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Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

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Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

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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)

Blitz

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

Hasina's India visit set to take Bangla ties up a notch

Water-Sharing Pact Likely To Be Sealed

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Sheikh Hasina's visit to India, scheduled for early April, has already been postponed twice

New Delhi: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be the first neighbourhood leader to visit India after PM Modi received a political endorsement with the recent state elections.

Hasina's visit, scheduled for early April, has already been postponed twice, once in December and once in February. The visit will be important, possibly one of her last before she goes into election

mode. India has been a strong supporter of Hasina's government, but this time both countries plan to take it to the next level with a number of agreements planned. Besides holding discussions with the top leadership in New Delhi, Hasina is expected to visit Ajmer.

Bangladesh is keen to seal a water sharing pact with India, but since 2011, West

Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has opposed the move. The Modi government plans to circumvent this problem by working out an agreement that will be acceptable to all concerned. India and Bangladesh are also looking at a pact on maritime security cooperation, which may be both bilateral as well as under the rubric of BIMSTEC.

During foreign secretary S Jaishankar's recent visit to Dhaka, both countries surveyed the relationship with some satisfaction. In fact, relationship with Bangladesh has emerged as India's most successful neighbourhood pact, with both countries going out of their way to accommodate the concerns of the other, despite the fact that there remain residual pro-

blems on both sides. A statement issued at the end of Jaishankar's visit said, "There has been excellent implementation of decisions taken during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Bangladesh in June 2015. Both sides also took stock of decisions taken during the recent meetings of various bilateral mechanisms in the areas of security & border management, trade and commerce, power, energy, shipping, railways etc."

The last mentioned will come in for some greater attention in the near future, if India's plan to send a freight container from Dhaka to Istanbul via Pakistan and Iran work out. It would be a new way of looking at connectivity and trade from South Asia.

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Soon, only one^{TTO-15} tribunal to resolve all river disputes

WATER ROW RESOLUTION

- > A single permanent tribunal to be set up, subsuming all eight existing ones
- > Single tribunal will have multiple benches
- > Centre to set up a Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC), having experts from relevant fields, in case of any dispute
- > DRC will try to resolve dispute within one year through negotiations (Tenure of DRC may be extended for six month)
- > Tribunal will be approached only when DRC fails to settle the dispute
- > Water dispute will have to



be settled in maximum four-and-a-half years of time
(At present, there is no time limit for adjudication by a tribunal)

- > A transparent data collection system at national level for each river basin
- > A single agency to maintain data bank and information system

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New Delhi: The government on Tuesday introduced a bill in Lok Sabha, seeking to speed up the inter-state river water dispute resolution process by setting up a single permanent tribunal whose order will be final and binding on the states.

Instead of having multiple tribunals under existing law, the bill makes a provision of a single permanent tribunal with multiple benches. The tribunal will have a fixed time period to resolve the dispute, unlike the existing ones.

Once the proposed legislation is enacted, the Inter-State River Water Disputes Tribunal will subsume all the existing tribunals. The bill was introduced in the backdrop of linge-

ring disputes over river water sharing among many states.

The Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017, which was introduced by water resources minister Uma Bharti in the LS, also proposes to introduce a mechanism to resolve the water dispute amicably by negotiations through a 'dispute resolution committee' (DRC) before such disputes are referred to the tribunal.

BJD member Bhartruhari Mahtab said, "Since water is a state subject, I would also ask the government whether it has consulted all the 29 states before drafting it". Bharti, however, said the Centre was very much within its rights to introduce such a bill under Article 262 of the Constitution.

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Centre plans to roll out new hydro power policy

Athradhy 14 DH
DELHI: As the Centre is
eting to have a total hy-
capacity of 75 GW by
0, the Power Ministry is
aking on a new policy for
hydro power sector in
7 to boost the genera-
of clean energy.

ne policy proposes to bring
e hydro projects at par with
ller ones in terms of avail-
arious benefits. At present,
l hydro projects of up to 25
capacities are considered



as renewable energy initiatives
and are eligible for various in-
centives by the government in
terms of taxation, duties, and
also, cheaper credit. "In the

planned policy, if we treated all
hydro projects regardless of its
size as renewable energy, it
would be a big boost to large
hydro projects, as they also get

the benefits that the renewable
energy sector is enjoying at
present," an official from the
Ministry of Power told DH.

"If we give various benefits to
developers of big hydro projects,
the power tariff will also come
down, and it would become
more competitive in the market
on the line of wind energy or so-
lar," he said.

Currently, the hydro sector
has an installed capacity
around 42,000 MW, and there
is a plan to add another
30,000-35,000 MW in next 12

to 13 years. To expedite the ca-
pacity addition, the govern-
ment may give some incentives
to developers, said the official
adding that the government is
working on this issue.

Hydro power projects of
around 13,000-MW capacity
are stranded due to a number
of reasons including court cases,
delay in getting environmental
clearances, rehabilitation and
resettlement issues, and the
process are on to address those
problems, said the official.

DH News Service