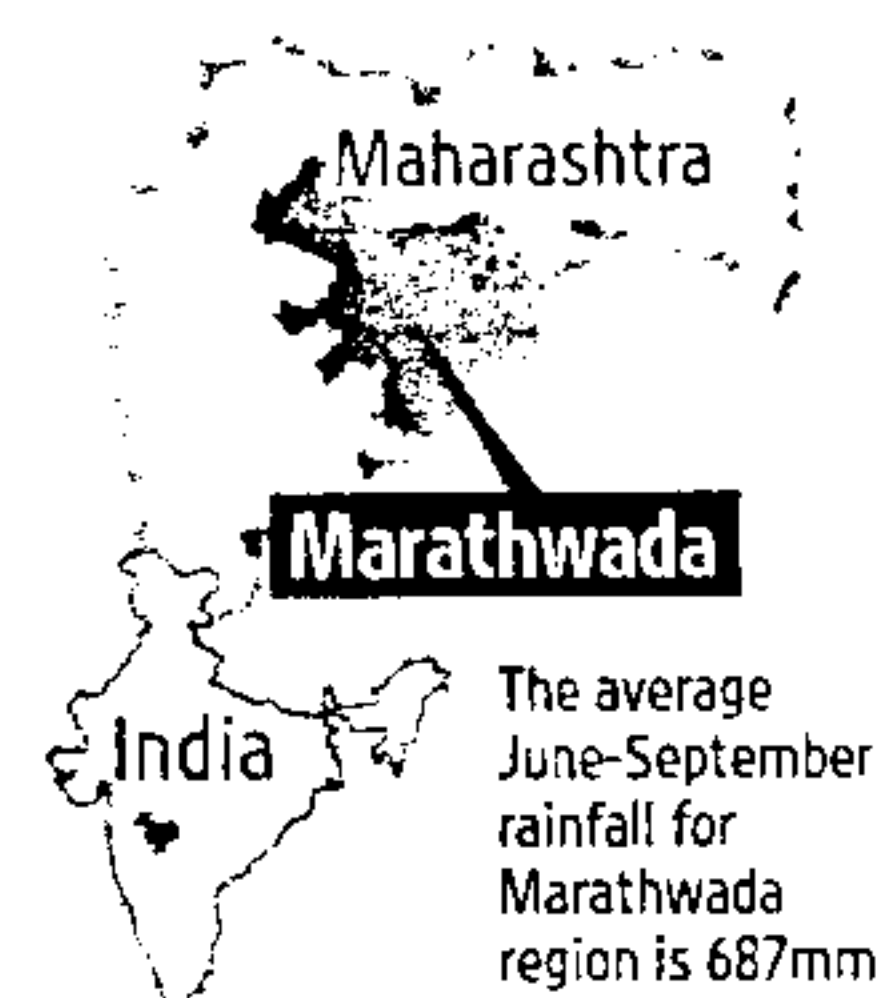
HT FILE

RAINFALL

Figures in mm

2014	399	42% below normal level
2015	334	44% below normal level
2016*	687	

*Between June & September



- Only 2% water left in 11 major dams in May; 8 of them recorded zero live water storage*
- All big dams have live water storage of 5,142 million cubic metres
- Unlike 1972, last year more than 1,000 farmers committed suicide due to water scarcity

*Live water storage is when water in the dam is high enough to flow out of the sluice gates

to be identified and implemented."

The average June-September rainfall for the Marathwada region is 687mm, but the deviation from that figure can be as high as 27%.

The rainfall deficit in Marathwada in 2015 was 40%,

far lower than the deficit of 54% during the 1972 drought. However, while no report of farmer suicides or water scarcity emerged then, over 1,000 farmers ended their lives last year. Agriculture was severely hit — the production of pulses fell

by 52%, tur dal by 42%, moong dal by 71%, and urad dal by 74%.

The paper further clarifies that there has been no significant change in the average seasonal rainfall or drought pattern.

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

M.P. Chronicle
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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

नर्मदा की तर्ज पर वजीराबाद ड्रेन पर लगेंगे सोलर पैनल

नजवा - 12-10-16

नई दिल्ली, (ब्यूरी): दिल्ली सरकार तक यह क्षमता बढ़कर 85 मेगावाट भले ही गुजरात के विकास मॉडल हो जाए। दिल्ली का सिंचाई एवं की लाख बुराई करे, लेकिन उसी बाढ़ नियंत्रण विभाग नालों के मॉडल से प्रेरणा लेना नहीं भूलती रखरखाव का काम करता है। नालों है। गुजरात की नर्मदा नदी की चौड़ाई अधिक होने के पर लगे सोलर पैनलों की 8 कारण गुजरात के मुकाबले तर्ज पर अब दिल्ली के करोड़ रुपए की दिल्ली सरकार के इस वजीराबाद ड्रेन पर लागत से मिलेगी प्रोजेक्ट की लागत अधिक है। वजीराबाद सोलर पैनल लगाए जाएंगे। इसके लिए 8 20 मेगावाट नाले पर लगभग 15 करोड़ रुपए की लागत से बिजली किलोमीटर लंबे स्ट्रेच पर 20 मेगावाट के सोलर पैनल सोलर पैनल लगाए जाने की लगाए जाएंगे। दिल्ली सरकार का योजना है। मोरी गेट से वजीराबाद लक्ष्य वर्ष 2017 तक 186 मेगावाट तक इस योजना को अमलीजामा सौर उर्जा पैदा करने का है। इस पहनाया जाएगा। हालांकि, जब तक प्रोजेक्ट को पूरा करने के लिए योजना शुरू नहीं हो जाती है तब तक अधिकारियों की एक टीम गुजरात दिल्ली सरकार का कोई अधिकारी कुछ बोलने को तैयार नहीं है। का दौरा कर चुकी है। गुजरात के मुकाबले दिल्ली के प्रोजेक्ट के रखरखाव पर भी अधिक मौजूदा समय में दिल्ली में 32 खर्च आएगा। मेगावाट सौर उर्जा उत्पन्न होती है, सरकार चाहती है कि 2016 के अंत

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राजस्थान पत्रिका . नई दिल्ली . गुरुवार . 13.10.2016

जल बंटवारा विवाद

महादयी पर सर्वदलीय बैठक 19 को

महादयी पंचाट ने दिया
था तीनों राज्यों के
मुख्यमंत्रियों के बीच
बैठक का सुझाव

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

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बेंगलूरु. महादयी जल बंटवारा विवाद पर 21 अक्टूबर को मुंबई में होने वाली त्रिपक्षीय बातचीत से पहले सरकार ने राज्य के विपक्षी दलों से चर्चा के लिए 19 अक्टूबर को बेंगलूरु में सर्वदलीय बैठक बुलाई है।

मैसूरु में बुधवार को पत्रकारों से बातचीत में मुख्यमंत्री सिद्धरामय्या ने कहा कि सर्वदलीय बैठक में विपक्षी नेताओं के साथ महादयी मसले पर विस्तार से चर्चा की जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि बैठक में इस मसले पर तकनीकी विशेषज्ञों के सुझाव भी लिए जाएंगे, जिसे 21 अक्टूबर को होने वाले मुख्यमंत्रियों की बैठक में रखा जाएगा।

गौरतलब है कि महाराष्ट्र के मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस की पहल पर 21 अक्टूबर को मुंबई में तीनों राज्यों-महाराष्ट्र, कर्नाटक और गोवा के मुख्यमंत्रियों की बैठक होगी। विवाद को आपसी सहमति से सुलझाने के लिए जस्टिस जे एम पंचाल की अध्यक्षता वाले महादयी पंचाट ने तीनों राज्यों के मुख्यमंत्रियों के बीच बैठक का

सुझाव 1 सितंबर की सुनवाई के दौरान दिया था।

इसके बाद कर्नाटक के मुख्यमंत्री सिद्धरामय्या ने दोनों पड़ोसी राज्यों को पत्र लिख था लेकिन किसी ने भी दिलचस्पी नहीं ली। पिछले सप्ताह फडणवीस ने सिद्धरामय्या को पत्र लिखकर 21 को मुंबई में होने वाली बैठक में भाग लेने के लिए आमंत्रित किया था। कर्नाटक अपने चार जिलों के लोगों की पेयजल आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए कलसा-बंडूरी परियोजना के लिए करना चाहता है लेकिन गोवा इसका विरोध कर रहा है।

इस बीच, कावेरी मसले को लेकर पूछे गए सवाल के जवाब में सिद्धरामय्या ने आशा जताई कि कावेरी विवाद पर 18 अक्टूबर को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में होने वाली सुनवाई में राज्य को न्याय मिलेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि मुझे विश्वास है कि केन्द्रीय टीम द्वारा राज्य के कावेरी बेसिन की जमीनी वास्तविकताओं के बारे में पेश की जाने वाली रिपोर्ट कर्नाटक के पक्ष में होगी और टीम ने कावेरी बेसिन के हालात को बखूबी समझा है। सिद्धरामय्या ने आशा जताते हुए कहा कि मुझे आशा है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट केन्द्रीय टीम की रिपोर्ट पर निष्पक्षता के साथ विचार करेगा और कर्नाटक की जनता के पक्ष में फैसला सुनाएगा।

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The Hindu
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Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
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13-10-16
@punjabkesarinat पंजाब केसरी

राष्ट्रीय जल रूपरेखा विधेयक का मसौदा तैयार

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): नदी जल बंटवारे को लेकर कई अंतर्राज्यीय विवादों के बीच केंद्र सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय जल रूपरेखा विधेयक, 2016 का अंतिम मसौदा तैयार कर लिया है जिसमें विवादों के समाधान के लिए नदीघाटी स्तर पर पानी के प्रबंधन पर और नदी व्यवस्था में राज्य के योगदान की सही माप पर जोर दिया गया है। मसौदा विधेयक में प्रत्येक अंतर्राज्यीय नदीघाटी के लिए 'नदी घाटी प्राधिकरण' स्थापित करने की वकालत की गयी है ताकि नदियों और घाटियों के अनुकूलतम और टिकाऊ विकास को सुनिश्चित किया जा सके। मसौदा कानून को एक महीने के अंदर केंद्रीय कैबिनेट की मंजूरी के लिए उसके सामने रखा जा सकता है जिसके बाद इसे संसद में पेश किया जाएगा। विधेयक में राज्यों को इस सिद्धांत को समझने की सलाह दी गयी है कि नदियों का स्वामित्व बेसिन-राज्यों के पास नहीं होता बल्कि 'पब्लिक ट्रस्टियों' के पास होता है। इसमें कहा गया है कि सभी नदी घाटी वाले राज्यों का किसी नदी के जल पर समान अधिकार होता है बशर्ते इस तरह का उपयोग नदीघाटी क्षेत्र में रहने वाले किसी व्यक्ति के जीवन के लिए जल के अधिकार का उल्लंघन नहीं करता हो।

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

✓ Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
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पिघलते ग्लेशियर से बनीं झीलें लाएंगी तबाही!

■ टीएनएन, शिमला : हिमालय क्षेत्र में तेजी से पिघल रहे ग्लेशियर के कारण नई झीलों का निर्माण हो रहा है। पिछले दो सालों में हिमाचल में 110 नई झीलों का निर्माण हुआ है। इससे राज्य में ग्लोफ (ग्लेशियल



लेक ऑउटबस्ट फ्लड) बाढ़ का खतरा पैदा हो गया है। तेजी से पिघलते इन ग्लेशियर के कारण रावी, चेनाब और व्यास नदी बेसिन पर ये नई ग्लेशियल झीलें निर्मित हुई हैं। एक रिपोर्ट बताती है कि 2013 में चेनाब बेसिन पर 116 झीलें थीं, जिनकी संख्या 2015 तक बढ़कर 192 पहुंच गई। अगर 2001 से इन झीलों की तुलना की जाए, तो इन झीलों में चार गुना इजाफा हुआ है। न्यू-11-10-16

नदियों को जोड़ना कितना उचित?

ऋतुपर्ण दवे

नदियों को जोड़ने की मुहिम देश के लिए कितनी उपयोगी या घातक होगी, बेहद सुखियों में है। इसे लेकर बहुत से विशेषज्ञों की अलग-अलग राय व सरकार की अपनी योजनाएं हैं। सच्चाई यह कि प्रमाणित आधारों या अपर्याप्त उदाहरणों से संशय ज्यादा उपजा है। हर कहीं केवल अपने तर्क हैं, तर्कों पर नीतियां-योजनाएं नहीं बनतीं, इसके लिए वैज्ञानिक आधार चाहिए।

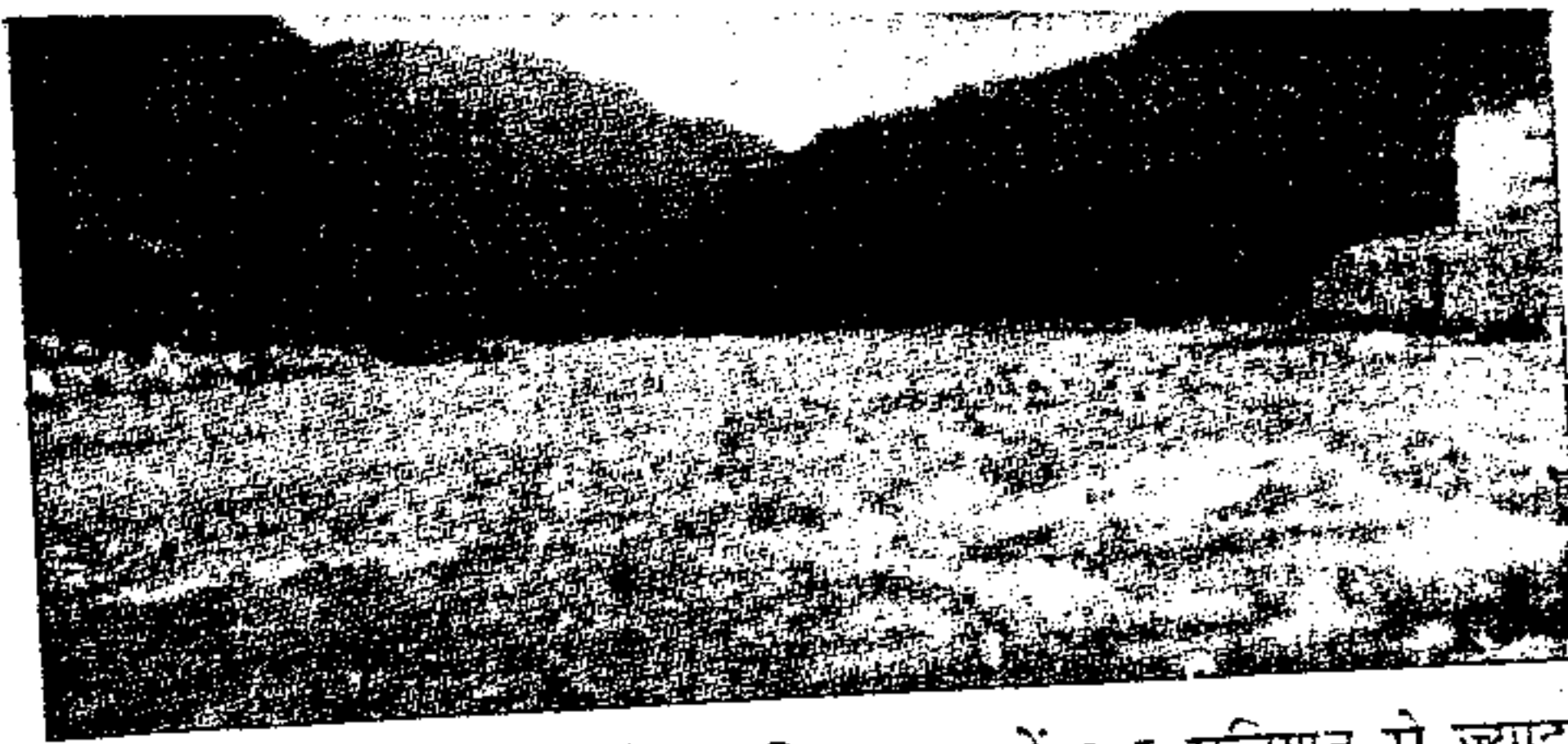
तमाम विवादों और प्रकरणों के बाद सबसे पहले अब यह जरूरी हो गया है कि जितनी भी नदी जोड़ परियोजनाएं हैं, उनका वैज्ञानिक आधार सार्वजनिक हो, ताकि उपयोगी होने पर, जनसमर्थन तो मिले ही, जनजागृति भी बढ़े लेकिन इस परिपेक्ष्य में अब तक जितनी भी बातें सामने हैं, वे बताती हैं कि योजनाओं के नफा-नुक्सान पर दुविधा ज्यादा है।

जलवायु परिवर्तन और ग्लोबल वार्मिंग के चलते भविष्य में जल की उपलब्धता और भी प्रभावित होने वाली है। नदियों में साल दर साल पानी घट रहा है। बड़ी नदियां जहां सूखती जा रही हैं वहीं गांवों, कस्बों से गुजरने वाली छोटी नदियां दम तोड़ चुकी हैं या मृत्यु शैथ्या पर हैं। सबसे पहले यह सोचना होगा कि नदियों में प्रवाह कैसे बढ़े? भूजल स्तर का नाश और जल संकट से निजात की संभावनाएं तलाशनी होंगी। साथ ही सचेत भी होना पड़ेगा, क्योंकि परिवर्तित हो रहे जलवायु चक्र और बढ़ रहे प्रदूषण से भी नदियां प्रभावित हैं। गंगा इसका बड़ा उदाहरण है।

हिमालयीन ग्लेशियर से आया पानी ऋषिकेश में 18 से 20 प्रतिशत के बीच रह गया है। यहीं कानपुर और इलाहाबाद पहुंचते-पहुंचते महज 9 प्रतिशत ही बचता है जबकि पहले यही 54 प्रतिशत हुआ करता था। घटती बर्फबारी, पिघलते ग्लेशियर और बिगड़ते पर्यावरणीय संतुलन से बढ़ता तापमान इसका कारण है। यद्यपि यह अलग विषय है, लेकिन जुड़े तो नदी की धारा से ही हैं।

वैसे भी नदियों को जोड़ने का काम प्रकृति का है, क्योंकि ये अपनी जलधाराएं बदलती रहती हैं। ऐसे में किसी एक जगह दो नदियों को जोड़ना कितना और कब तक उपयोगी होगा, यह भी यक्ष प्रश्न है। नदियों को जोड़ने के लिए बड़े बांधों की भी दरकार होती है। ब्राजील के नैशनल इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर स्पेस रिसर्च (आईएनपीसी) के एक महत्वपूर्ण शोध से इस बात का भी खुलासा हुआ है कि दुनियाभर के बड़े बांध, हर वर्ष 104 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन मीथेन गैस उत्सर्जित करते हैं जो ग्लोबल वार्मिंग में मानव जनित हिस्से का चार प्रतिशत है।

दुनियाभर में यह चर्चा का विषय है। इन सबके बीच नदी और जल को बचाने, सार्थक और प्राकृतिक तरीके से जल प्रबंधन ही प्रभावी व सफल दिखता है। इसके लिए बहुत छोटे से देश इस्त्राएल से सीखना होगा। भारत के क्षेत्रफल की तुलना में केवल 0.63 प्रतिशत भूभाग अर्थात् 20770 वर्ग किलोमीटर वाले इस देश में केवल दो



प्रतिशत भूभाग में पानी है जबकि भारत में 9.5 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा क्षेत्रफल पानीदार है। बारिश भी वहां भारत से औसतन 215 मिमी कम होती है लेकिन वहां पानी की बचत और रिसाइक्लिंग के लिए कई प्रभावी उपाय हुए। कारखानों में सीमित मात्रा में ऐसे तत्वों, अवयवों के उपयोग पर सख्ती हुई जो प्रदूषण के जनक हैं। इसके अलावा रिसाइकल्ड पानी खेतों में उपयोग किया जाने लगा। नतीजतन वहां मांग का 93 प्रतिशत अन्न खुद ही पैदा किया जाने लगा। नदियों में आने वाली गाद की मात्रा, नहर परियोजनाओं के अनुभव और विदेशों में ऐसी परियोजनाओं की गति पर भी गौर करना जरूरी होगा। तभी भविष्य की तमाम शंकाओं-कुशंकाओं का निवारण हो सकेगा।

भारत में हाल में बिहार में बाढ़ की तबाही इसका सबसे ज्वलंत उदाहरण है, जिसके लिए वहां के मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार पश्चिम बंगाल में गंगा पर बने फरक्का बैराज और शहडोल में बने बाणसागर बांध को जिम्मेदार मानते हैं।

फरक्का से गंगा की जल निकासी में कमी से गाद जमा होने लगी, जिससे नदी तल प्रभावित हुआ। इधर बाणसागर बांध के संचालन में लापरवाही से पानी एकाएक बढ़ा और बिहार में 14 प्रतिशत कम बारिश के बावजूद बाढ़ का अभूतपूर्व मंजर दिखा।

बहरहाल, मांग तो यह भी हो रही है कि देशभर में 12 नदियों गंगा, यमुना, कावेरी, नर्मदा, दामोदर, ताप्ती, मघा, सिंधु, सतलुज, गोदावरी, ब्रह्मपुत्र और कृष्णा जिनका दायरा लगभग 15895 किलोमीटर है, को आपस में जोड़ने की परियोजना शुरू हो।

इसके लिए सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में इसी नौ जून को चेन्नई के 65 वर्षीय गजेंद्रन ने एक जनहित याचिका दायर कर दिल्ली से कोलकाता, ओडिशा, विजयवाड़ा होकर चेन्नई तक की चार हजार किमी लम्बी साइकिल यात्रा शुरू की है। निश्चित रूप से विविध विचारों, धारणाओं और मांग के बीच जरूरी यह है कि नदियों की स्वतंत्रता छीनने, उसकी अविरल धारा से छेड़खानी करने के पहले उसके नतीजों पर व्यापक सोच, शोध और वैज्ञानिक आधारों हों। महज वातानुकूलित कमरों में बैठकर कागजों में ड्राइंग बना देने से योजनाएं सफल नहीं होती हैं। यह भी एक अजब संयोग है कि एक ओर हम पेरिस जलवायु परिवर्तन पर अमल करने और कार्बन उत्सर्जन कम करने की बात करते हैं, वहीं दूसरी ओर केन-बेतवा को जोड़ने का फैसला होता है। कुछ भी हो दुनियाभर के तमाम देशों के प्रयोगों, शोध, नीति निर्देशकों, उदाहरणों का पूरी ईमानदारी और निष्पक्षता से अध्ययन के बाद ही भारत जैसे विशाल भू-भाग और जनसंख्या वाले देश में ऐसी परियोजनाएं लागू की जाएं, क्योंकि इस बात से कोई भी इन्कार नहीं कर सकता कि अगला विश्व युद्ध पानी को लेकर होना तय है। जनसंख्या की दृष्टि से विश्व का दूसरा बड़ा देश भारत, जहां दुनिया की 18 प्रतिशत आबादी रहती है, लेकिन पानी का भंडार केवल चार प्रतिशत। उससे भी बड़ा सच यह है कि वृक्षों की अंधाधुंध कटाई, नदियों के किनारे अतिक्रमण, प्राकृतिक संपदाओं के अकूत दोहन से करोड़ों क्यूसेक पानी समुद्र में चला जाता है। इसलिए अव्वल जरूरत इस बात की है कि सबसे पहले हम जल प्रबंधन पर ध्यान दें। नदियों को जोड़ने से ज्यादा जरूरी है कि लोगों को सामाजिक और भावनात्मक तौर पर नदियों से जोड़ा जाए। नदी के महत्व और भविष्य की आवश्यकताओं को बताया जाए। जरूरी है कि लोगों को आसन्न जल संकट और बिन पानी सब सूख की भयावहता से रू-ब-रू कराया जाए ताकि प्राकृतिक जल स्रोतों का जाने-अंजाने विभिन्न कारणों से दुश्मन बना इंसान चेत जाए। यदि समय रहते इस सच्चाई को जन-जन तक नहीं पहुंचाया गया तो योजनाएं चाहें कोई भी हों, व्यर्थ हैं, धन अपव्यय और भ्रष्टाचार का निवाला से ज्यादा कुछ नहीं है।

अहम जरूरत यह है कि दम तोड़ती नदियों को बचाएं, मर चुकी नदियों को पुनर्जीवित करें। ताल-तालाबों, पोखरों को सहेजें, उन्हें फिर उन्नत और लंबालव करें। उससे भी जरूरी यह कि गंदे जल की निकासी के लिए वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोण अपनाएं तभी संभव है कि हम नदियों को उनका अपना मूल स्वरूप लौटा पाएंगे और जब यह सब कर लेंगे तो शायद, करोड़ों-अरबों खर्च कर नदियों को जोड़ने की जरूरत ही न रह जाए। इसके लिए जन जागृति, संचार-संवाद के मौजूदा हाईटेक जमाने में बड़ी हो सहजता से लोगों को जोड़ा जा सकता है। इसे मीडिया, सोशल मीडिया, संवाद-विचार गोष्ठियों और जनप्रतिनिधियों के माध्यम से एक ईमानदार संकल्प के रूप में किया जा सकता है। काश! इस सबकी तरफ भी हमारे नुमाइंदे नजरें इनायत कर पाते। (आईएनएस)

(लेखक स्वतंत्र पत्रकार हैं, ये उनके निजी विचार हैं)

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The Hindu

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M.P. Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

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The Times of India (A)

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Govt draft bill for 'equitable' river water sharing

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

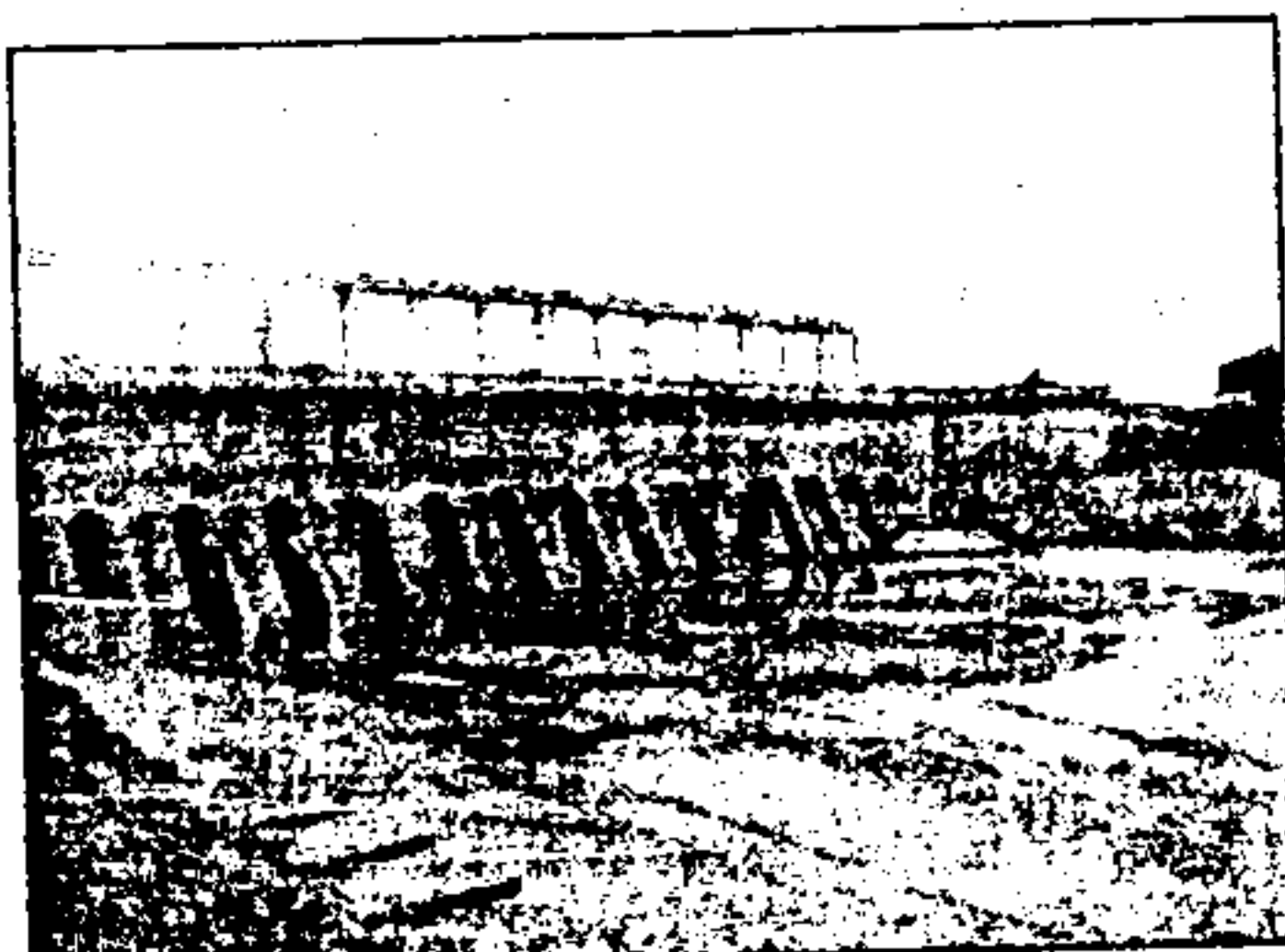
New Delhi: Seeking to resolve several inter-state disputes over the sharing of river waters through model legislation, the Centre has come out with the draft National Water Framework Bill, 2016, to provide a mechanism to develop and manage river basins in an integrated manner so that every state gets an "equitable" share of a river's water without violating the rights of others.

The draft bill also pitches for establishing a river basin authority for each inter-state basin to ensure "optimum and sustainable" development of rivers and valleys and devises an integrated approach to conserve water and manage groundwater in a sustainable manner.

Since water is a state subject, the proposed legislation will not be binding on the states for adoption even if it becomes a law through Parliament in due course. It will work as a model bill for the states, giving them a framework to make local laws to use and conserve water.

The 26-page draft says every person has a "right to sufficient quantity of safe water for life" within easy reach of the household regardless of caste, creed, religion, age, community, class, gender, disability, economic status, land ownership and place of residence.

"The draft bill will go to the Union Cabinet for its approval. Once it gets the required nod, the Union water resources ministry will introduce it in Parliament,"



The 26-page draft says every person has a 'right to sufficient quantity of safe water'

an official said but gave no time frame for its introduction. He added, "We have already sought the states' opinion. The ministry will take a call after analysing the states' views".

Keeping various water disputes in view, the draft bill proposes establishing institutional arrangements at all levels within a state, and beyond up to an inter-state river-basin level, to "obviate" disputes through negotiations, conciliation or mediation before they become acute. It also says that each river basin authority will prepare a master plan — for the river basin under its jurisdiction — comprising such information as may be prescribed. "The master plan, so prepared, will be reviewed and updated after every five years after due consultation," it says.

The "statement of objects and reasons" of the draft bill, at the same time, makes it clear that the proposed legislation is "not intended to centralise water management or to change Centre-state relations in any way".

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The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle

A a j (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

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

To take weather reports to farmers, Met turns to postmen

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS
PUNE, OCTOBER 12

THE INDIA Meteorological Department (IMD) has a new job for postmen. Looking to collect and deliver weather information to remote villages, the IMD's Agricultural Meteorology Division, or AgriMet, wants them to step in and help.

"The postman will be given a template form when he goes to a

village. It will have basic questions, like cropping pattern of the village, land usage, etc. He has to fill the form and get phone numbers of some farmers," Dr Nabansu Chattopadhyay, deputy director general at AgriMet, said.

The postal department will feed this information to their servers, and IMD officials will then access it to churn out circle-level, custom-made weather and crop forecast.

Chattopadhyay said the deci-

sion to rope in the Postal Department was taken during a brainstorming session last month on how to disseminate AgriMet advisories to farmers.

"Timely and precise weather-based advisories are invaluable for farmers to plan their crop cycle. Through the Kisan portal and other services, we have managed to reach 19 million farmers. But we aim to reach all 90 million farmers in India with custom-made weather and crop advi-

sories," he said.

Chattopadhyay said that in places where even mobile network does not exist, a postman could make all the difference.

The IMD also plans to mount LED screens at village post offices, where weather and crop information would be shown through the day. "All the screens will be connected to the remote server, and information collected by postmen will be used to churn out the advisories,"

1813 Chattopadhyay said.

At the moment, five villages — in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh — have been selected for the trial run of the project, and a budget is being worked out.

According to Chattopadhyay, of the 1,54,239 post offices in India, 1,39,222 are in rural areas.

Referring to an economic impact analysis study by the National Council of Applied Economic Research, Chattopadhyay said that

at least 25 per cent of the farmers who relied on AgriMet reported an increase in their net income. "The service has the potential of generating net economic benefit of up to Rs 3.3 lakh crore when such advisories are fully utilised by all 90 million farmers," he said.

Apart from the postal department, AgriMet plans to use services such as farmer's cooperatives and agricultural produce market committees to ensure their advisories reach all corners.



Postmen can reach where even mobiles can't, says IMD

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 12/10/16 in the

Hindustan Times	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	M.P.Chronicle
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Seechewal's water mgmt model floors Khattar

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, OCTOBER 11

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar today said the state will soon adopt the Seechewal model of cleaning water in all its districts.

He said this after meeting noted environmentalist Balbir Singh Seechewal at his village. While visiting the sewerage treatment plant at Sultanpur Lodhi, Khattar said the country was in need of such system, especially in villages, where there was no way for water exit.

Khattar also visited the recharge plant at Sultanpur Lodhi.

Haryana, like other states, is also looking for ways to preserve water and to recharge it for repeated use. Earlier, a team of the Haryana Irrigation Department and sewerage board had visited Seechewal village to study the water management system.

Khattar spent around two hours at Sultanpur Lodhi and even visited the railway station to see the tree plantation drive carried out by Seechewal. Later, he visited a gurdwara to pay obeisance.



Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar and environmentalist Balbir Singh Seechewal at Seechewal village in Jalandhar on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 12/10/16 in the

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East Delhi lakes to get a fresh lease of life

MAKEOVER Dehi govt revives trans-Yamuna board, major projects pending for a long time to be taken up again

Vibha Sharma

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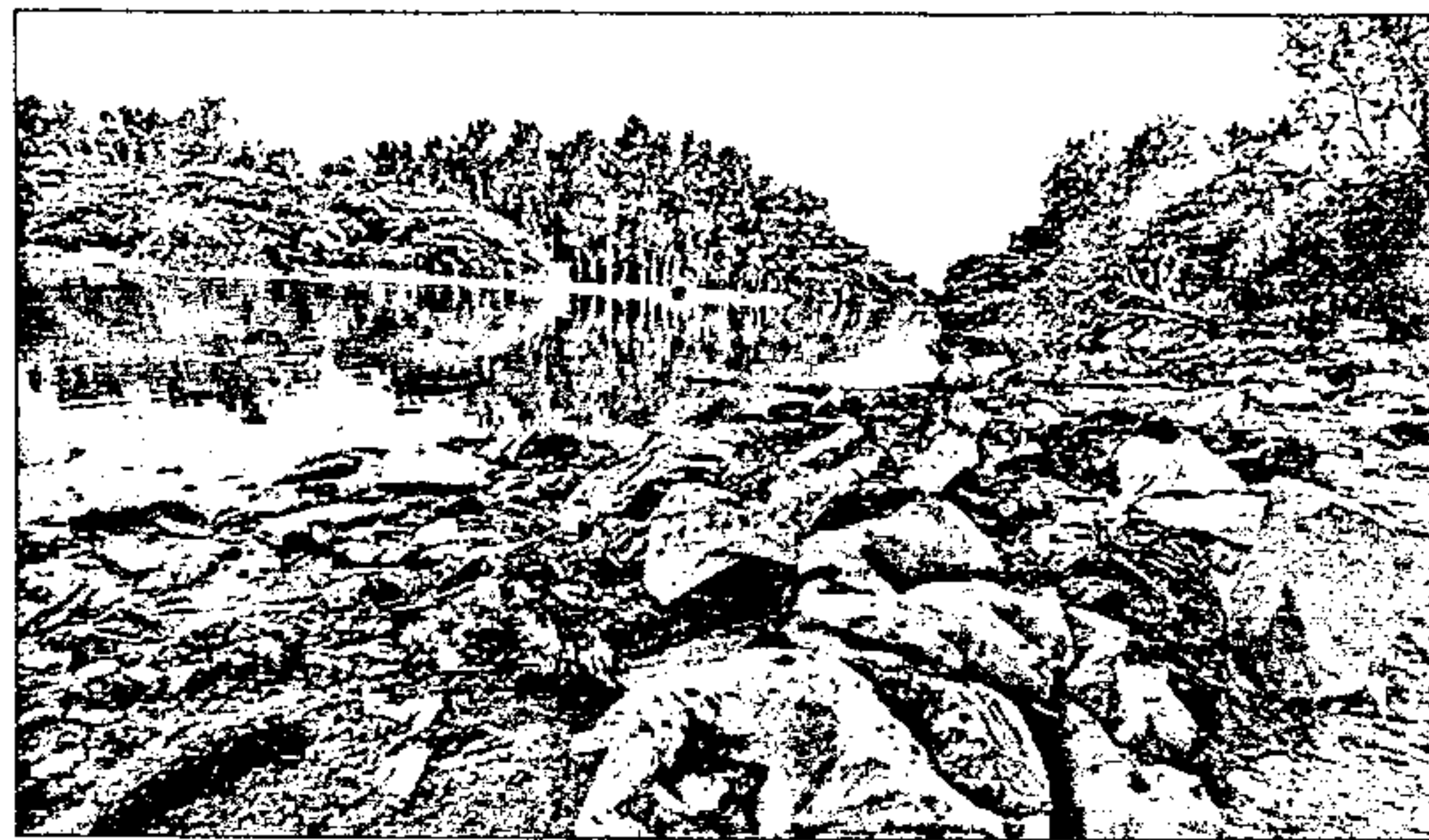
NEW DELHI: Development of east Delhi is likely to get a boost with the Delhi government reviving the Trans-Yamuna Area Development Board.

The board met on September 2 under the chairmanship of Fateh Singh, AAP MLA from Mandoli village, to discuss development works.

The revival of the Shahdara lake, Sanjay Van lake and beautification of border areas are among the major projects planned for east Delhi.

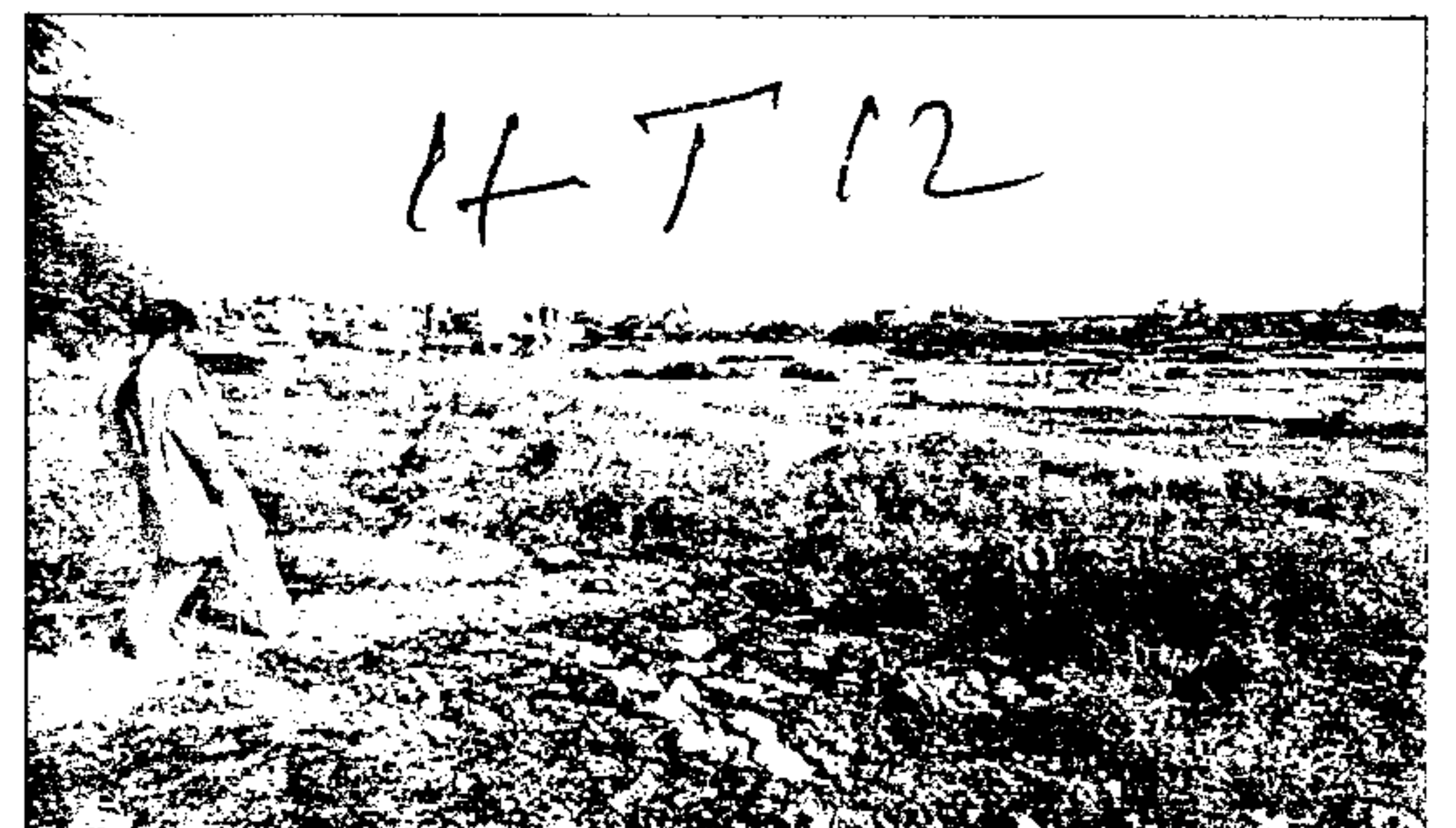
"After the L-G's approval, we will start reviewing development works in east Delhi. We asked the municipal corporation to submit reports on major pending projects. After scrutiny, we will provide funds for these projects," said Singh.

On October 10, East Delhi Municipal Corporation commissioner called a meeting with senior officials and instructed them to prepare a detailed status report on projects to be sanctioned by



• Sanjay Lake near Mayur Vihar phase-II will be beautified.

SANJEEV VERMA/HT PHOTO



• Shahdara lake will be filled with treated water and a park will be built in the area surrounding it.

SANJEEV VERMA/HT PHOTO

the board.

"Though the project for reviving the Shahdara Jheel and a park on 62 acres of vacant land (surrounding the lake) was approved in 2012, it could not be completed due to paucity of funds," said a EDMC official.

In phase I, EDMC had spent ₹4 crore for reviving the lake and filling it with treated water from a neighbouring drain. A plantation drive was also carried out.

The project was implemented

by the National Environmental Research Institute (NERI), Pune, using the 'phytorid wastewater treatment technology'.

Beautification work has also been planned for Sanjay Lake. The objective is to develop these places as landmarks of East Delhi, to be used as picnic spots.

THE BOARD

Formed in 1994 by the Delhi Government, the board played a vital role in infrastructure develop-

ment and planned growth of trans-Yamuna localities.

It was the main source of funding for municipal projects. It used to sanction ₹80 crore annually for developmental works. In 2013, the AAP government disbanded the board as the party was keen on implementing the Delhi Nagar Swaraj Bill that allowed citizens to approve such projects.

As a result, the EDMC cancelled all major projects sanctioned by the body. Projects such

as redevelopment of the lake areas and construction of community centres, schools, dispensaries were cancelled.

Arvinder Singh Lovely, former member of the Yamuna board said, "It was an immature decision to dissolve the board. It had done considerable work and changed the face of east Delhi, including construction of bridges, rail under bridges and projects related to the Common Wealth Games."

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ENVIRONMENT CONCERNS

Yamuna ghats will take two days to

Parts of idols, cloth, earthenware and other materials could be seen floating in the shallow part at many

DAMINI NATH

NEW DELHI: Remnants of idols and other offerings remained on the banks of the Yamuna on Wednesday, a day after devotees immersed figurines of goddess Durga into the river.

Devotees marked the end of Durga Puja celebrations by immersing the idols and other prayer materials into the river on Tuesday. As per an order of the National Green Tribunal, the immersion was supposed to take place at designated sites, with a shallow part of the bank cordoned off for the purpose. The NGT had also ruled that idols and other offerings had to be removed from the bank and disposed elsewhere in order to reduce pollution in the already-filthy river.

Manoj Misra, the convener of the Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan, said the authorities were supposed to prepare the ghats with bamboo curtains to prevent people and idols from wading too far into the water.

"The idols are supposed to be removed immediately and the municipal corporations were supposed to clean the ghats quickly as well," said Mr. Misra.

However, parts of idols, cloth, earthenware and other materials could be seen floating in the shallow part of bank at many ghats on Wednesday.

At Qudsia ghat near ISBT Kashmere Gate, clay and plaster portions of the idols had fallen off into the water, leaving the straw structure standing. Rag-pickers were



REMAINS OF THE DAY: The scene at the banks of the Yamuna on Wednesday, a day after Durga Puja celebrations. At right, Civil Defence volunteers of the municipal corporation and the Irrigation and Flood Control Department clearing Haathi Ghat. — PHOTOS: R. V. MOORTHY & SPECIAL

seen looking for anything valuable in the litter. The situation was a bit better at ITO, though some materials were seen floating in the river.

Rupesh Thakur, the District Magistrate of Central Delhi, which has four popular ghats in its jurisdiction, said since devotees were still immersing idols on Wednesday, the cleaning of the ghats would take two days.

At Haathi Ghat near ITO, Mr. Thakur said teams comprising Civil Defence volunteers, sanitation workers of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation and staff of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department of the Delhi government had started a cleanliness drive.

Workers of the municipal corporation and Civil Defence volunteers would clean the banks of the river, while staff of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department would use boats to fish out materials from the river. On Wednesday, municipal workers were transporting leftover materials to dumping sites. He said all the ghats would be cleared of puja materials by Thursday evening.

Since devotees were still immersing idols on Wednesday, the cleaning of the ghats will take two days

Rupesh Thakur

District Magistrate, Central Delhi

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Karnataka calls all-party meet on Mahadayi water row

JOHNSON T A

BENGALURU, OCTOBER 12

IN THE run-up to a meeting with CMs of Maharashtra and Goa for resolution of the Mahadayi river dispute, Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah has convened an all-party meeting on October 19, two days before the CMs meet.

The three states have agreed to hold negotiations to resolve water sharing issues based on a

suggestion made by Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal in July.

The matter was taken to the the tribunal by Goa after Karnataka in 2006 began work on the Kalasa-Banduri canal system to divert water from Mahadayi tributaries for drinking water purposes in north Karnataka. Karnataka wants 7.56 TMC of water from Mahadayi river to meet demands for drinking water in the northern districts of Belgaum, Dharwad, Gadag and Bagalkot.

Goa argued before the tribunal that the project would cause immense ecological damage in the state, since the river supports the fragile ecosystem in areas protected for wildlife.

In an interim order on July 27, the tribunal rejected Karnataka's plea for usage of 7.56 TMC of water from the river. It, however, suggested a resolution of the matter through negotiations among the three riparian states.

Based on the tribunal's sug-

gestion, Karnataka's Congress CM on September 5 wrote to the BJP CMs of Goa and Maharashtra, seeking cooperation in holding talks on the issue. While Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis agreed to host the meeting, Goa CM Laxmikant Parsekar held an all-party meet earlier this week and decided to attend the CMs' meet.

Karnataka's Congress government has been rallying support for Mahadayi water for north Karnataka, which is seen as a BJP

stronghold. The region witnessed a protest last year by farmers demanding implementation of the Kalasa-Banduri project.

"The agitation by the farmers, which has been peaceful so far, might escalate....In view of the evolving dire situation, I request you once again to consider convening an inter-state meeting of all three riparian states at the earliest," Siddaramaiah had said in a letter to PM Narendra Modi in August.

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Cheap paints, thermocol pose threat to Yamuna

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New Delhi: With hundreds of Puja committees reaching the ghats for idol immersion on Vijaydashami, checking the pollution level in the Yamuna remained a challenge for agencies.

While the number of idols made of plaster of Paris (PoP) had gone down considerably this year, cheap paints containing heavy metals and decorative items wrapped around the idols were posing a major threat to the ecology of the river. It seems some Puja committees did not pay heed to instructions issued by the Central Pollution Control Board.

Specific collection points were set up on all ghats where non-biodegradable items could be dumped before immersion. "PoP usage has gone down considerably and most idols are made from clay. We have set up designated areas where materials used on the idols can be taken off and collected," said Subhankar Chatterjee, joint secretary of the South Delhi immersion committee at Kalindi Kunj Ghat.

There were close to 150 pandals registered with the joint immersion committee at Kalindi Kunj Ghat alone. Over 50 civil defence volunteers were stationed to monitor what materials were going into the river.

"We are keeping a close eye on polluting agents. Any paint that is leaving colour or appears to be harmful is being checked thoroughly," added Chatterjee.

According to guidelines issued by the central and state pollution control agencies, idols need to be made from biodegradable materials. The rules say that only water soluble paint and dyes should be used for the colouring pro-



THE OTHER SIDE OF STORY: It seems some Puja committees did not pay heed to instructions issued by Central Pollution Control Board

cess. It is also mandatory to remove decorative materials before immersing the idols in the river.

Data collected by Delhi Pollution Control Committee last month showed a biological oxygen demand (BOD) of 26 mg/l at Qudesia Ghat and 20 mg/l at ITO bridge. DPCC is once again conducting a study of the water quality at 13 different ghats post immersion. This time, BOD is expected to be higher with the amount of heavy metals and non-biodegradable items being added to the river. The BOD of any healthy waterbody should be 3 mg/l.

"We have issued the guidelines as advisory. All ghats will be monitored to ensure that pollution is reduced in the river," said a senior CPCB official.

Toxics Link, an environmental NGO, claims that usage of cheap paints laden with heavy metals has remained a source of pollution in the Yamuna. "While PoP idols have gone down, cheap paints are still being used. Thermocol and other items used for decorations also end up in the river, which are extremely harmful," said Satish Sinha, associate director at Toxics Link.

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Ganga canal closed, DJB says Delhi won't be hit

MS Nawaz

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HARIDWAR: Parts of National Capital Region towns are likely to face water shortage in the coming days with the Upper Ganga Canal being closed for annual repairs till November 10.

The Upper Ganga canal is the lifeline for western Uttar Pradesh and Delhi-NCR as it provides irrigation and drinking water to these areas. Delhi gets 1,000 cusec water from the canal.

The Delhi Jal Board, however, said the capital won't be affected. "There will be no impact on water supply in the city as it is an annual maintenance exercise. UP and Haryana governments have an official arrangement for such exigencies. The Haryana government has already released 650 Cusecs water," said RS Tyagi, member (water supply), Delhi Jal Board.

"The canal has been closed for maintenance and removing silt till Nov 10. Minimum water supply will be maintained at Harki Pauri for devotees who come to take a holy dip at Haridwar," told Sushil Kumar Yadav, SDO, UP irrigation department.

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Wazirabad-Fatehpur Jat Yamuna taxi project on the fast track

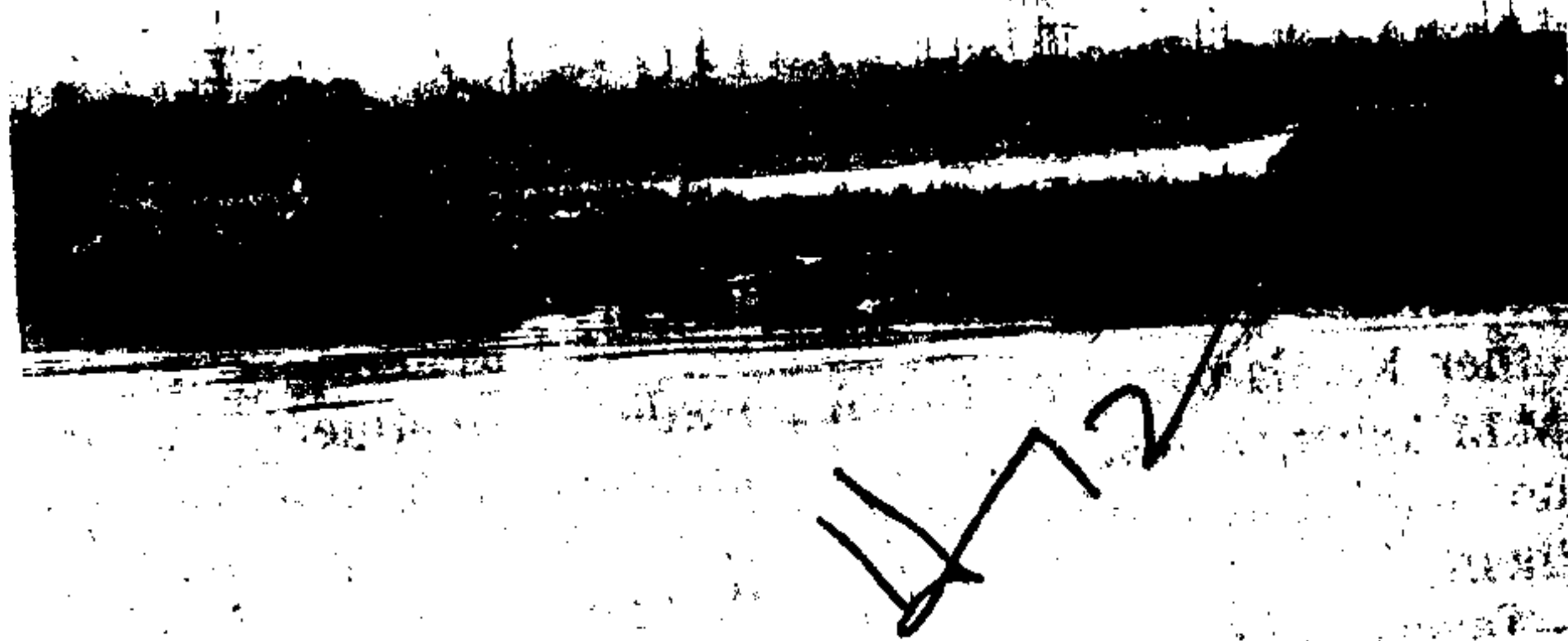
NEW DELHI: The ambitious Yamuna Water Taxi project to ferry tourists from Wazirabad to Fatehpur Jat in the Capital covering a 16-km distance may gain momentum soon as the government is evaluating five bids for operating the service.

The project, which is one of the priority projects of Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, may shorten the travel time between Wazirabad to Fatehpur Jat from 3.5 hours to 45 minutes.

Five bids received

"Expression of interest was issued for operators to run vessels on the Yamuna and five bids were received which are under evaluation," an official said.

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), which has been mandated to implement the ambitious project, has sought clearance from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for the project in view of the ban imposed on construction activities and the hearing in the case is scheduled on October 19, the official said.



PRIORITY PROJECT: The ambitious project seeks to ferry tourists from Wazirabad to Fatehpur Jat in the Capital, covering a distance of 16 km. — FILE PHOTO

Detailed project report for the 16-km-long Yamuna Taxi Project for operating tourist vessels/ ferry services on the Yamuna from Wazirabad to Fatehpur Jat stretch was prepared by Kitco in September this year.

Tenders

Accordingly, tenders were issued for design and construction of three passenger vessels, construction of floating jetties at terminal points and dredging and provision of navigational aids for fairway development, the official

added.

The due date for tenders is October 24. Meanwhile, a letter has been issued to the Delhi government for signing of memorandum of understanding for the State support agreement.

Last week, IWAI chairman Amitabh Verma said the agency is looking at Yamuna very closely and has worked out and surveyed the 16 km stretch.

"I believe by December you would see construction and dredging activities... We have filed application with the NGT seeking their permission," he said. PTI

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Debris hunters clean up Yamuna after immersions

DAY AFTER Locals help remove idol debris, pollution body report today

A Mariyam Alavi

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NEW DELHI: They share a symbiotic relationship with the Yamuna. The debris thrown in the river, especially after the festivals in which idols are immersed, provide material to the scavengers living in nearby slums. The river, in the process, gets rid of some of its pollutants.

A day after Durga Puja idol immersion, scores of scavengers reached the Yamuna ghats on Wednesday to sift through the idols for firewood, glass, pieces of iron and fabric.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee vowed to quantify the impact of idol immersions on the river by conducting pre- and post-immersion water quality tests this year. But, officials were not seen at the sites.

A Anbarasu, the divisional commissioner and revenue secretary of Delhi, said he was still waiting for the results. "As today (Wednesday) is a holiday, I expect I will have the results of the tests conducted by the DPCC by noon on Thursday," he said.

Water quality of the Yamuna, considered one of the most polluted rivers in India, deteriorates after immersion. Historically, after festivals that involve idol immersion, levels of dissolved oxygen, biological oxygen demand, chemical oxygen demand and the total suspended solids in the river are all affected.

For Lala Chaudhury and his wife, scouring for useable debris is a yearly ritual. They said they



• Local residents sift through the remains of Durga idols in Yamuna near ISBT on Wednesday.

RAVI CHOUDHARY/HT PHOTO

will be reinforcing their huts with the bamboo they had collected this year. "Every year, after the visarjan (immersions), we collect wood from the rivers. This year, it will help us strengthen our houses," he said at the Kashmere Gate ghat.

"This is also our food in a way. We use some of the timber we find as firewood."

Scavengers like Choudhury help collect and remove some debris from the river. They are usually on the lookout for wood or bamboo shoots or scrap like metals and glass.

Anwari, a first-time visitor to the banks, said she had come from across the river to find wood suitable to build huts. "We can only make makeshift huts with these bits of wood and bamboo," she said. "It is still better than nothing, right? In the proc-

ess, if we end up cleaning some dirt in the river, isn't that good?"

Some others look for scrap that they could possibly sell for a profit. "We usually find bits of iron, glass, earthen pots, and bits of fabric, that we can sell to the scrap dealer for some money," said Sadanand, another scavenger at the Kashmere Gate ghat.

"We help remove a lot of the garbage that floats around here. We collect the materials we don't find useful and heap it together, making it easier for the authorities to clean up," said Sadanand.

Sadanand, who visits the visarjan sites every year in search of scrap, said this year the pollution seems to be less than usual. "Many people had already removed the bad [non-biodegradable] things, that won't dissolve in water, before immersing the idol in the river," he said.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on

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Not so ideal worship: Puja waste chokes river



THAT SINKING FEELING: Pollution control agencies will now analyse the toxic level in Yamuna water

Jasjeet Gandhi
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New Delhi: With the Vijaydashmi festivities over, environmentalists are counting their losses. Indeed, a visit to several ghats across the capital on Wednesday presented a sorry picture, what with the vast expanse littered with flowers, 'puja samagri' and residues of decorative pieces.

Following an order from the National Green Tribunal, this year saw a vast reduction in the use of plaster of Paris in idols. However, puja leftovers and waste continue to choke the Yamuna. As a regulatory step, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee will now analyse the quality of water in the river and compare the toxic levels with the pre-immersion period.

The agency will also check the dissolved oxygen levels at several major points in the Yamuna. The test results are expected to be in by the weekend, a DPCC official said.

The immersions are likely to have an adverse impact

on the biological oxygen demand levels in the Yamuna severely. Oxygen consumed in the decomposition process robs other aquatic organisms of the oxygen they need to live.

While readings at points like Qudsia Ghat (26 mg/l)

A city-based NGO has started an initiative to collect flowers after immersion for recycling. In the process, it has given gainful employment to over 150 disabled kids

and ITO Bridge (20 mg/l) were already high before the festivities began, they are expected to rise further post-immersion. The BOD of any water body should be 3 mg/l or below.

Taking cognizance of the enormity of the task at hand, several NGOs and volunteers have taken it upon themselves to combat the rising pol-

lution levels in the Yamuna. Society for Child Development (SFCD), a city-based NGO, has started a unique initiative to collect flowers and waste generated during immersion for recycling. In the process, the scheme, titled 'trash for cash', has provided gainful employment to over 150 disabled children.

Over the last few days, the SFCD volunteers could be seen collecting flowers from pandals and ghats across the city - these will be converted into eco-friendly colours for Holi. The volunteers will carefully grind these to extract colours, which can be used for rangoli or as dyes. Flowers that are beyond retrieval will end up in composting pits.

Dr Madhumita Puri, an activist who's heading the initiative, says: "Once the celebrations are over, devotees often leave the flowers behind, not only dirtying the river but also causing enormous waste. Our effort aims to salvage the situation and, at the same time, provide employment to the disabled."

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महाराष्ट्र में भारी बारिश का कहर

मुंबई, (भाषा): महाराष्ट्र में भारी बारिश और ओलावृष्टि ने अप्रैल से अब तक 271 लोगों की जान ली है और राज्य में 377 घरों को पूरी तरह से क्षतिग्रस्त किया है जबकि 16,477 मकानों को आंशिक रूप से नुकसान पहुंचाया है। राज्य के मंत्री दिलीप कांबले के मुताबिक, बारिश ने 1,417 छोटे घरेलू पशुओं और 1,593 मवेशियों जैसे गाय, बैल, भैंस आदि की भी जान ली है।

आंकड़ों को एक अप्रैल 2016 से अब तक संकलित किया गया है जिसमें भारी बारिश, ओलावृष्टि और अन्य प्राकृतिक आपदाओं में हुई मौतों को

शामिल किया गया है। कांबले ने कहा कि आठ जिलों वाला औरंगाबाद राजस्व मंडल इस साल सबसे ज्यादा प्रभावित हुआ है।

प्राकृतिक आपदाओं की वजह से वहां 70 लोगों की मौत हुई है, जबकि अमरावती मंडल का स्थान दूसरा है जहां ऐसी आपदाओं की वजह से 66 लोगों ने अपनी जान गंवाई है। कांबले ने कहा कि राज्य में कुल छह राजस्व मंडल हैं जिनमें कोकण, पुणे, नासिक, औरंगाबाद, अमरावती और नागपुर शामिल हैं।

औरंगाबाद में अब तक 208 छोटे और 433 बड़े मवेशियों की मौत हो

चुकी है, जबकि 31 घर पूरी तरह से क्षतिग्रस्त हुए हैं और 4,214 को आंशिक तौर पर नुकसान हुआ है।

राज्य के राजस्व और राहत विभाग के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि अमरावती मंडल में 25 छोटे और 135 बड़े मवेशियों के मरने की रिपोर्ट है। 49 घर पूरी तरह से क्षतिग्रस्त हुए हैं जबकि 4,223 घरों को आंशिक रूप से नुकसान पहुंचा है।

भारी बारिश और ओलावृष्टि से नासिक मंडल में 61 लोगों की मौत हुई है जबकि नागपुर मंडल में 31 लोगों की मौत हुई है। वहीं कोकण मंडल में 10 लोगों की मौत हुई है।

●●●●● L जाय - 12-10-16 ●●●●●

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 12/10/16 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
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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

नदी जल बंटवारे के लिए

अंतिम मसौदा बिल तैयार

नई दिल्ली। नदी जल बंटवारे को लेकर कई अंतरराज्यीय विवादों के बीच केंद्र ने राष्ट्रीय जल रूपरेखा विधेयक-2016 का अंतिम मसौदा तैयार कर दिया है। इस विधेयक के संमाधान के लिए नदी-बाटी स्तर पर पानी के प्रवाह और नदी कावस्था में राज्य के योगदान की सही मात्रा पर जोर दिया गया है।

13-10-16

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 12/10/16 in the

Hindustan Times	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	M.P.Chronicle
Statesman	Punjab Keshari (Hindi)	A a j (Hindi)
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Tribune	Deccan Chronicle	The Times of India (A)
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and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

वजीराबाद-फतेहपुर जट को यमुना से जोड़ने की योजना केंद्र ने स्वीकारी

यमुना में वाटर टैक्सी से चलने का लुत्फ मिलेगा

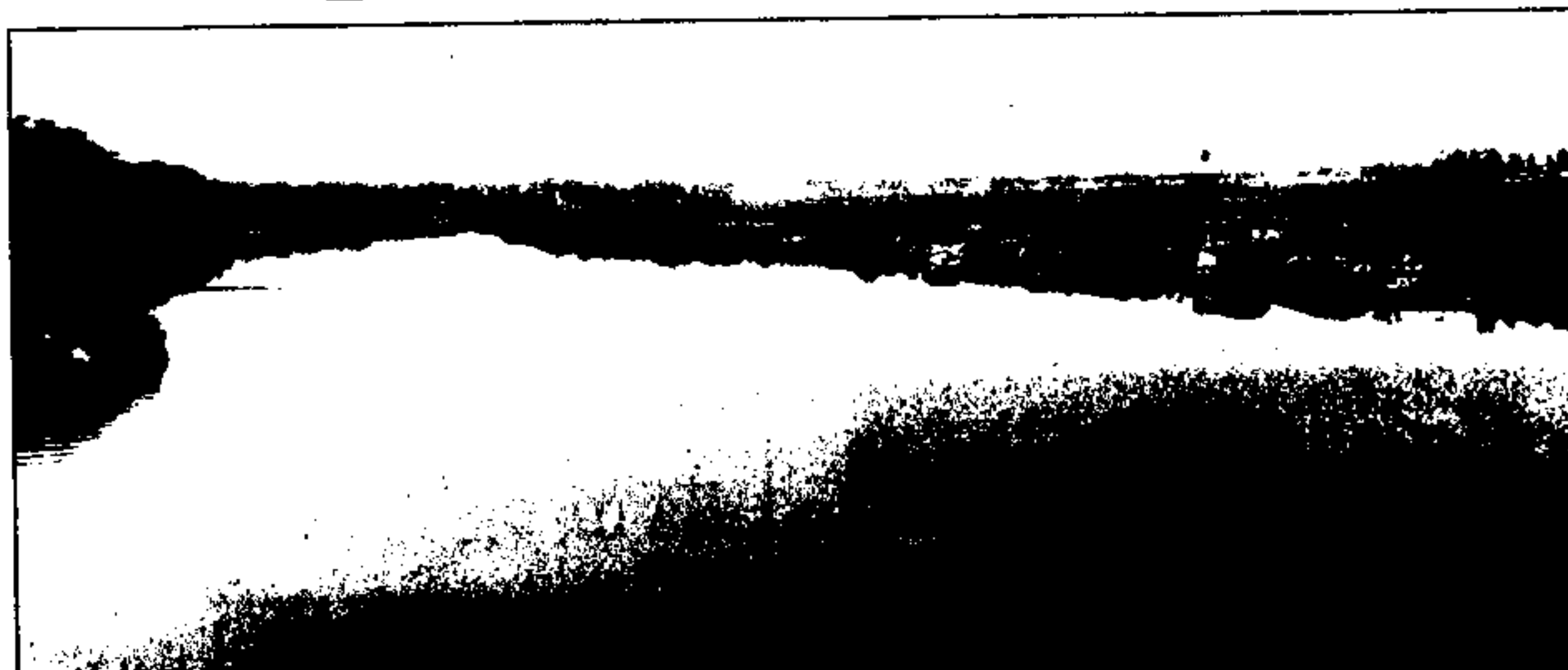


नई दिल्ली | मुख्य संवाददाता

यमुना में वाटर टैक्सी चलाने की महत्वाकांक्षी परियोजना को अमलीजामा पहनाने का काम आगामी दिसंबर में शुरू हो जाएगा। वजीराबाद से फतेहपुर जट को यमुना के माध्यम से जोड़ने की इस योजना पर केन्द्र और दिल्ली सरकार ने जरूरी औपचारिकताएं पूरी कर ली हैं।

केन्द्रीय सड़क परिवहन एवं जहाजरानी मंत्रालय ने इस परियोजना का काम सौंपने के लिए पांच कंपनियों का चयन भी कर लिया है। निविदा करने वाली इन कंपनियों में से किसी एक का चयन कर केन्द्रीय मंत्री नितिन गडकरी की मौजूदगी में दिल्ली सरकार अगले एक सप्ताह में काम शुरू करने के करार में साझीदार बन जाएगी।

इस परियोजना को अंजाम दे रहे अंतरदेशीय नौवहन अधिकरण के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि यमुना में छोटी और बड़ी वाटर टैक्सी चलाने के लिए निविदा प्रक्रिया में पांच ऑपरेटर कंपनियों ने भागीदारी की है। करार की शर्तों को पूरा करने वाले ऑपरेटर को काम सौंपना बाकी है। सरकार को यमुना किनारे वाटर टैक्सी स्टेशन बनाने सहित अन्य निर्माण कार्य की एनजीटी से अनुमति की दरकार



यमुना नदी की सफाई को लेकर चलने वाले प्रमुख प्रोजेक्ट

यमुना पर इसके अलावा भी कई तरह के प्रोजेक्ट संचालित किए जा रहे हैं। इसमें मच्छरों से निपटने के लिए पहली बार नगर निगम ने जैविक स्प्रे का छिड़काव शुरू किया। पहले चरण में ओखला इलाके से पानी की सतह पर छिड़काव किया गया। यमुना आरती कार्यक्रम के जरिए भी यमुना को स्वच्छ रखने की अपील लंबे समय से की जा रही है। यमुना का इस्तेमाल कुछ प्रमुख जगहों पर खेल के लिए भी किया जा रहा है। मुंबई-कोलकाता की तर्ज पर यदि यमुना में वाटर टैक्सी चलाई जाती है तो यह एक अलग रोमांचक पहल होगी। इससे नदी साफ भी रहेगी।

है। एनजीटी में लंबित मामले में निर्णायक सुनवाई 19 अक्टूबर होगी। एनजीटी की मंजूरी के बाद आगामी दिसंबर में यमुना के पहले यात्री रूट पर टैक्सी सेवा शुरू करने के काम का आगाज हो जाएगा।

क्या होगा लाभ : वजीराबाद से फतेहपुर जट तक के प्रस्तावित वाटर टैक्सी रूट की दूरी 16 किमी है। वाटर टैक्सी से विभिन्न पड़ाव को पार करते हुए यह दूरी 45 मिनट में तय की जा सकेगी। अभी सड़क मार्ग से वजीराबाद से फतेहपुर तट तक का रास्ता 3.5 घंटे लगते हैं। वाटर टैक्सी की श्रेणी में छोटे जहाज और नौका चलाई जाएगी। निजी क्षेत्र की कंपनी किटको गत सितंबर में ही

परियोजना की विस्तृत कार्ययोजना रिपोर्ट सरकार को सौंप चुकी है। सरकार का आगामी 24 अक्टूबर को निविदा प्रक्रिया पूरी करने का लक्ष्य है। इस बीच दिल्ली सरकार को परियोजना में सभी जरूरी सहयोग के लिए करार करने हेतु पत्र लिखा जा चुका है।

इस बाबत अंतरदेशीय नौवहन अधिकरण के अध्यक्ष अमिताभ वर्मा ने बताया कि नौवहन अधिकरण ने 16 किमी लंबे प्रस्तावित रूट के सर्वे का काम पूरा की लिया है। मुझे भरोसा है कि आगामी दिसंबर तक इस महत्वाकांक्षी परियोजना के लिए निर्माण कार्य भी जल्द शुरू कर दिया जाएगा।