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'Culture fest has altered floodplain ecosystem'

- [Bindu Shajan Perappadan](#)



Environmentalists have objected to the organisers driving poles into the floodplains in clear violation of the National Green Tribunal order. Photo: Shanker Chakravarty

: The three-day cultural extravaganza organised by the Art of Living Foundation (AoL) has altered the fragile ecosystem of the Yamuna floodplains, say environmentalists.

According to them, the event has left “a gasping floodplain, with hardened soil and stripped of its natural vegetation and water-recharging capabilities”.

“They have driven poles into the floodplains — for segregation, crowd management, and setting up lights and cellphone towers. This is a clear violation of the National Green Tribunal order,” says environmentalist Anand Arya.

Mr. Arya says that Delhi has lost its sand banks.

“The porous sand on the floodplains has been hardened due to the use of bricks, stones, and other material. The area will now lose its ability to recharge its water table,” he said.

“Levelling of ground damages the ecology and biodiversity of floodplains. A river is not just where the water channel is; it includes the surrounding area. Anything done in this area would cause damage to the river, whether one admits it or not,” said the environmentalist.

Representatives of AoL, however, say that no environmental harm has been done. They maintain that they only cleared debris from the floodplains, and that the ground was levelled to put carpets, chairs, etc.

The Foundation also claims to have appointed private agencies to clear garbage from the venue, clean mobile toilets, and fumigate the area.

The stage that was set up across seven acres at the venue will remain for another “two-three weeks”.

“Cleaning efforts will continue thereafter,” read a statement issued by AoL.

The choice of venue had come under fire from environmentalists, with the National Green Tribunal imposing a Rs. 5-crore fine on AoL as environmental compensation.

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SYL levelling on, Akalis join today

AMAN SOOD & ARUN SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA/ROPAR, MARCH 15

Without waiting for the Governor's assent to the Bill that calls for denotifying the Sutlej Yamuna Link canal and transferring the canal land back to the owners, the SAD cadre is likely to start levelling the dug-up canal on Wednesday.

In some villages of Patiala and Ropar, farmers and SAD activists have already started demolishing the canal structure and filling the land. The Bill called for committees to be set up in Ropar, Fatehgarh Sahib and Patiala to transfer the land and settle claims.

"Farmers in Kapoori and nearby villages have been told to take possession of their land and the officers in each district concerned



JCB machines being used to level the SYL canal land in Ropar on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

have been told to allow the farmers to take possession of their land," said Rural Development Minister Surjit Singh Rakhra. "The Government wants to

ensure that the land acquired is made cultivable at the earliest," he added. The administration, it is learnt, has been asked to ensure smooth passage to all

farmers and the SAD cadre to demolish the SYL structure.

CONTINUED ON P7

**BADAL LEADS MLAS TO GUV,
SANS COPY OF SYL BILL P3**

FROM PAGE 1

SYL canal

"JCB and earth-moving equipment are being arranged and by Wednesday evening we will complete work of levelling whatever little SYL is there in the state," said Member of Parliament from Anandpur Sahib Prem Singh Chandumajra.

Charanjit Singh Rakhra, younger brother of Surjit Rakhra, said he had asked the entire Patiala Akali Dal cadre to arrange for men and machines so that the work to "make the Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal acquired land fit for cultivation could be done at the earliest".

In Ropar, farmers in Sarsa Nangal and Saini Majra Dhakki villages first shared sweets expressing happiness over the passage of the Bill in the Vidhan Sabha and then put the heavy machinery to use to level the earth in and around the canal.

Teja Singh, a farmer, claimed his 9-acre land was acquired in the early 1980s for the canal and he got a mere Rs 2 lakh as compensation. One Kulwant Singh claimed his more than 22-acre land was acquired for the purpose. Similarly, another farmer Ranjit Singh said he had to give up his 8-acre land.

Teja Singh said the work to fill the canal would intensify once the notification was issued.

At Saini Majra Dhaki village, forest department officials prevented farmers from filling the canal. The officials said trees on the banks were the forest department's property and farmers had no right to destroy them.

On Monday, marking another turning point in its longstanding water-sharing dispute with

7 Haryana, the Punjab Vid-
8 han Sabha had unani-
9 mously passed a Bill that
0 provides for returning free
1 of cost 3,928 acres
2 acquired for constructing
3 the contentious Sutlej-
4 Yamuna Link canal to the
5 original landowners.

Jat stir, SYL row dominate discussion

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

PRADEEP SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 15

Petty politics over the twin issues of the SYL canal and the Jat agitation dominated the discussion on Governor's Address on the second day of the ongoing Haryana Assembly session here today.

The BJP and INLD remained busy scoring brownie points over the issues even as an "absent" Congress remained the punching bag for both the parties.

Participating in the discussion on the Governor's

Address, Leader of the Opposition Abhay Chautala blamed the BJP for delaying quota for Jats. However, BJP members, including Gian Chand Gupta, Pawan Saini and Umesh Aggarwal, were on their feet asserting that while the INLD pleaded for Jat quota, it was "silent" on destruction caused by the community.

As passions ran high, CM Manohar Lal Khattar advised Abhay to confine the discussion to the law and order situation and refrain from discussing the Jat agitation, which had been slated for discussion by the Speaker for March 21.

Turning the heat on the BJP government, Abhay alleged that for four days during the agitation, the government was in a slumber, resulting in loss of 30 lives and property worth ₹35,000 crore. However, Khattar said the claim of ₹35,000-crore loss estimated by a trade organisation was yet to be verified.

Even for the delay in the construction of the SYL canal, the BJP was to blame, as the party was in alliance with the SAD in Punjab and in power at the Centre and Haryana, Abhay claimed.

Finance Minister Capt Abhimanyu claimed the gov-

ernment had exploited legal and constitutional channels to get Haryana its share of water from Punjab.

Punjab, Haryana should not be stubborn: Nalvi

Didar Singh Nalvi, vice-president of Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (HSGMC), on Tuesday urged both Punjab and Haryana to shun their stubbornness on the SYL issue. "The governments should find an amicable solution to the issue by following a give-and-take policy. It is unfortunate that Punjab has decided to return SYL land to farmers," he added.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Environment behind 1/4th of global deaths

Bloomberg | Mar 16, 2016, 10.36 AM IST



Environment behind 1/4th of global deaths (Getty Images)

While the Flint crisis may be an egregious example of cruelty and neglect, the damaging consequences of a broken environment are all around us, a new tally by the World Health Organization shows. Nearly a quarter of all deaths worldwide are caused by environmental risks like polluted air, dirty water, hazardous workplaces and dangerous roads, according to the WHO report.

The global health authority estimates that 12.6 million deaths in 2012, or about 23% of the total, were attributable to such factors. The burden is greatest on the poor and the youngest. Mortality from environmental risks is highest in sub-Saharan Africa and low and middle-income countries in Asia.

The risks disproportionately affect children "because of their innate vulnerability," said Frederica Perera, director of Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health.

The WHO report-which doesn't count risks such as smoking and diet-focuses on environmental risks that are the product of the societal decisions that shape the world we live in. "Some of these are well known, such as unsafe drinking water and sanitation," the report says.

To get to those numbers, the WHO examined studies on risks for more than 100 types of diseases and injuries.

More constructions choking Yamuna

IN TROUBLE After Art of Living's mega festival, glare on other 'illegal' structures along the river

Ritam Halder
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NEW DELHI: The Art of Living's mega constructions on the Yamuna floodplain became a matter of environmental debate in the last three weeks. But green activists say there are three other structures that are either dangerously close to the Yamuna or on the river itself.

Hindustan Times on Tuesday visited a hospital site near Nigamboth Ghat, an under-construction section of the Barapullah Phase III elevated road connecting Sarai Kale Khan with Mayur Vihar and a Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) bridge near Okhla barrage to check the extent of encroachment on the floodplain.

A floodplain is important for a river's ecology and any encroachment decreases its capacity to absorb water and increases the risk of flooding. Many such constructions are taking place despite a ban by the National Green Tribunal last year:



■ A number of constructions are continuing on the Yamuna's floodplain despite a National Green Tribunal ban.

VIRENDRA SINGH GOSAIN/ HT

DAMAGE DONE

PARMANAND BLIND RELIEF HOSPITAL

Construction of hospital in the active floodplain is risky. The area where the hospital is coming up is inundated during normal floods, and a major flood could prove catastrophic. It should not have got approval from the green tribunal.

BARAPULLAH PHASE III

Work on third phase of Barapullah elevated road has caused a lot of damage during the construction phase. Active channel of the river was blocked and debris was dumped. No green clearance was taken.

METRO CONSTRUCTION AT OKHLA

A lot of damage caused during construction phase. Once work is done, the impact on the river will be less.

MANOJ MISRA, WATER ACTIVIST

'Illegal' hospital on river bank, authorities pass the buck

NEW DELHI: Construction is taking place bang on the biggest cremation spot of Delhi, Nigam Bodh, on the Yamuna's banks. A board says it is the under-construction Sant Parmanand Blind Relief Hospital.

This site falls in the "O" zone, an active floodplain zone of the river where construction is prohibited.

Nilambar Chaudhury, an official of the firm executing the project, said construction was difficult. "This is sandy soil.

We have to go deep to make the foundation stronger. It is different from other areas in the city," he said.

He said they had taken all permissions for the project.

A senior DDA official said the construction site was under the north civic body's jurisdiction. A North Delhi Municipal Corporation spokesperson said, "We sanctioned the building plan subject to permission from DDA as this area falls under the O zone."



■ Heavy machinery at work to connect the western and eastern bank of the Yamuna near Barapullah.

VIRENDRA GOSAIN/ HT

Road of woes: Barapullah connector chokes river

NEW DELHI: The Yamuna is visible as one takes a left from the busy Sarai Kale Khan petrol pump and travels for 2-km towards Ashram on a dusty, uneven road.

On the left — between tons of heavy machinery and hundreds of workers engaged in building a road to connect the western and eastern bank of the river — an entire channel of the river has been brazenly obstructed using solid waste and rubble.

Hindustan Times earlier in October reported about this

encroachment. Now giant pillars are coming up on this particular section, is a small walk from the World Culture Festival venue.

"This is a minor price for development. Delhi has such grand roads and people are still complaining," said Ramu, a labourer from Bihar. Activists have time and again criticised such so-called legal encroachments. The NGT had initially stalled the project. It later gave a go-ahead, saying that it was a project aimed at decongesting traffic mess.

Okhla metro extension in violation of green norms?

NEW DELHI: At Kalindi Kunj, another massive construction is underway as part of Metro Phase III Botanical Garden-Janakpuri line. Scores of workers are visible working on temporary steel bridges to build giant pillars right next to the Okhla barrage. Cranes and other heavy machinery are trying to meet the December deadline of the project.

This construction violates the 2015 order of the NGT against construction on the floodplain.

The DMRC, however, says there has been no violations.

"DMRC follows very strict guidelines regarding prevention of environmental pollution while carrying out construction work and all rules are being followed," a DMRC spokesperson said.

He added that DMRC had constructed three more bridges over the Yamuna prior to this and in all those cases adequate care and land permissions had been taken to prevent any pollution.



■ The construction site of Sant Parmanand blind hospital falls within the "O" (no construction) zone of the Yamuna.

VIRENDRA GOSAIN/ HT



■ DMRC has been building giant pillars right next to the Okhla barrage as part of the Botanical Garden-Janakpuri line.

VIRENDRA GOSAIN/ HT

Drought country's worst year: waiting for a drop before dawn



WATERLESS IN MARATHWADA

PART I

KAVITHAIYER

BEED, OSMANABAD, MARCH 15

AS A postwoman, Archana Bhosale is expected to get to work in Devsinga Tul village, 380 km from Mumbai, by 10 am. But invariably, at 4 am, she is still awake, ensuring her eight plastic pots are in queue correctly, awaiting the arrival of the water tanker's first trip of the day.

"The three-phase motor works only at night sometimes,



A water tanker arrives at Salgara Devti village in Tuljapur, Osmanabad. *Amit Chakravarty*

so it's easier for tanker operators to fill up then. That means the tanker could arrive at 5 am or 6 am, and I can't afford to miss it," says Bhosale, also a farmer with four awards under her belt for her work with women's self-help groups that

focus on agrarian issues.

Bhosale, like thousands of women across the dust bowl of central Maharashtra or Marathwada, plans her day around the tanker's comings and goings. "And still, sometimes we

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Water crisis

sit down to eat dinner and the tanker arrives. We just drop everything and run." In Devsinga, Belwadi, Gandora and Salgara Devti, all villages in Osmanabad district's Tuljapur taluka, women are relieved that the district administration has announced all schools shut by March 31 — the children will help fetch water; not having to shower before school means the morning scramble for water can slow down; the older children can accompany the men to cattle camps.

As afternoon temperatures creep towards 40 degree Celsius with two whole months of summer still to come, residents of the eight districts that comprise Marathwada face an acute water crisis that is threatening to spiral out of control. As many as 2,189 tankers are currently supplying water to Marathwada's villages and also to some small towns in the region, a record high. Beed district alone has 597 tankers in operation already, with the numbers anticipated to exceed 900 tankers a day in May. In comparison, the previous high in the number of tankers in operation in Beed everyday was 582, in May 2013.

Water storage in Marathwada's reservoirs is now about 5 per cent, another record. In early-March last year, also a drought year, the region's reservoirs had 20 per cent water.

The situation is gravest in Beed and Osmanabad districts and in Latur city. In Beed, overall water availability in the large, medium and small dams was pegged at 2.13 per cent by February end. In Latur, where the administration is trying to stanch demand for water by ordering coaching classes to shut in order to push the 1 lakh-strong migrant student population back to their home villages and home districts, protesting villagers from around



the Dongargaon dam had to face a police team after they refused to let tankers draw water for the city.

"The only available sources for the tankers are wells and borewells that still have some water. Every day, I count off another day until the next monsoon, because every day, the water from these sources is reducing to a slower trickle," says Godavari Kshirsagar, 44, of Gandora village in Tuljapur. In a desperate bid to shore up water availability, the state government has acquired 4,913 such private wells and borewells, another record, from farmers or private land-owners on payment of a monthly fee.

Whether this water will last through the summer depends on fortune — ground water levels in Marathwada have witnessed an alarming dip. For example, the Shirur and Ashti talukas of Beed recorded a departure from average depth at which water is available by 9.58 metres and 5.65 metres respectively. That was in January, and levels dip every day as the summer drags on. This January, of Marathwada's 76 talukas, ground water levels in 32

talukas recorded a dip of more than 3 metres.

"We have to add bleaching powder to the water. Because the water we collect is sometimes filthy, we are down to the dredges," says Nagnath Jadhav, 48, a tanker operator in Osmanabad. He's filling water from a farm well in Belwadi village in Tuljapur, and will drive 24 km to Karakheda village that he is assigned. He needs to make the trip to the water source three times a day. It's a long journey on village roads, and he admits he sometimes doesn't complete three rounds.

In Salgara Devti village, Archana Koli, 38, has decided that all the talk of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to end open defecation is silly. "Villagers are taking money to build toilets in the house, but how do you use them without water?" she asks. Her own toilet is a pit in her backyard. The tankers never stopped in her village since last summer. They reduced in number during the monsoon months, but the village has actually had water supply via tanker right from March-April 2015 onwards.

Bhosale and Koli both say they've stopped going to family functions on the rare occasion that these are not cancelled or curtailed — travel and celebrations always mean more water is needed.

Even small towns in the region are getting water supply only through tankers. In Beed's Dharur town, for example, with the Manjara dam having run dry, supply is via 20-odd tankers that pick up water from the Kundalika river. Kaij and Ashti towns get 10 tankers a day. "Even in the Krishi Vikas Kendras, our trial fields have run dry. There's no water at home in Tuljapur town, where is the water for farms?" asks Anita Jinturkar, an agriculture scientist who has worked extensively on hydroponic methods, azolla for livestock feed and on encouraging women in Tuljapur to pick up allied occupations such as poultry.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, NEW DELHI
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016

El Niño seen ending, raises hope for normal monsoon

OPTIMISM Eight international climate models predict that one of the severest El Niños on record is now breaking up

Zia Haq

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NEW DELHI: The El Niño weather pattern that triggers droughts in India is set to end between April and June, raising hopes of a normal monsoon after two poor rainy seasons.

Eight international climate models predict that one of the severest El Niños on record, which upended weather across countries for a few years, is now breaking up. Temperature levels in the equatorial Pacific are coming down to normal levels, which indicate a diminished El Niño. "That's good for the monsoon," said S Damodar Pai, the chief of India's official monsoon forecast team. The India Meteorological Department will unveil its official monsoon forecast next month, Pai said.

The Narendra Modi government is banking on a normal June-to-September rainy season to tame a challenging agrarian crisis.

El Niño, or little boy in Spanish, is a weather glitch marked by an abnormal warming of the Pacific, whose effects ripple around the globe. Typically, it cuts rainfall in South Asia, including India, and triggers flooding in western US and South America.

The predictions of El Niño's end have come from the UK Met Office, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Meteorological Service of Canada, EU Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, Japan



■ Last year, the weather glitch caused a 14% monsoon deficit, leading to a drought in 302 of India's 640 districts. HT FILE/KUNAL PATIL

Meteorological Agency and Meteorological France, apart from the US's NASA Global Modelling and Assessment Office and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"The 2015-16 El Niño is now at moderate levels, and is likely to end in the second quarter of 2016," an Australian weather bureau forecast said. These global forecasters agree that by July, El Niño conditions will be completely gone.

By July, the all-model average temperature in the Pacific is slated to drop to -0.3°C , which would be the first "negative El Niño value" since February 2014. This means the Pacific would cool sufficiently enough to break the El Niño.

Last year, the weather glitch caused India's monsoon to be deficit by 14%, leading to a crippling drought in 302 of India's 640 districts. The monsoon is vital because two-thirds of Indians depend on

farm income and nearly 60% of India's arable land isn't covered by irrigation networks.

The Indian Met office, currently preparing models to make the official monsoon forecast next month, is aware of the international assessment of El Niño, the official said. "The El Niño peak is over: Neutral ENSO conditions are likely in the monsoon months," an official in the Met office said, requesting anonymity. ENSO stands for El Niño Southern Oscillation and is a wind-temperature pattern that gives rise to El Niño. A 'neutral ENSO' denotes normal sea temperatures.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), or the difference in sea-surface temperatures between the eastern and western equatorial Indian Ocean, is currently "neutral", according to Indian and Australian observations. A neutral or positive IOD favours the monsoon too.

UP farmer dies of shock after rain flattens crop

HT Correspondent

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ALIGARH: A farmer in Jattari area of Aligarh district died of shock on Monday night after seeing the heavy damage to his crops. Jattari and Tappal areas of the district were hit by intense rains and hailstones on Friday and Saturday.

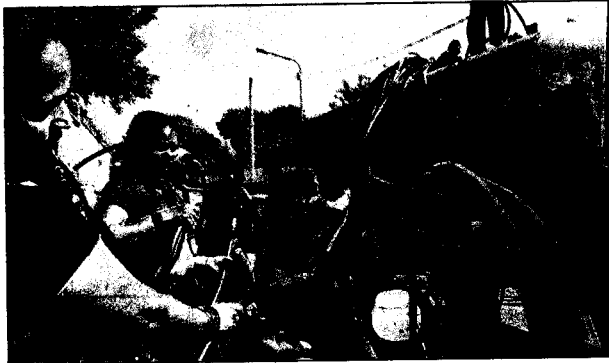
Ram Prasad, 63, of Baluapur village had four sons and his family was dependent on agriculture as their main source of livelihood. When the farmer went to survey his field on Monday, he found that his mustard crop, spread over six bigha, was completely destroyed. Upset, he returned home and later complained of chest pain. He was rushed to a private doctor but could not recover and died at night.

Sub-divisional magistrate (Khair) Vimal Kumar Agarwal said, "If such an incident has taken place, then the family will be extended all the help under the rules after an inquiry is conducted."

Farmers in the district are distraught because of the large-scale crop damage inflicted by the sudden change in weather. While the wheat crop has been flattened, potato and other rabi crops have also been affected.

The agriculture department has begun surveying the losses.

दिल्ली को भी हो सकती है पानी की किल्लत



File Photo

■ एसपी रावत, कुरुक्षेत्र

सतलुज-यमुना लिंक (एसवाईएल) नहर में रावी-व्यास-सतलुज नदियों का पानी पिछले 50 साल से हरियाणा और पंजाब के बीच विवाद का मुद्दा बना हुआ है। अब पंजाब ने हरियाणा की धनराशि से एक्वायर की गई 3,928 एकड़ जमीन किसानों को मुफ्त में वापस लौटाने संबंधी प्रस्ताव विधानसभा में पास करके हरियाणा का पानी पर से हक छीनने की कोशिश की है। अब हरियाणा को केवल सुप्रीम कोर्ट से उम्मीद है, जहां पर इस विवाद की सुनवाई चल रही है। अगर सुप्रीम कोर्ट का फैसला हरियाणा के पक्ष में नहीं आया तो प्रदेश ही नहीं, दिल्ली को भी इसका खमियाजा भुगतना पड़ सकता है।

हरियाणा को जूझना पड़ सकता है: हरियाणा और दिल्ली के बीच मुनक नहर विवाद पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट के सख्त आदेश है कि हरियाणा दिल्ली को पानी की सप्लाई जारी रखे। बदले हालात में हरियाणा पर दोहरी मार पड़ सकती है।

एक तो यमुना नदी का गिरता जलस्तर, ऊपर से दिल्ली को मुनक के जरिए पानी की सप्लाई और अब पंजाब सरकार का पारित हुआ प्रस्ताव। ऐसे में अगर एसवाईएल मुद्दे पर पारित प्रस्ताव को कानूनी रूप मिल गया तो हरियाणा ही नहीं दिल्ली को भी

SYL विवाद

■ पंजाब के पारित प्रस्ताव पर कानून बना तो हरियाणा पर पड़ेगी मार

■ ऐसे में दिल्ली को भी इसका खमियाजा भुगतना पड़ सकता है

पानी के लिए मोहताज होना पड़ सकता है। हरियाणा सिंचाई विभाग के इंजीनियरिंग इन चोफ अनिल कुमार गुप्ता का कहना है कि एसवाईएल नहर और हांसी बुटाना नहरों में पानी आए बिना हरियाणा को गंभीर जल संकट से जूझना पड़ सकता है। ऐसे में यह बड़ा सवाल बन जाएगा कि हरियाणा कब तक दिल्ली को पानी की सप्लाई जारी रखेगा।

भाखड़ा से दिल्ली को मिल रहा पानी: पिछले तीन साल से यमुना नदी में लगातार घट रहे वॉटर लेवल के कारण हरियाणा लंबे समय से भाखड़ा नहर के जरिए दिल्ली को पानी दे रहा है।

बीते फरवरी में यमुना नदी के हथनीकुंड बैराज पर वॉटर लेवल एक हजार क्यूसेक से भी कम रह गया था। सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश के मुताबिक, इनमें से 362 क्यूसेक यमुना नदी में जंगली जानवरों के लिए छोड़ना जरूरी है। पानी अगर कम हो जाए तो यूपी की सप्लाई बंद करनी पड़ती है।

संस्कृति के नाम पर यमुना मैली



दिल्ली में गत दिनों तीन दिवसीय विश्व सांस्कृतिक महोत्सव यमुना के तट पर संपन्न हुआ। कार्यक्रम, एनजीटी और कई राजनीतिक दलों के निशाने पर रही, बावजूद इसके कार्यक्रम के बाद यहां फैली गंदगी साफ दिखाई दे रही है। फोटो : वसीम सरवर

नई दिल्ली, (ब्यूरो): तीन दिनों तक चले विश्व सांस्कृतिक महोत्सव के बाद अब यमुना किनारे सन्नाटा पसरा हुआ है। सांस्कृतिक महोत्सव कार्यक्रम से पहले साफ सफाई रखने का दावा किया गया था। श्री श्री रविशंकर के आर्ट ऑफ लिविंग ने खूब जोर-शोर से इस बात का प्रचार किया था कि वह तो गंदगी करते नहीं बल्कि साफ करते हैं। लेकिन महोत्सव के बाद यहां के हालात ठीक इसके उलट हैं।

मंगलवार को यहां चारों ओर गंदगी ही फैली दिखी। इतना ही नहीं, एनजीटी के यमुना में एंजाइम डालने से मना करने के बावजूद भी कार्यक्रम खत्म होने के बाद एंजाइम यमुना में डाले जाने की बात यहां के किसान कह रहे हैं।

कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत में जहां पर्यावरण और यमुना को नुकसान से बचाने के दावे किए जा रहे थे। वहीं, अब यमुना और यमुना खादर में चारों ओर गंदगी का आलम है। यहां पर अभी भी खाद्य

अवहेलना

एनजीटी के यमुना में एंजाइम डालने से मना करने के बावजूद भी कार्यक्रम खत्म होने के बाद एंजाइम यमुना में डाले जाने की बात यहां के किसान कह रहे हैं

पदार्थों की खाली बोतलें, चिप्स व बिस्कुट, खाने की थाली जैसे वेस्ट बिखरा पड़ा है।

यमुना किनारे जहां कभी फसलें होने से हरियाली होती थी, आज वहां कार्यक्रम के दौरान बचे खाने के सामान बिखरे पड़े हैं। पर्यावरण, प्रकृति और नदियों को बचाने का संदेश देने वाले आर्ट ऑफ लिविंग के कार्यक्रम के बाद भी यहां पर खुलेआम एनजीटी के आदेशों की अवहेलना देखी जा सकती है।

वहीं, वसुधैव कुटुंबकम का संदेश देने के साथ आयोजित विश्व सांस्कृतिक महोत्सव के समापन पर अब यहां के किसान भी कह रहे हैं कि दुनिया को तो वसुधैव कुटुंबकम का संदेश दिया लेकिन हमारी फसलों को उजाड़ दिया गया। किसान अब यह सवाल कर रहे हैं कि अब कहाँ गया रविशंकर का वसुधैव कुटुंबकम। यहां तक कि टेंट आदि हटाने के दौरान भी पर्यावरण से खिलवाड़ कर रहे हैं।