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Here's why Yamuna is dead

No Improvement In Water Quality Despite Spending ₹2,000cr Over 22 Years

Jayashree Nandi &
Neha Lalchandani | TNN

New Delhi: The city has spent over Rs 2,000 crore on Yamuna clean-up in the last 22 years. This shocking revelation came during a hearing in the Supreme Court on Monday. The reality becomes starker when you consider recent and past data that show no improvement in water quality: total coliform, or mostly human and animal excreta, continues to be in lakhs, and even crores, when the standard is a maximum of 5,000 mpn/100 ml (most probable number/100 ml). Also, dissolved oxygen (DO), a must for many forms of life in the water, continues to be negligible, which reiterates that it's a dead river.

DO levels in March months of 2002 and 2006 at Nizamuddin and Palla were 0; in 2016, these were 0.9 and 0.7, respectively. Total coliform levels went up to 16 crore in June last year. No Yamuna cleaning project has managed to bring a perceptible difference to water quality. Apart from Yamuna Action Plans on which the bulk of funds were spent, the National Green Tribunal, in its 2015 judgment, had ordered augmenting the functioning of sewage-treatment plants that are running under capacity and constructing 32 smaller STPs in a decentralised manner.

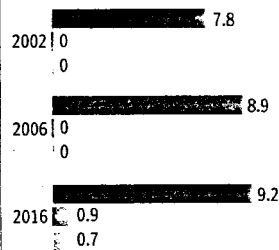
"According to DJB, there are 23 STPs planned and existing as of today in Delhi...the oxidation pond at Timarpur, which was commissioned in 1947, is proposed to be closed. There is an STP at Okhla, which was commissioned in 1937, and four STPs at Kondli are lying closed due to inadequate sewerage...the entire STP infrastructure, if made fully functional, can be utilised to support and aid implementation of the project," NGT had

AFTER TWO DECADES, RIVER STILL RAISES A STINK

Dissolved oxygen (Mg/l)

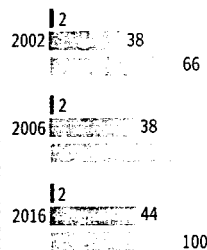
Standard: 4 (Minimum)

■ Palla ■ Nizamuddin ■ Okhla



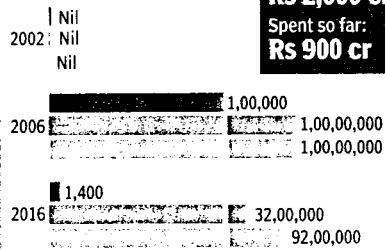
Bio-chemical oxygen demand

Standard: 3 (Maximum)



Total coliform (MPN/100 ml)

Standard: 5,000 (Maximum)



Total cost of interceptor sewer system (including O&M for 11 yrs):
Rs 2,000 cr
Spent so far:
Rs 900 cr

► Dissolved oxygen (DO) is the level of oxygen present in the water, an important parameter in assessing water quality because it's necessary for many forms of life, including fish and plants. The fact that DO is around 0 in Nizamuddin and Okhla shows the river is dead. DO levels are slightly better at Palla where the river enters the city. It also reflects that Yamuna's water quality falls dramatically within Delhi

► Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) is the amount of DO needed by microorganisms for decomposing

organic matter in the water. Again **Palla has the lowest BOD while Okhla has the highest**

► Water quality even in polluted Okhla improves post-monsoon when BOD falls to 4 in August 2016 compared to 31 in July. The monsoons help dilute the pollutants

► Total coliform is just excreta that ends up in the river through untreated sewage. In July 2016, **Okhla had a TC of 16 crore** against a standard of 5,000 (max)

Data: Central Pollution Control Board



said. There is no implementation of this order so far. Delhi Jal Board claims that it has the capacity to treat 604 million gallons per day of sewage, of which it is treating about 75%.

Brij Gopal, former JNU professor and member of NGT's expert panel on Yamuna, said: "Nothing has moved. Sewage is not even reaching the STPs. If untreated sewage is flowing down the drain, what do you expect? Plus there is no flow in the river."

Under phases I and II of the Yamuna Action Plan, launched in 1993, Rs 576.73 crore has already been spent. Under YAP-III, an additional Rs 1,600

crore has been allocated, which is yet to be used.

"Yamuna, like all of Delhi, has suffered due to multiplicity of agencies. Crores were definitely allocated but the money was used incoherently. DJB was doing something while the corporations were doing something else. We are hopeful now that the interceptor sewer system, when it is completed by next year, will finally clean the river," said a senior government official.

Experts also say that policies to clean Yamuna have only been STP-oriented when the biggest issue is the fact that the river has no water or ecological

flow. SC, in a 1998 order, had directed that 10 cumecs of water be released into the river through the year. Experts feel that 10 cumecs is inadequate, but as of now even that is not being released. Following NGT's 2015 judgment, about 10 cumecs is being released at Hatnikund, but that reduces significantly as it flows downstream. "The only answer to this is to ensure more water is released. Sewage treatment alone cannot ensure unhindered flow" said Manoj Mishra of Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan, who had moved NGT on Yamuna pollution.

Meanwhile both Centre and Delhi government have an-

nounced several cosmetic measures. For example, last year, Centre launched a trash skimmer to clean the water surface and announced a "proper" chhat ghat. In an effort to develop the river front, Delhi government started a Yamuna Aarti and developed a 'Naksahatra Vatika' along the river bed.

Union water minister Uma Bharti had announced last year that Lakhwar Vyasi Dam in Uttarakhand would release water in Yamuna during lean season, which was contested by environmental experts because the project is unlikely to get environmental clearance.

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Karnataka plans to tap KRS dam's dead storage

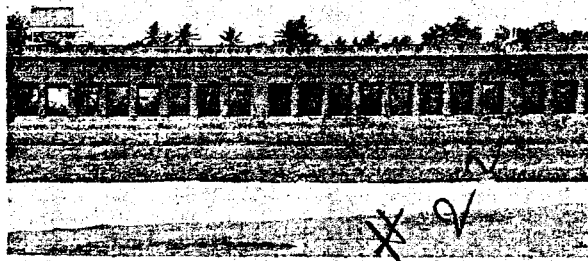
'May become inevitable to meet Bengaluru's water needs'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Anticipating drinking water crisis in Bengaluru this summer, the Karnataka government is putting in place a contingency plan to draw water from the dead storage of the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir at an estimated cost of ₹40 crore.

A high-level meeting of irrigation officials discussed the possibility of pumping the dead storage of KRS, if the need arose, to meet Bengaluru's drinking water needs. The reservoir is the lifeline of Mysuru, Bengaluru and the Mandya region. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) draws water from the KRS for the city.

Speaking to mediapersons, Water Resources Minister M.B. Patil said with the



Source of worry: The Krishnaraja Sagar reservoir is the lifeline of Mysuru, Bengaluru and Mandya. **SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

present storage in KRS, the water needs of Bengaluru could be met up to May. However, the authorities anticipated a shortage in peak summer. "Officials are constantly monitoring the availability of water in KRS. They are favouring utilisation of

dead storage in case of emergency," he said. The dead storage is 4.4 tmcft in KRS.

On whether this was advisable, Mr. Patil said: "We are opposed to tapping dead storage. However, considering the situation, it might become inevitable."

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Cauvery Tribunal gets new head

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government has appointed Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre of the Supreme Court as chairman of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. He was nominated for the post by Chief Justice J.S. Khehar. The post fell vacant following the resignation of Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan.

Last December, the Union Cabinet cleared a proposal to set up a single, permanent Tribunal to adjudicate all inter-state river water disputes subsuming existing tribunals. This is to speed up water sharing disputes among States. The Centre has also proposed to float some Benches to look into disputes.

CM
YK

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PONDS OF JALYUKTA SHIVAR SCHEME

Maharashtra farmers dig in to beat drought

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE

SOLAPUR (MAHARASHTRA),

FEBRUARY 21

SANDWICHED BETWEEN Latur and Solapur districts on east and west, respectively, and Karnataka to its south, Osmanabad district, in Marathwada region of south-central Maharashtra, was among the state's worst drought-affected districts not long ago.

"Deployment of water tankers to tide over water scarcity used to begin from October, and the numbers would increase with each passing month until July (when the monsoons would arrive)," District Collector Prashant Narnawre said. "Today, there is not a single water tanker in my district."

In Osmanabad, as in several drought-prone districts, the solution lay in rudimentary pond-digging. Jayram Namdeo Shirsat, 35, a farmer in Padsali village in Mohol taluka of neighbouring Solapur district figured it a year ago, when he decided to beat the drought by digging a farm pond on 1-acre land. Today, the Rs 7-lakh project — part-government



Jalyukta Shivar's impact on grape cultivation in Padsali village

finance, part-bank loan — can hold up to 1 crore litres of water, giving a fresh lease of life to Shirshat, who cultivates grapes on 5 acres.

The trend of community farm ponds is gaining ground in drought-prone districts across western Maharashtra. And they are supported by the government's Jalyukta Shivar Yojna — or, ~~water conservation scheme~~.

In the first phase, 6,200 "most critical" villages — most of them in Marathwada and Vidarbha — were shortlisted.

In Solapur's Upala village, farmer Ganpatrao Zhendge said, "The trend was to get borewells until 2014. Now there is more stress on water-conservation works, including farm ponds."

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Punjab: Can't get SYL land back T-22

FROM PAGE 1

on Wednesday by a Bench headed by Justice PC Ghosh, reads. "A fuller constitutional solution to the SYL canal is not possible unless the alleged entitlement of the applicant State of Haryana, a non-riparian, is resolved in accordance with law having regard to the changed circumstances," the affidavit states.

The Punjab Government had on February 16 requested the Supreme Court to hear the SYL canal issue after the announcement of the Assembly poll results on March 11. But in its rejoinder affidavit, filed to counter the Centre's submissions, the state had requested the top court to direct the Centre to "immediately explore on the transfer of the Sarda waters to the Yamuna under the feasibility report prepared by the National Water Development Agency".

It had pleaded that the Centre be directed "to create storages over the Yamuna to utilise water which is otherwise going waste and to explore alternative sources for irrigating Yamuna Basin areas, by augmenting the Yamuna flows in Haryana, particularly from the river Sarda".

The SAD-BJP government, represented by senior coun-

sel Ram Jethmalani, had pleaded that the SYL issue be heard after the poll results on March 11. However, the Bench had asked the Punjab Government to file its affidavit by February 20 and posted the matter for further hearing on February 22.

The top court had in November 2016 declared the law passed by the Punjab Assembly terminating the SYL canal water-sharing agreement with neighbouring states as unconstitutional. It had answered in the negative all four questions referred to it in a Presidential Reference.

A Constitution Bench had on November 10 ruled that Punjab could not have taken a "unilateral" decision to terminate the agreement with Haryana, HP, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh on sharing of the Ravi-Beas river waters. On a plea by the Haryana Government, the top court had on November 30 last year ordered a status quo on the land acquired for the construction of canal's stretch in Punjab and appointed the Union Home Secretary, Punjab's Chief Secretary and the DGP as receivers.

Last week, the top court had said the interim order would continue.

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Indus talks set to end Pak chill

New Delhi keen to restart dialogue

SIMRAN SODHI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

The India-Pakistan narrative is slowly edging back to a state of normalcy, considering the indications coming from some quarters.

After the acrimonious exchange of words on the Indus Water Treaty, sources said a meeting was likely to take place soon on the Permanent Indus Commission. Talks scheduled for the commission that were to be held last year were suspended after the Uri attacks.

It is learnt that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is keen on restarting the bilateral dialogue. At a meeting the PM had last week with a visiting delegation from the UK, the

PM, people present in the meeting told *The Tribune*, recalled with positivity the trip he made to Lahore in December 2015.

He also pointed out that the attacks took place soon after as there were forces in Pakistan that did not want peace in the region. But he also felt there were positive forces in Pakistan. Modi spoke about the menace of terrorism and of Pakistan's role in it. But, he also expressed optimism that talks should resume and said India was ready to compromise wherever India felt was in its best interest. The PM, sources said, wanted to extend a hand of peace towards Pakistan, and cited the example where an international court

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Indus water talks set to end Pak chill

FROM PAGE 1

decided against India in a maritime dispute with Bangladesh and India accepted the verdict. The PM was referring to the verdict of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) dispute regarding the delimitation of the maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh that was delivered in 2014. The tribunal awarded

Bangladesh 19,467 sq km of the 25,602 sq km sea area of the Bay of Bengal and India abided by the verdict.

India and Pakistan are all set to become permanent members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) this year when the meet is held in Astana, Kazakhstan, in June.

Both Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

are expected to travel to Astana for the SCO meet. Indications from both sides are this will serve as an ideal opportunity for the two leaders to meet on the sidelines and break the ice. But some groundwork needs to be done before that and the Indus Water Commission meet and the PM's own comments are the first steps in that direction.

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SYL again

T-22

Court, not the fields, should be the battleground

THE INLD in its desperation to maintain a hold over the farming community of Haryana seems prepared to go to any extent to cause trouble, whether or not it has a potential to deliver on the SYL canal. The issue has become inextricably vexed with Punjab having dug enough pitfalls to keep the matter going in courts for years to come. Part of the land acquired for the canal in Punjab has even been returned to the original owners. No party, however, wants to let go an opportunity to burnish its credentials over the matter, its stand depending on which side of the inter-state border it is speaking.

Om Prakash Chautala has given a call to Haryana farmers to start digging the canal on the Punjab side on February 23, a day after the hearing on the matter in the Supreme Court. Other than stoke enmity between people of Haryana and Punjab, his antics can serve no other purpose. If he believes something can be done outside the judicial process, he could have taken any action while he was the Chief Minister. True to form, Punjab leaders, both Congress and SAD, have responded with matching statements of preparedness to defend the state's interest. What they should be doing instead is work out a tenable defence of Punjab's claim on the basis of change in the quantity of water available, current requirements, and flaws in the original awards.

The Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004, which Punjab leaders keep harping on has already been invalidated by the Supreme Court. Working up passions on either side can only lead to further law and order complications, if not violence. Capt Amarinder Singh invoking the ghost of "terrorism" at every twist and turn of the case does no good to the cause. While Chautala's parole conditions need to be examined to see if he can be participating in political events, it would be good if all political parties maintained restraint and made a sincere effort to fight their battles within the ambit of the law.

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एसवाईएल मुद्दा ...

दिनांक-22-2-17

इनेलो का कल नहर खुदाई का ऐलान , पंजाब सीमा सील

पुलिस महानिदेशक ने की बंदोबस्तों की समीक्षा
इनेलो का जनमत जुटाने का अभियान जारी

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
rajasthanpatrika.com

चंडीगढ़, नई दिल्ली. हरियाणा में मुख्य प्रतिपक्षी दल इंडियन नेशनल लोकदल जहां 23 फरवरी को पंजाब के क्षेत्र में प्रवेश कर दशकों से अटके सतलुज-यमुना सम्पर्क नहर की खुदाई के लिए जनमत जुटाने के अपने अभियान में जुटा है वहीं इनेलो कार्यकर्ताओं को प्रवेश करने से रोकने के लिए पंजाब सीमा सील कर दी गई है। पंजाब के पुलिस महानिदेशक सुरेश अरोरा ने मंगलवार को सीमा सील करने के लिए किए गए बंदोबस्तों की समीक्षा की। पंजाब में पटियाला जिले के कपूरी में सीमा सील करने के लिए पुलिस और अर्द्धसैनिक बलों की तैनाती के अलावा वाहनों के प्रवेश को रोकने के लिए खाइयां भी खोद दी गई हैं।

पुलिस ने पंजाब आर्म्ड फोर्स की 10 कंपनियां तैनात करने के साथ पटियाला जेन की पूरी पुलिस भी लगाई है। 4 एसएसपी रैंक के अधिकारी भी तैनात किए गए हैं। यही वजह है कि इनेलो के एसवाईएल के मुद्दे को लेकर अम्बाला में प्रदर्शन से पहले पंजाब सरकार ने हरियाणा की

सीमा में न केवल गड्डे खोद दिए बल्कि अच्छी-खासी दीवार तक बना डाली। सूत्रों से पता चला है कि नहर खोदना तो दूर इनेलो कार्यकर्ता पंजाब बार्डर में भी प्रवेश नहीं कर पाएंगे। अम्बाला रेंज के आईजी डा आर सी मिश्रा ने भी हरियाणा - पंजाब सीमा का मुआयना किया। उन्होंने सभी हालातों का जायजा लिया।

केन्द्र सरकार से दखल की मांग

पंजाब के राजनीतिक दल कांग्रेस और सत्तारूढ़ अकाली-भाजपा गठबंधन ने इंडियन नेशनल लोकदल को कहा है कि कानून की अवहेलना के कदमों को टाला जाए। कांग्रेस ने इस मामले में केन्द्र सरकार के दखल की मांग की है। पंजाब कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष कैप्टेन अमरिंदर सिंह ने कोई अप्रिय हालत पैदा होने से रोकने के लिए इनेलो के वरिष्ठ नेता और नेता प्रतिपक्ष अभय सिंह चौटाला को ऐतिहासिक गिरफ्तार करने की भी मांग की। कैप्टेन अमरिंदर ने कहा कि हालत को काबू में रखने के लिए इनेलो नेता ओमप्रकाश चौटाला की पेराल भी रद्द की जाए। कांग्रेस और अकाली-भाजपा गठबंधन के अलावा कट्टरपंथी सिख संगठनों ने भी 23 फरवरी को सीमा पर पहुंचकर इनेलो द्वारा शुरू की जाने वाली खुदाई को रोकने का ऐलान

कांग्रेस और भाजपा बैकफुट पर

नई दिल्ली. हरियाणा की राजनीति को चार दशकों से हिला रहे एसवाईएल के मुद्दे का जिक्र फिर बोटल से बाहर निकल आया है। कई सालों से गर्दिश में रही इनेलो ने इस मुद्दे को भुजाने के लिए रणनीति तैयार कर ली है। एक तरफ जहां भाजपा और कांग्रेस इस मुद्दे पर सिर्फ बयानबाजी तक सीमित रह गए हैं वहीं इनेलो पंजाब में घुसकर नहर की खुदाई करने के ऐलान पर अडिग है। इनेलो के आक्रामक रुख ने जहां भाजपा और कांग्रेस को बैकफुट पर धकेल दिया है वहीं पंजाब सरकार को भी परेशानी में डाल दिया है। इनेलो कार्यकर्ता इस मुद्दे पर 23 फरवरी को अंबाला में हर हाल में नहर में खुदाई करने के

काम को अंजाम देना चाहते हैं तो पंजाब सरकार हर हाल में उनको नहर से दूर रखने के लिए कसर कस चुकी है। इनेलो एसवाईएल के मुद्दे को उछाल कर किसानों में अपनी खोई पैठ को दोबारा हासिल करना चाहता है। इस मुद्दे के बहाने उसने हर विधानसभा क्षेत्र में लोगों के बीच जाकर जनता को अपने साथ जोड़ने की भरपूर कोशिश की है। प्रदेश की भाजपा सरकार इस मामले में चक्रव्यूह में फंस गई है। अगर वह इनेलो कार्यकर्ताओं को रोकने का प्रयास करेगी तो उसकी राजनीतिक नुकसान होगा और अगर इनेलो को नहीं रोकता तो कानून - व्यवस्था बिगड़ सकती है।

कांग्रेस-भाजपा को हरियाणा के हितों से सरोकार नहीं

चंडीगढ़. इनेलो के वरिष्ठ नेता एवं विधानसभा में नेता प्रतिपक्ष अभय सिंह चौटाला ने कहा कि कांग्रेस व भाजपा को हरियाणा के हितों से कोई सरोकार नहीं है। एसवाईएल के मुद्दे पर जहां भाजपा का चेहरा बेनकाब हुआ है वहीं पर कांग्रेस का भी दोहरा चरित्र



किया है। कट्टरपंथी सिख संगठनों में अखिल भारतीय सिख छात्र

हरियाणावासियों के सामने आ गया है। पूर्व सीएम भूपेंद्र सिंह हुड्डा पर तंज कसते हुए अभय चौटाला ने कहा कि हुड्डा एसवाईएल मुद्दे पर मेरा नाम लेकर नोटकी करने की बात कहते हैं जबकि मैंने पहले भी भूपेंद्र हुड्डा सहित प्रदेश के सभी सांसदों व विधायकों को पत्र लिखकर राजनीति से ऊपर उठकर 23 फरवरी को नहर खुदाई करने का न्योता दिया था और आज भी मैं हुड्डा को निमंत्रण देता हूँ।

फेडरेशन और दल खालसा शामिल है। इन संगठनों ने भी केन्द्र सरकार से दखल की मांग की है।