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Technical Documentation Directorate  
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The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

  
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Hindustan Times  
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## MAHADAYI WATER DISPUTE

# States in all-out attack over river

GOA

### Tells tribunal Karnataka lying, water demanded not for drinking

SOWMIYA ASHOK  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

IN A hardening of stands in the Mahadayi river water dispute, BJP-ruled Goa has described Congress-ruled Karnataka's contentions as a "bogy of completely incorrect statements". In a written submission to the Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal, Goa has opposed 12 projects proposed by Karnataka in the Western Ghats, saying the latter's demand for water is not for drinking but actually for irrigating its sugarcane crop areas.

"The requirements of the State of Karnataka in the Malaprabha reservoir as also the drinking water requirements in the twin cities of Hubli-Dharwad area is a bogy of completely incorrect statements and the whole exercise, proposed by the State of Karnataka is aimed at sustaining the manifold increase as well as further increasing and encouraging the cultivation of the water guzzling sugarcane crop area," Goa submitted.

Senior counsel Atmaram Nadkarni, representing Goa, told *The Indian Express* the submissions showed evidence of sugarcane cultivation having gone up in the region and that the water was also being diverted to soft drink industries that had factories in the area.

In recent years, Karnataka has pegged its demand for Mahadayi water at 7.56 thousand million cubic feet per annum to meet the "drinking requirement" of farmers in North Karnataka. "Under the guise of drinking water, Karnataka has been asking for water which it has been diverting to sugarcane cultivation," said Nadkarni. "Goa has no issues providing drinking water to people within the basin but many of these areas are outside the basin area."

The submission states: "Most of the water from Karnataka's Navilutirtha reservoir on Malaprabha is utilised for irrigation, including water guzzling crops like sugarcane, in its upper reaches. Assuming without in any manner admitting that there is any water scarcity in Hubli-Dharwad region, then the same is due to the deliberate usage of water from the Malaprabha Basin (which was earmarked for drinking water purpose) for the purpose of irrigating the cash crops."

The submission stated the 12 projects proposed by Karnataka, and eight by Maharashtra, would affect the "basic minimum drinking water requirement" of Goa in months other than November-May and the people of Goa will be "deprived" of drinking water requirements.

It said Karnataka and Maharashtra do not "have any right, authority or power to divert



Congress protest in Bengaluru Tuesday against Goa minister Vinod Palyekar's remarks about people of Karnataka. PTI

### KARNATAKA PROJECTS OPPOSED BY GOA

**10 DAMS:** On Haltara Nala, Kalasa Nala, Bhandura Nala, Irti Nala, Bail Nadi Nala, Mahadayi river (Kotni dam), Pansheer Nala, Muruduhalla Nala, Katla Nala, Palna Nala

**2 DIVERSION SCHEMES:** Viranjole scheme on Pasa Nala; Diggi scheme comprising a dam each on Bundeli Nala and Maranala Nala

the waters of River Mahadayi outside the River Basin, without the concurrence of State of Goa". It claimed the two states have opposed relief sought by Goa on "trivial grounds."

Goa sought a direction to the two states "by way of a permanent injunction, to forthwith stop implementation / construction of all or any projects" on the Mahadayi or its tributaries. It asked the tribunal to direct the states to demolish all works built to divert waters of the Mahadayi. "It is the case of state of Goa that without demolition of the canals and dams built or under construction, the monsoon flows will be reduced thereby resulting in scarcity of water downstream with devastating consequences," the submission stated.

It asked the tribunal "to determine the true and correct principles applicable for equitable use of waters from the Mahadayi river basin and issue appropriate directions in that regard".

### KARNATAKA

## From Siddaramaiah to BSY, leaders condemn Goa minister's remark

JOHNSONTA  
BENGALURU, JANUARY 16

A DEROGATORY remark about the people of Karnataka by Goa's water resources minister, Vinod Palyekar, has triggered a political uproar in poll-bound Karnataka, with politicians across the board, including of the state BJP, condemning the remark. Palyekar belongs to BJP ally Goa Forward Party.

Amid a dispute over the waters of the Mahadayi river, Palyekar, who visited the Karnataka side of the river, used an expletive Saturday to describe the people of Karnataka and alleged that Karnataka was proceeding with work on a canal system to divert water from the river to parts of the state. Referring to people of Karnataka, Palyekar said in Goa that they "cannot be trusted" and that they "already started diverting water from the Mahadayi, which otherwise flows in Goa".

"They are [expletive] people. They can do anything," he said. He later claimed to have used the word in the heat of the moment.

Karnataka's Water Resources Minister, M B Patil, has denied the allegations Palyekar and stated work on the canals was halted long ago.

Karnataka's Congress Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has called Palyekar's remark "disgraceful". "The abusive words used against Kannadiga by @BJP4India irrigation minister from Goa are reprehensible to say the least. However we hold no grudge against the people of Goa. We will continue to strive to secure drinking water from Mahadayi for our people," Siddaramaiah tweeted.

State Congress working president Dinesh Gundu Rao called the comments an attack on Kannada pride and questioned the silence of BJP leaders in the state. He said the minister had insulted BJP leaders in Karnataka too.

State BJP president B S Yeddyurappa later issued a statement condemning the remarks. "When a conducive atmosphere was developing between the two states irresponsible statements have vitiated the situation," Yeddyurappa said, calling for an apology from the Goa minister.

JD(S) state president H D Kumaraswamy



### GOA MINISTER CARRIES ON

"Karnataka WRD Minister @reachmbp says that they have not violated anything. Karnataka Govt have been habitual liars with regards to #Mahadayi issue we will file contempt with photographic evidence"

Goa never paid for its witnesses. Our witnesses worked keeping in mind

#GoemGoemkarGoemkarponn.in #Mahadayi matter. Unlike Karnataka witness AK Gosain who had confessed in tribunal that he was paid 50k per day by Karnataka for being the witness & 5 lakhs to prepare report

@vinod\_palyekar,  
Tuesday

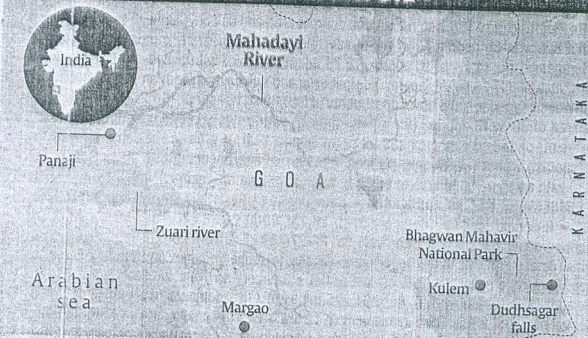
also condemned the remarks. "It does not behove well for the position held by the minister to insult Kannadigas to please people in Goa," Kumaraswamy said.

### The politics

The river dispute has emerged a key electoral issue in over 30 seats in northern Karnataka where elections are scheduled this year. In a December 21 letter to Yeddyurappa, Goa's BJP CM Manohar Parrikar had said Goa was willing to consider an amicable settlement to the demand for drinking water by people from drought-prone areas in northern Karnataka.

The move was widely seen as an attempt to help the BJP in Karnataka ahead of the polls. The offer came despite Goa's refusal in the past to heed requests from Karnataka for bilateral discussions to sort out the dispute as suggested by the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal and despite protests by BJP allies in Goa.

### THEATRE OF DISPUTE





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Aerial view of Majuli, constantly threatened by Brahmaputra. Express archive

## Walls, drainage, screens @ Rs 233 cr: How govt plans to protect Majuli

**SAMUDRAGUPTAKASHYAP**  
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 16

MAJULI, SAID to be the largest inhabited river island in the world, has been shrinking for decades. Measured at 1,256 sq km by a government survey in 1891, it is only about 525 sq km today, with the Brahmaputra constantly eating into the landmass of the island, which is also the socio-cultural heart of Assam.

On December 30, Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for an Rs-233.54-crore project to save the island, one that also looks at reclamation of lost landmass apart from preventing further shrinking due to riverbank erosion.

### Problems & solutions

Part of the alluvial flood plains of the Brahmaputra, the island is formed of soil consisting mainly of silt deposits and lacking cohesion, making it susceptible to erosion, which has been a major problem since the huge earthquake of 1950. As per Survey of India topo-sheets and satellite imagery data, Majuli lost 206.7 sq km between 1949 and 2004.

The scheme for which Gadkari laid the foundation stone involves four components to be built: 27 km geo-bag bank revetment works in vulnerable reaches; RCC porcupine screens at 41 locations; a 3.50-km pilot channel to drain out floodwater; a sluice at Birinabari to stop the river from entering the island through a stream that runs east to west.

Though the Assam government built an embankment in the 1960s, it could offer only marginal protection as breaches continued in many places. It was on the request of Assam that the water resources ministry entrusted Brahmaputra Board the task of 'Protection of Majuli Island from Flood and Erosion' in 2003, which began in 2004. These works involved construction and strengthening of embankments, laying of RCC porcupine screens, and construction of spurs and dampers to train the river away from the bank and also as pro-siltation measure.

Though the works did contain erosion in the most vulnerable reaches until 2007, fresh floods followed by massive bank erosion in 2007 once again led to severe shrinking of the island's landmass. Majuli continued to suffer for the next seven years until, from 2014, the Brahmaputra Board took up fresh protection works, incurring about Rs 190 crore till November this year. Four boulder spurs have been completed and a fifth one at Salmara, one of the worst erosion-affected areas, is nearing completion. Five raised platforms have also been built and recently handed over to the district administration as temporary shelter to people during high floods.

While Majuli has started recovering lost landmass in the past few years — under the present scheme Brahmaputra Board executes the scheme as recommended by a team of experts — the island grew from 502



### SHRINKING ISLAND

Year	Area (sq km)
1891	1256
1914	734
2004	502.21
2008	506.37
2011	520.26
2013	522.73
2014	523.88
2016	524.29
2017	525

sq km in 2004 to 525 sq km in November 2017, the technical advisory committee of Brahmaputra Board constituted by the water resources ministry suggested earlier this year a few more measures to protect the gained landmass and arrest further erosion. As Gadkari unveiled the new protection schemes on the basis of a detailed project report for Rs 233.54 crore, the Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region has agreed to allocate Rs 207 crore of this, the rest coming from Brahmaputra Board itself.

Alongside new schemes to protect the island, the government has also launched major bank protection work in Kamatighat on the south bank, apart from protection measures in three locations downstream of the Bogibael bridge between Dibrugarh and Dhemaji, whose construction too is suspected to have caused fresh erosion in upper Majuli.

### Heritage

The Assam government has been pressing for a UNESCO World Heritage Site tag for Majuli for more than two decades now. The centre for Vaishnavite art, culture, music and literature of Assam since the time of the 16th-century saint-reformer Sankaradeva, Majuli has gained added political significance after the assembly seat was won Sarbananda Sonowal on his way to becoming chief minister. Majuli was also elevated from a subdivision to district in June last year.

In 2006, the Assam government enacted the Majuli Cultural Landscape Region Act, under which the Majuli Cultural Landscape Management Authority, a statutory body was set up for protection and propagation of its heritage resources. Also emerging as a major tourist destination after Kaziranga, Majuli may get a bridge link to Jorhat in the next few years. The foundation stone was laid by Gadkari in February 2016, ahead of Sonowal's election.



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# Groundwater high in arsenic, no steps to protect food chain

Situation alarming in Majha districts, observes <sup>17-1</sup>dept report

AMAN SOOD

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, JANUARY 16

Arsenic content in groundwater in the state has reached alarming proportions, but the government is yet to take steps to ensure that it does not get into the food chain.

While the Agriculture Department is yet to establish the impact of arsenic-rich water on farm products, the Water Supply and Sanitation Department is using modern technology to ensure safe water supply to residents.

Recent sampling of groundwater by the Department of Water Supply and Sanitation has found alarmingly high arsenic content in samples taken from Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Gurdaspur. While other districts also fair poorly, these

“Excessive tapping of groundwater through shallow tubewells for irrigation, particularly for rabi/summer crops, is a major cause for arsenic contamination in crop produce. It may adversely impact human, animal and environmental health.”

Report submitted to Agriculture Department

three districts top the list. As per records, Punjab has the highest per hectare usage of pesticides in the country.

“Excessive tapping of groundwater through shallow tubewells for irrigation, particularly for rabi/summer crops, is a major cause for arsenic contamination in crop produce. It may adversely impact human, animal and environmental health,” read a recent report submitted to the Agriculture Department.

The report claims that there is no direct link between high

arsenic content and cancer. “It is a major reason for many other diseases in humans and animals,” it said. High arsenic content has been found in vegetables such as cauliflower, ladyfinger and foodgrain such as paddy.

Despite over 1,500 cancer deaths per day in the country, the matter is not taken seriously as the Agriculture Department still trying to figure a mechanism to deal with the situation. “The effect of high arsenic content in water on agriculture produce is not

established as we are yet to do a comprehensive study or use technology to deal with it,” Rajesh Vashisht, Joint Director, Agriculture (Hydrology).

Talking to The Tribune, Dr Veenkshi Sharma, Director WSS, water quality, said: “We are installing a nano-technology based project to supply water to Amritsar and Gurdaspur belt which will check arsenal flow in drinking water.” She said more steps were required to be taken to check its impact on humans through wheat and paddy.

Umendra Dutt of Kheti Virasat Mission says he is worried about the impact of arsenic water on farm produce. “This is exactly why we are educating farmers on minimising the use of groundwater to reduce arsenic in food chain,” he says.



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## चंद्रावल में पानी का प्लांट लगेगा

नई दिल्ली (प्र.सं.)। यमुना किनारे चंद्रावल में दिल्ली जल बोर्ड 105 एमजीडी का नया वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट लगाएगा। इससे दिल्ली के कई इलाकों में होने वाले जल संकट से मुक्ति मिलेगी।

जल बोर्ड का दावा है कि जल्द टेंडर जारी कर काम शुरू कर दिया जाएगा। चंद्रावल में अभी 90 एमजीडी का प्लांट काम कर रहा है। इसे भी दुरुस्त कर नए प्लांट के साथ चालू रखने की योजना है। दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के उपाध्यक्ष दिनेश मोहनिया ने बताया कि राजधानी में पानी की दिक्कत को दूर करने के लिए चंद्रावल में नया प्लांट लगाया जाएगा।

4E-17-1-18

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## हिंडन पर विशेष समिति सुझाव देगी

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

गाजियाबाद में हिंडन में बढ़ते प्रदूषण को काबू करने के लिए एनजीटी की विशेष समिति रिपोर्ट के साथ सुझाव भी देगी।

पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के छह जिलों में नदियों और भूजल प्रदूषण के मामले में राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण ने मंगलवार को राज्य सरकार के प्राधिकारों की ओर से दिए गए जवाब पर नाराजगी जताई। एनजीटी समुचित रिपोर्ट और उपाय बताने को विशेष समिति का गठन किया है, जिसमें केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के अधिकारी और उसके पूर्व सदस्य सचिव भी शामिल हैं।

एनजीटी के कार्यवाहक अध्यक्ष

समिति इन जिलों में  
सघन सर्वेक्षण करेगी

पीठ ने कहा कि विशेष समिति इन जिलों में सघन सर्वेक्षण करेगी। हिंडन कृष्णा, काली के बारे में भी समुचित निरीक्षण किया जाए। इन जिलों में 316 औद्योगिक इकाइयों का भी निरीक्षण किया जाए।

जरिस्टस यूडी साल्वी के नेतृत्व वाली पीठ ने राज्य के प्राधिकारों से कहा कि 5 नवंबर 2015 को अधिकरण ने आदेश जारी किया था। दो माह में रिपोर्ट देनी थी, जिसमें भूजल के प्रदूषित होने के कारण समेत अन्य पहलुओं की जानकारी देनी थी। कोई

पीने के लायक पानी नहीं

आवेदक के वकील गौरव बंसल ने पीठ को सूचित किया कि पश्चिमी यूपी के छह जिलों के हालात बहुत खराब हैं, पीने लायक पानी नहीं है। वे मेटल समेत अन्य हानिकारक पदार्थों से युक्त प्रदूषित पानी का उपयोग कर रहे हैं। इससे बच्चों खासतौर पर नवजात मानसिक-शारीरिक रोग से पीड़ित हो रहे हैं।

दस्तावेज नहीं पेश किया गया।

इन जिलों से संबंधित है मामला: अधिकरण में लंबित मामला पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के शामली, गाजियाबाद, मेरठ, बागपत, सहारनपुर और मुजफ्फरनगर के कई गांव से संबंधित है।

72-17-1-18