

Central Water Commission  
Technical Documentation Directorate  
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section  
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Dated

21/3/18

*Subject: Submission of News Clippings.*

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.

*P. Mahan*  
21.3.18  
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

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21/3/18

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,  
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Hindustan Times  
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Today is World Forests Day and tomorrow World Water Day. Let us go beyond mere talk and pledge to spread awareness about conserving these fast depleting essential resources.

# Water, forests are our lifeline; save them

**AMANDEEP AGGARWAL**

*Chairman, Action Committee-cum-Legal Cell, IMA, Punjab*

**W**HILE we will be busy celebrating International Day of Forests on March 21 and World Water Day on March 22, let's turn a blind eye to the receding water level and depleting forest cover in our country and watch our leaders talk big on water conservation and importance of forests. If water tables could speak, there would have been a "rudali" everywhere. If trees could bleed, a gushing flow of blood would have spread across our roads.

Water is the most valuable resource and an essential component of the ecosystem because all living beings need it to support their living processes. Many of us who live in big cities enjoy a carefree lifestyle with 24x7 running taps, swimming pools, jacuzzis and fountains. Sheltered by this layer of comfort, we remain unaware of the impact of these water-intensive activities on our environment. Rapid urbanisation and water pollution have widened the supply and demand gap, putting enormous pressure on the quality of surface and groundwater bodies.

Clean water is destined to become one of the rarest commodities soon, if the general public is not educated about the significance of storing, recycling and reusing water. Trees play a big role in water conservation — they absorb water and release it into the atmosphere; the average tree breathes out 250-400 or more gallons of water in one day. On the opposite end of the spectrum, trees also reduce flooding by intercepting approximately 1,000 gallons of water per year per mature tree!

Unfortunately, both these saviours of life are being butchered at the hands of the most intelligent creations of God. Instead of conserving water, we are wasting it and instead of improving our forest cover to the desired levels, we are ruthlessly cutting trees to pave the way for our "development". In India, around 83 per cent of available



area. This is technically not feasible on a hilly area as ridges have to be made. For providing sanctions to projects, it is stated (needless to say that money changes hands) that the forest area is a non-forest land. For justifying the increase in staff/labour, even non-forest area is shown as forest land. Following orders from the Supreme Court, the Union government had constituted a body, CAMPA, to manage funds (CAMPA funds) for afforestation to compensate deforestation done to give room for development projects.

The CAMPA funds meant for compensatory afforestation are grossly being misappropriated by the custodians themselves. Environmental clearance for various projects is given by the Government of India with certain conditions to ensure that development doesn't tax the environment, but it has become a practice to violate the conditions laid down and no one is bothered. More so, permissions for development projects are still being given without bothering about the compliance of conditions for environmental clearance in earlier sanctions.

Why is the government granting permis-



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# Land sharks usurping

**KILLING THE RIVER** Rampant dumping of debris in the Yamuna floodplain goes on despite stringent rules. Besides disposal of construction waste, the land mafia is reclaiming river land for unauthorised constructions

## HIT SPOTLIGHT

2/2

### ARE EFFORTS TO SAVE YAMUNA FAILING?

Joydeep Thakur

joydeep.thakur@htlive.com

**NEW DELHI:** The patrolling by guards hired by the DDA has exposed the magnitude of the serious violation of the National Green Tribunal's order barring the dumping of debris on Yamuna riverbed. In the past six months, they have stopped more than 150 trucks carrying around 1,000 tonnes of debris from being dumped on the floodplains.

But what is more intriguing is what happened to that debris. While the security agency and the DDA officials claim that all cases were reported to the police, the police claimed that they have received only a few cases which were dealt with according to the law.

This has led activists to raise serious questions on the role of the police and the DDA in preventing the mafias from

polluting the Yamuna.

### DUMPING AND ENCROACHMENT

Dumping of construction debris on the floodplains and encroachment by slums seems to be the two sides of the same coin.

Hindustan Times visited some of the spots, including the area below the Nizamuddin Bridge and Usmanpur area in northeast Delhi to find out how truckloads of debris have been dumped on the floodplains.

The manner, in which debris has been dumped below the Nizamuddin Bridge and its surrounding areas, clearly indicates that it was done over a period of time, and was not one off incident. In some portions the debris was in the river to reclaim land out of the river so that illegal constructions could be

raised on it.

"Once the debris is dumped the plot is levelled with roadrollers so that slums and unauthorized parking plots could come up on them," said Ramesh Singh in charge of one of the patrolling teams.

Such activities are rampant in places such as Batla House, Usmanpur, Shakarpur and Geeta Colony among others. Once the shanties are established, they are covered with sarees and cloths. Brick walls are erected behind them. One or two storied houses follow.

"Debris dumping in Yamuna and the ridge to reclaim land has been going on for long. In 2006, the Delhi High Court had banned construction within 300 metres on either side of the Yamuna except in Majnu Ka Tilla and Kalindi bypass. But in 2013, a three-member committee appointed by the NGT and headed by CR Babu had found evidence of debris dumping to reclaim land for encroachment. Later in 2015, the NGT banned dumping of construction and other waste and even imposed a fine of ₹50,000," said Manoj Misra of Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan.

The Central Ground Water Authority had stated in its latest report in 2017 that the Yamuna and the ridge are the major groundwater recharge zones of Delhi.

"Dumping of construction and demolition waste will be harmful to the recharging process as it will clog the gaps and pores. It would also obstruct the river and affect the ecological flow. It may also cause floods," said AK Gosain of the members of the NGT-appointed panel and a professor of civil engineering at IIT, Delhi.

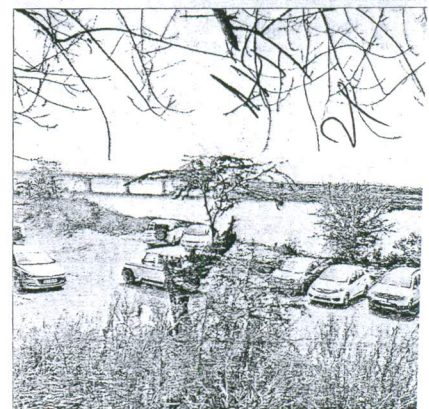
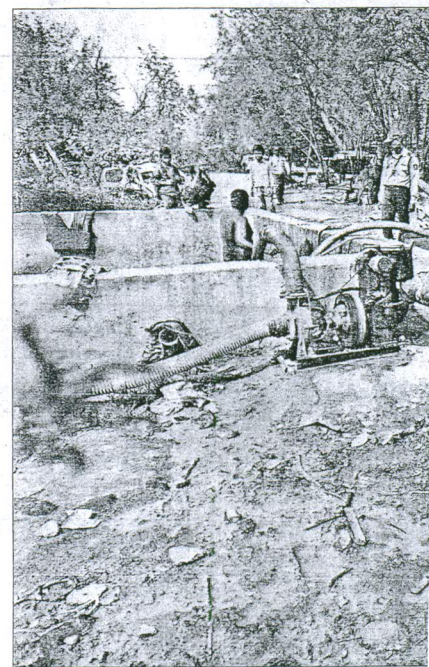
### ACTION TAKEN REPORT

The DDA claimed that more than 250 cases of illegal activities, including dumping, encroachment, mining and water theft has been detected over the past six months.

"Every time we detect anything illegal we inform the police. The violators along with their vehicles were handed over to the police when the PCR van arrived. We have every detail in our register, along with the PCR van numbers and photos," said PK Bhattacharya security officer of the private agency, Rakshak.

According to DDA, the maximum number of cases of waste dumping was detected in places such as Usmanpur and Geeta Colony, both in east Delhi.

But while a senior officer of the New Usmanpur police station claimed that they have not received any such cases in the past three months, an officer of



Geeta Colony police station claimed that they challaned the violators and forwarded the cases for further action to SDM, Gandhinagar.

"No agency has handed over any vehicles to us or has complained that debris was dumped in the Yamuna at least in the past two to three months. They should have informed us if they had intercepted anything," said a senior

officer of Ne TC Sharm ever, said: "from the pol in which I 50,000."

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## How rules against dumping were fixed

**2012 Feb:** Case filed in NGT against debris dumping in Yamuna

**2013**

**Jan:** NGT directed DDA, Delhi government, EDMC and UP government to remove debris dumped on the river bed of river Yamuna

**Feb:** NGT constituted a special committee of experts to oversee the removal of debris from the river bed

**July:** NGT imposed under the 'Polluter Pays Principle' a fine of ₹5 lakh on any person found

dumping debris in the river bed. NGT was informed that around 90,000 cubic metre of debris was reportedly lying dumped on both the banks of the river

**July-Sept:** Debris dumped in the river bed was removed

**Sept:** NGT directed the expert committee to prepare a report on restoration & beautification of floodplain

**2014**

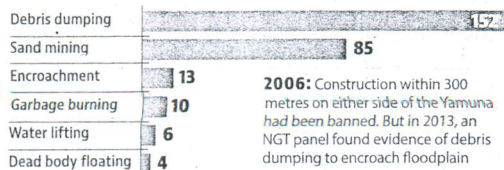
**April:** The expert committee submitted its report on restoration and beautification of river Yamuna in Delhi to the NGT

**2015**

**January:** NGT delivered its judgment titled 'Maily se Nirmal Yamuna, revitalization project 2017'. In the judgment, the fine for dumping of debris in the river bed was fixed at ₹50,000

**2006:** Construction within 300 metres on either side of the Yamuna had been banned. But in 2013, an NGT panel found evidence of debris dumping to encroach floodplain

## CASES DETECTED BY DDA IN PAST SIX MONTHS





# s usurping Yamuna

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Once the debris is dumped the plot is levelled with roadrollers so that slums and unauthorized parking plots could be built up on them," said Ramesh Singh, in charge of one of the patrolling teams. Such activities are rampant in places like Batla House, Usmanpur, Shakti and Geeta Colony among others. Once the shanties are established, they are covered with sarees and cloths. Brick walls are erected behind them. For two storied houses follow. Debris dumping in Yamuna and the efforts to reclaim land has been going on long. In 2006, the Delhi High Court banned construction within 300 metres on either side of the Yamuna. A court in Majnu Ka Tilla and Kalindi. But in 2013, a three-member committee appointed by the NGT and headed by CR Babu had found evidence of debris dumping to reclaim land for development. Later in 2015, the NGT banned dumping of construction and demolition waste and even imposed a fine of Rs 100," said Manoj Misra of Yamuna Abhiyan.

The Central Ground Water Authority stated in its latest report in 2017 that the Yamuna and the ridge are the two major groundwater recharge zones of Delhi.

"Dumping of construction and demolition waste will be harmful to the recharging process as it will clog the pores. It would also obstruct the river and affect the ecological flow. It may also cause floods," said AK Saxena, one of the members of the NGT-appointed panel and a professor of civil engineering at IIT, Delhi.

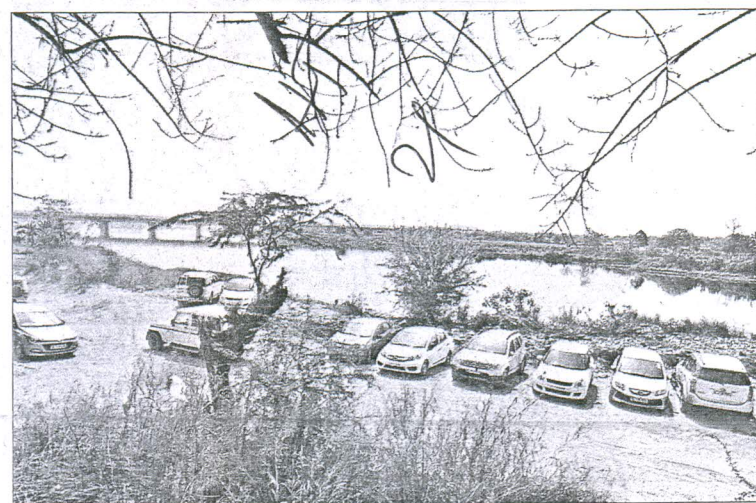
## VIOLATION TAKEN REPORT

DDA claimed that more than 250 cases of illegal activities, including dumping, encroachment, mining and vehicle theft has been detected over the last six months.

"Every time we detect anything illegal we inform the police. The violators with their vehicles were handed over to the police when the PCR van arrived. We have every detail in our register along with the PCR van numbers and photos," said PK Bhattacharya, a security officer of the private agency, Shak.

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"No agency has handed over any vehicles to us or has complained that debris was dumped in the Yamuna at least in the past two to three months. They should have informed us if they had intercepted anything," said a senior

officer of New Usmanpur Police station.

TC Sharma, Gandhinagar SDM, however, said: "I received only three cases from the police over the past six months in which I have issued a challan of Rs 50,000."

This raises questions as to what happened to the other cases which were handed over to the police.

"We don't know what the police did

■ Private guards (above) hired by the DDA at an illegal bore well in the Yamuna floodplain at Chilla Khadar, where debris has also been dumped. Indiscriminate dumping of debris is choking the river flow, say officials and experts. (Left) Cars parked on the river bank, near Gandhinagar Market in east Delhi. SANCHIT KHANNA/HT PHOTOS

with the violators. They didn't inform us. We would be soon writing to the Delhi Police asking them what action have been taken in the cases," said Som Pal, executive, DDA's eastern division-II.

This has prompted environmentalists to question the role of the police and even the DDA.

"This is a total abdication of responsibility by all government agencies, including police and DDA, which were specifically directed by the NGT to stop waste dumping in the Yamuna. But it seems that it is still rampant. If the DDA has lodged so many complaints where have they gone?" said Misra.

Security guards of the private agency claimed that in the absence of any visible action on the part of the police and the DDA, their "morale is at an all-time low".



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# Awash in water crises

Business-as-usual approaches to water security are no longer sufficient



JAYAKUMAR RAMASAMY

As World Water Day draws closer (March 22), this year's World Water Development Report makes it clear that nature-based solutions – which are also aligned with the principles and aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – can offer answers to our most pressing water-related challenges. Business-as-usual approaches to water security are no longer viable.

Nature-based solutions hold great promise in areas which also include sustainable food production, improved human settlements, access to drinking water supplies and sanitation, water-related disaster risk reduction, and helping to respond to the impact of climate change on water resources.

## Water hotspots

The water-related challenges we face today are immense. The world's population is expected to increase from 7.6 billion (2017) to between 9.4 and 10.2 billion people (2050), with two-thirds of them living in cities. UN estimates are that more than half of this anticipated growth will be in Africa

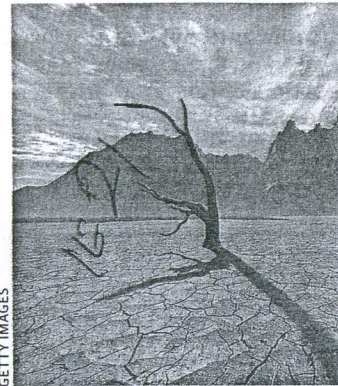
(1.3 billion) and Asia (0.75 billion). Therefore, those most in need of water will be in developing or emerging economies.

Climate change is also impacting the global water cycle with wetter regions generally becoming wetter and drier regions drier. An estimated 3.6 billion people now live in areas that could face water scarcity for at least a month in a year, with that number increasing to 4.8 and 5.7 billion by 2050. The International Water Management Institute estimates that total demand could increase from 680 billion cubic metres (BCM) to 833 BCM by 2025, and to 900 BCM by 2050.

By 2050, countries already facing water scarcity challenges may also be forced to cope with the decreased availability of surface water resources. India faces major threats to its water security, with most water bodies near urban centres heavily polluted. Inter-State disputes over river resources are also becoming more intense and widespread.

## Deteriorating water quality

Along with water scarcity, there is the issue of water quality. Since the 1990s, water pollution has worsened in most rivers in Africa, Asia and Latin America, according to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). An estimated 80% of industrial and municipal wastewater is released without any prior treatment, with detri-



mental impacts on human health and ecosystems. Given the transboundary nature of most river basins, regional cooperation will be critical to addressing projected water quality challenges.

A Central Pollution Control Board report indicates that almost half of India's inter-State rivers are polluted. Sewage from 650 cities and towns along 302 polluted river stretches in the country increased from 38,000 million litres per day (MLD) in 2009 to 62,000 MLD in 2015. It found that the untreated sewage and industrial waste was a major cause of pollution in 16 of 40 inter-State rivers in the country.

Nature-based solutions can address overall water scarcity through "supply-side management," and are recognised as the main solution to achieving sustainable water for agriculture.

Environmentally-friendly agricultural systems like those which

use practices such as conservation tillage, crop diversification, legume intensification and biological pest control work as well as intensive, high-input systems. The environmental co-benefits of nature-based solutions to increasing sustainable agricultural production are substantial as there are decreased pressures on land conversion and reduced pollution, erosion and water requirements.

Constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment can also be a cost-effective, nature-based solution that provides effluent of adequate quality for several non-potable uses (irrigation) and additional benefits that include energy production. Such systems already exist in nearly every region of the world. Natural and constructed wetlands also biodegrade or immobilise a range of emerging pollutants. Recent experiments suggest that for some emerging pollutants, nature-based solutions work better than "grey" solutions, and in certain cases may be the only viable option.

Watershed management is another nature-based solution that is seen not only as a complement to built or "grey" infrastructure but also one that could also spur local economic development, job creation, biodiversity protection and climate resilience.

Nature-based solutions are closely aligned with traditional and local knowledge including those held by indigenous and tri-

bal peoples in the context of water variability and change.

## Case of Chennai

Chennai in Tamil Nadu is a textbook example of how nature is being ignored in urban development-challenges. Unplanned urban development and unwieldy growth with no hydrological plan are causing many problems. Earlier, when there was heavy rain in catchment areas in the Chennai region, lakes, ponds, tanks, rivers and inter-linked drainage systems helped replenish groundwater, hold back some water and release the excess to the ocean. With development, a number of tanks and lakes in and around Chennai have been encroached upon by various stakeholders. Major rivers and canals such as the Cooum, Adyar and Buckingham Canal which are meant to carry excess rainwater to the Bay of Bengal now serve as the city's drainage outlets. The Pallikarai marsh which acted as a sponge to soak up excess rainwater is now an over-run.

Nature-based solutions are crucial to achieving our Sustainable Development Goals. Adopting them will not only improve water management but also achieve water security.

Jayakumar Ramasamy is Senior Programme Specialist and Regional Hydrologist, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya



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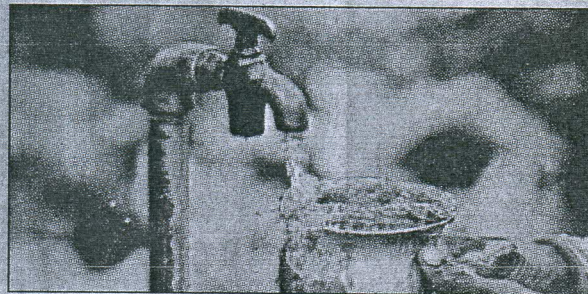
स्थानीय 5

# दिल्लीवालों पर भारी पड़ेगा गर्मी का सीजन

नहीं हो पा रहा पर्याप्त पानी का इंतजाम यमुना के माध्यम से नहीं मिल रहा 60 एमजीडी पानी

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): इस बार गर्मी का सीजन दिल्लीवालों पर भारी पड़ने वाला है। सरकार दिल्लीवालों को पानी की पर्याप्त आपूर्ति करने में जुटी है लेकिन हरियाणा की ओर से उसे तय मात्रा में पानी नहीं मिल पा रहा है। इसी वजह से जलबोर्ड अपना समर एक्शन प्लान भी तैयार नहीं कर पा रहा है। इसमें यमुना के माध्यम से मिलने वाला 60 एमजीडी पानी प्रमुख है जो जलबोर्ड को नहीं मिल पा रहा है। हालांकि गत वर्षों में यह प्लान फरवरी तक जारी हो जाता था लेकिन इस बार फरवरी भी निकल चुकी है।

दिल्ली जलबोर्ड के उपाध्यक्ष दिनेश मोहनिया ने बताया कि हमें करियर लाइन चैनल (सीएलसी) और दिल्ली सब ब्रांच चैनल



(डीएसबी) से कच्चे पानी की आपूर्ति पर्याप्त मात्रा में मिल रही है। लेकिन यमुना के माध्यम से पानी की आपूर्ति पर्याप्त मात्रा में नहीं मिल पा रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि कि सीएलसी चैनल से 719 मिलियन गैलन प्रतिदिन (एमजीडी) और डीएसबी के माध्यम से 330 एमजीडी की जलापूर्ति मिल रही है। जबकि यमुना के माध्यम से

60 एमजीडी पानी मिलना चाहिए लेकिन वर्तमान में इतना पानी नहीं मिल पा रहा है। ऐसे में जलबोर्ड पानी के इंतजाम को लेकर कोई पूर्व योजना नहीं बनाने में असमर्थ है। जलबोर्ड उपाध्यक्ष ने बताया कि दिल्ली में बोरवेल के माध्यम से 80 एमजीडी पानी की आपूर्ति होती है। यह अंडर ग्राउंड पानी होता है जो प्राकृतिक और

गैर प्राकृतिक माध्यम से प्रतिदिन रिचार्ज होता है। उन्होंने कहा, चूंकि हरियाणा को दिल्ली की ओर से मिलने वाला पानी एक इंटर स्टेट मीटर है इसलिए इस मामले को लेकर सुप्रीम कोर्ट जाना पड़ेगा। तभी इस समस्या का हल हो सकेगा। यहां बता दें कि अभी दिल्ली में गर्मियों की शुरुआत ही है और पानी को लेकर भीषण संघर्ष देखने को मिला है। दिल्ली के वजीरपुर औद्योगिक इलाके में पानी को लेकर हुए झगड़े में गत शनिवार एक बुजुर्ग की मौत हो गई। लाल बहादुर नामक बुजुर्ग की कुछ लोगों ने पीट-पीट कर हत्या कर दी थी। बताया जा रहा है कि बुजुर्ग ने पानी के लिए हो रही लड़ाई को रोकने की कोशिश की थी जिसकी कीमत उसे अपनी जान देकर चुकानी पड़ी।



letter/article/editorial published on 21.03.2018 in the

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पंजाब-21-3-18

## यमुना सौंदर्यीकरण मामले में गठित की ज्वाइंट इंस्पेक्शन टीम

पश्चिमी दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी):  
यमुना सौंदर्यीकरण मामले में एनजीटी  
ने एक ज्वाइंट इंस्पेक्शन कर रिपोर्ट

तलब की है। ज्वाइंट इंस्पेक्शन

टीम ताजेवाला, वजीराबाद

और ओखला स्थित

जलाशय/ बैराज का

इंस्पेक्शन करेगी। इस

टीम में हरियाणा व

दिल्ली सरकार के

इरिगेशन डिपार्टमेंट, अपर

यमुना रिवर बोर्ड व सेंट्रल

पॉल्यूशन कंट्रोल बोर्ड (सीपीसीबी) के

सदस्य शामिल होंगे। सभी के बीच

समन्वय बनाने के लिए सीपीसीबी को

नोडल एजेंसी बनाया गया है। यह टीम

जांच कर अपनी रिपोर्ट में बताएगी कि

किस बैराज से पिछले एक माह के दौरान

कितना पानी छोड़ा गया। साथ ही यह

रिपोर्ट भी देगी कि इन बैराजों से कहीं

पानी का निष्कर्षण तो नहीं

किया गया। इंस्पेक्शन टीम

को अपनी रिपोर्ट 22

मार्च तक पेश करने का

निर्देश दिया गया है। इस

मामले में अगली

सुनवाई 2 अप्रैल को

होगी। मामले की सुनवाई

एनजीटी जस्टिस जवाद रहीम,

जस्टिस एसपी वांगडी और एक्सपर्ट

मेंबर डॉक्टर नागिन नंदा की बेंच कर

रही थी। हाल ही में एक मामले की

सुनवाई के दौरान जल बोर्ड ने इससे

संबंधित तस्वीरें भी पेश की थी।

ताजेवाला,  
वजीराबाद और  
ओखला स्थित  
जलाशय/बैराज का  
इंस्पेक्शन कर रिपोर्ट पेश  
करने का एनजीटी  
दिया निर्देश