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'Attaining Ganga's ecological flow will take time'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 21 MAY

Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti said on Sunday that her promise to clean the Ganga river by October 2018 will be fulfilled but ensuring the river's ecological flow can take several more years.

"I am working on a timeline. We launched the first phase of the Ganga cleaning project in July last year and will deliver in October 2018 but attaining an ecological flow will take time. It can take around seven years," she said at the Aaj Tak Editors Round-table.

Uma Bharti also noted that Ganga was not an issue in the 2014 general elections but was put in the Bharatiya Janata Party's election manifesto. "It was put in the manifesto and was assigned to me after Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about it in Benaras (Varanasi)," she said. Asked if the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh will benefit the project, she said: "Cooperation from the Akhilesh Yadav government in Uttar Pradesh was certainly lacking. The new Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath, will cooperate with the Centre as he understands the issue of Ganga pretty well." "He is already working very hard for it." On the National Green Tribunal's observations that not even a single drop of the river has been cleaned so far and that the public money has not been properly utilised, the minister said that she would not spend even a single

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CLEANING THE GANGA



FIVE STATES ON THE MAIN STEM OF RIVER:
Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal

Cleaning of Ganga is being carried out through:

- Treatment of municipal sewage; treatment of industrial effluent; river surface cleaning; rural sanitation; afforestation and conserving bio-diversity
- Under Ganga Action Plan-I and GAP-II, **1,098.31 million litres per day (MLD) treatment capacity created** in three decades (1985-2015). (Centre incurred an overall expenditure of approx Rs 4,000 cr)
- **Modi government had approved Rs 20,000cr in May 2015 for five years (2015-2020)**

PROGRESS

145 projects are sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs 10,730.71cr (till March 20, 2017)

Out of these, 72 projects are sanctioned for creation of 932.84 MLD new sewage treatment plants (STPs)

Rehabilitation of 1091 MLD of existing STPs

Laying/rehabilitation of 4,031.41 km sewer network for abatement of pollution in river Ganga and Yamuna

Only 13 projects completed till March

It has created **198.13 MLD** STP capacity

45 MLD for Yamuna



(153.13 MLD) for Ganga

It laid **1,147.75 km** of sewerage network

Govt unveils steps to curb Ganga silting problem

Vishwa.Mohan
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New Delhi: Within 24 hours of Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar reiterating the state's demand for a national policy on desiltation of the Ganga, the Union water resources ministry made public the report of a high-level committee that seeks to address the problem and suggests multiple measures to ensure uninterrupted flow of the river.

Aviral Dhara or uninterrupted flow of the holy river is in fact a key component of the Centre's ambitious 'Namami Gange' (Ganga rejuvenation) programme whose progress was reviewed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday—the day Nitish Kumar too flagged the issue.

Though officials during their presentation to the PM claimed that the sewage treatment capacity in towns along the river is being enhanced substantially, figures shared by the water resources ministry with Parliament during the budget session present a poor record of progress on the ground. During the review, the PM stressed the need to further increase public awareness and participation in

the task of cleaning the Ganga—a point he underlined at Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh on the concluding day of the 'Narmada Sewa Yatra'. "The biggest strength of democracy is 'Jan Bhagidari' (people's participation)", said Modi while addressing the gathering and appealing to states to emulate MP's model of river rejuvenation. Though the PM had then not named any states, the plea was a clear message to states that have so far fallen short in carrying out the Centre's Ganga rejuvenation project.

The Bihar water resources department, meanwhile, earlier in the week organised a two-day conference in the capital on 'De-siltation in the Ganga: problems and solutions'. On the occasion, Nitish Kumar stressed the need for concrete steps to ensure uninterrupted flow of the Ganga. "Otherwise, cleanliness of the river is not possible", said the Bihar chief minister while noting that the silt in the state is not a "political issue".

The Centre promptly got back by releasing the Chitale committee for "wider consultations and action" on desiltation of Ganga which had been gathering dust for nearly

three months. The committee, which was constituted under water and river expert Madhav Chitale in July last year to prepare guidelines for desiltation of river Ganga from Bhimgauda (Uttarakhand) to Farakka (West Bengal), had submitted its report to the ministry in February.

Nitish Kumar during the conference recalled the devastating flood that the state had witnessed in the Ganga basin last year and urged the Centre to frame a sound policy on silt management. He also referred to the Chitale panel report which has accepted the problem of siltation in the river Ganga and its adverse impact.

The committee, on its part, has recommended a slew of measures which include study of reach wise sediment transport processes along with establishing annual sediment budgets to guide desilting activities, preparation of annual reports (sand registry) describing the previous desilting/dredging activity and study on sediment budget before going ahead with de-siltation in a particular stretch of the river.

It, however, recommended a cautious approach to deal with the issue.

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Maharashtra releases Koyna water to crisis-hit Karnataka

Officials say 0.5 TMC water to be discharged over a 10-day period

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The Maharashtra government on Sunday released water from the Koyna dam in Satara district to alleviate the water crisis in Karnataka. Around 0.5 TMC water will be released over a 10-day period, authorities have said.

Water level in the Kaveri river basin has plummeted due to the soaring temperature.

This is the second such discharge from the Koyna reservoir to Karnataka. Last month, 2.5 TMC water was released from the reservoir following a high-level meeting between officials of the neighbouring States.

This cumulative discharge of 3 TMC follows a direct appeal on part of Karnataka



Being neighbourly: Last month, 2.5 TMC water was released from the Koyna reservoir to Karnataka. ■ FILE PHOTO

Water Resources Minister M. B. Patil to provide relief to Belagavi, Bagalkot and Vijayapura districts. In return,

Karnataka will release water from the Almatti dam to cater to the needs of Solapur district and others parts in

Maharashtra facing water shortage.

Late last month, Maharashtra Water Resources Minister Girish Mahajan had said nine of the 12 dams in Karnataka barely had 20% of their water stock. "The available live storage in the reservoirs has touched an all-time low," Mr. Mahajan had said, adding that he had ordered the discharge from Koyna dam to bring immediate relief to farmers in Karnataka.

With a storage capacity of 105 TMC, the Koyna reservoir is one of the largest dams in the State. It houses the massive Koyna hydropower generation plant.

Three consecutive years of drought have aggravated the agrarian crisis in Karnataka, especially in the north.

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Varanasi pips Lucknow in Swachh stakes

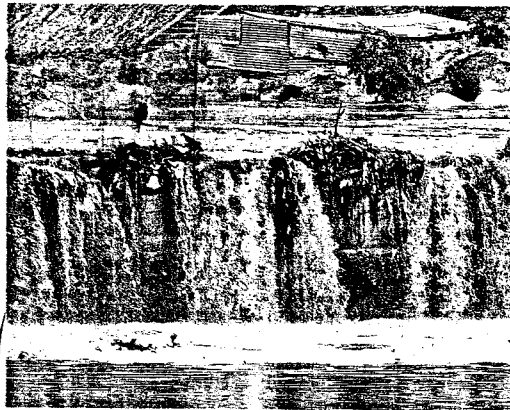
Despite a lower population density, State capital performs badly in water and air pollution: CAG

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

Varanasi is less polluted than Lucknow despite having a much higher population density, according to latest studies.

Varanasi scored favourably over Lucknow on parameters of air pollution, water pollution and municipal solid waste, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has noted in its latest report (March 31, 2016). The report was tabled in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Thursday and factored in studies conducted between 2011 and 2015 by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board and the U.P. Jal Nigam.

The audit report noticed that the water pollution in river Ganga near Varanasi and air pollution in Varanasi during the period 2011-2015 was less than that of the river Gomti in Lucknow. As per the 2011 Census, Varanasi has a population density of 2,395 persons per square km



Dirty & filthy: While the water quality of the Ganga has improved, that of the Gomti has deteriorated. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

while the figure for Lucknow is 1,816.

Quality improves

Further, while the water quality of the Ganga in Varanasi improved, that of the Gomti in Lucknow is deteriorating, the report says. The total coli form content

of the Ganga in Varanasi decreased from 48,000 mpn/100 ml in 2011 to 44,000 in 2015, the coli form content in the Gomti shot up from 1,02, 666 mpn/100 ml in 2011 to 1,36, 667 in 2015.

While the BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) level in the Ganga decreased from

6.22 mg/l to 5.09 mg/l, it increased in the Gomti from 7.9 mg/l to 12.96 mg/l. On the other hand, the dissolved oxygen (DO) level in the Ganga in Varanasi increased from 7.14 mg/l to 7.40 mg/l it decreased in the Gomti in Lucknow from 3.1 mg/l to 0.88 mg/l.

"The main reason for improvement in water quality [in Varanasi] was closure of 181 grossly polluting industries along the Ganga," the CAG notes.

Dirty air

Lucknow also fares badly in parameters of air pollution. The annual average of PM10 (particulate matter) levels in the State capital capital was 163.91 mcg/cum to 191.36 mcg/cum during 2011-15.

In comparison, the PM10 level yearly average in Varanasi was 125.55 mcg/cum to 147.90 mcg/cum. It was, however, way above the prescribed level of 60 mcg/cum.

According to the CAG, the vehicular population of Lucknow at 16.76 lakh units was more than double that of Varanasi, leading to greater levels of pollutants. The CAG also described the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board's efforts to check air pollution as "inadequate."

Lucknow also generates more municipal solid waste than Varanasi. The total waste generation in Varanasi was 928.84 MT/day against which only 600 MT /day is being treated in treatment plants.

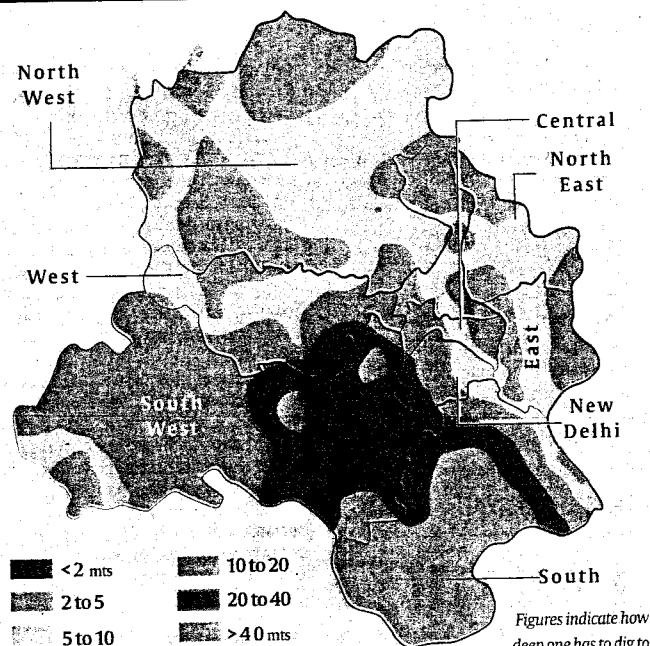
In Lucknow, the total municipal solid waste was 1670 MT/day against which a treatment plant of 1300 MT/day is still under trial. The total sewage generation of Varanasi, 404 mld, was also lower than that in Lucknow, 675 mld.

The CAG also observed that the water quality of major rivers and six water bodies in the State was below the prescribed standard.

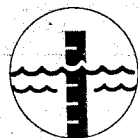
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DEPTH OF WATER TABLE ACROSS DELHI



Figures indicate how deep one has to dig to access ground water
(Source: CGWB)



DIGGING DEEP

(mbgl: metres below ground level)

Central district	2.0-10.0 mbgl
East district	2.0-10.0 mbgl
New Delhi	5.0-20.0 mbgl
Northeast	2.0-8.0 mbgl
Northwest	2.0-10.0 mbgl
South	8.0-60.0 mbgl
Southwest	2.0-15.0 mbgl
West	2.0-15.0 mbgl

2017-18 BUDGET

The AAP government set a target of ensuring piped water supply to all authorised, unauthorised colonies and JJ clusters by the end of 2017

Rs 2,107.9 CRORE allocated for water supply and cleanliness

33.41 LAKH households in Delhi as per the 2011 census, of which 27.16 lakh households get water supply through pipelines

1,200 unauthorised colonies have access to piped water supply
200 MORE will be brought under piped water supply system

GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT ACROSS DISTRICTS

Except for a small area in central and north districts, the water table is over-exploited. The average level of exploitation in Delhi is 170%

AREA	STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT	CATEGORY
Central	88.08%	Safe
East	130.27%	Over-exploited
North	34.61%	Safe
New Delhi	170.82%	Over-exploited
Northeast	129.15%	Over-exploited
Northwest	136.31%	Over-exploited
South	243.00%	Over-exploited
Southwest	214.41%	Over-exploited

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People should join bid to clean Ganga: Modi

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called upon people to take part in the task of cleaning the river Ganga. His observation came during an interaction with top government officials involved in the 'Narmada Ganga' programme.

Officials from the Prime Minister's Office, NITI Aayog, ministries of Water Resources and Drinking Water and Sanitation, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Central Pollution Control Board made presentations before the Prime Minister about the various steps being taken under the 'Narmada Ganga' programme and its progress.

"The sewage treatment capacity in towns along the river is being enhanced substantially. Considerable focus is being placed on large cities



along the Ganga main stem, including Haridwar, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Bhagalpur, Howrah and Kolkata," a PMO note said. "Intensive monitoring and inspection of grossly polluting industries has been taken up. This has led to considerable improvement in the water quality of some of the tributaries of the Ganga. Parameters such as 'dissolved oxygen' and 'biochemical oxygen demand' have been studied as part of this assessment," it said.

Modi was informed about the progress regarding sanitation works in rural areas falling along the Ganga.

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SYL: Khattar pins hope on final SC decision

SHIV RAWAL

CHANDIGARH, 19 MAY

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday said that the southern part of the state will get its right share of water after the Supreme Court decides in Haryana's favor on the contentious issue of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal.

Speaking to reporters at Meerpur (Rewari), the CM said that he will tackle the extreme shortage of water in southern Haryana and the present State Government was making all out efforts for construction of the canal after the SC had given its verdict in favour of the state.

"We have filed our petition to the Supreme Court and its result would be out soon. Districts that were facing water issues will soon come over it. The matter has been pending before the bench since November last. There are already two decrees of the court and we are anxiously waiting for these to be executed by the plaintiff (Punjab)," said Khattar.

The SC had heard the SYL case earlier in April but the final hearing was put off after the Centre informed the court that a meeting of Punjab and Haryana has been convened by it on April 20 to resolve the matter.

The court, however, made it clear that if a solution was not found, it would



proceed with the matter on the next date of hearing.

Following this, the Centre is trying for out of court settlement of this canal dispute but both Punjab and Haryana are sticking to their respective stands on the issue. Senior lawyer Ram Jethmalani, appearing for the Punjab government, had sought an adjournment which the top court refused. A bench headed by Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghosh refused the plea and asked, "What has the Supreme Court to do with the election results?"

In January, the apex court asked both the Haryana and Punjab Governments to file their replies on the issue within three weeks. The Punjab Government had earlier sought more time from the court to file a detailed reply on the same. A bench of the court headed by Justice Ghosh and Justice Amitava Roy granted the decision. The apex court had, in November last year, termed the law passed by the Punjab Government

in 2004 to terminate the SYL Canal water sharing agreement with neighbouring states as 'unconstitutional'.

Responding to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh's call for marathon discussions to resolve the SYL issue during the 28th meeting of the Northern Zonal Council (NZC) recently, both Punjab and Haryana continued to have disagreement on the course to be taken to settle the issue.

While Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh pressed for reassessment of the availability of surface waters in Punjab, Haryana CM Khattar stressed the need "honoring agreements" arrived at in the past which forms the base of SYL canal dispute.

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Avoid encroachment on floodplains, says Ganga panel report

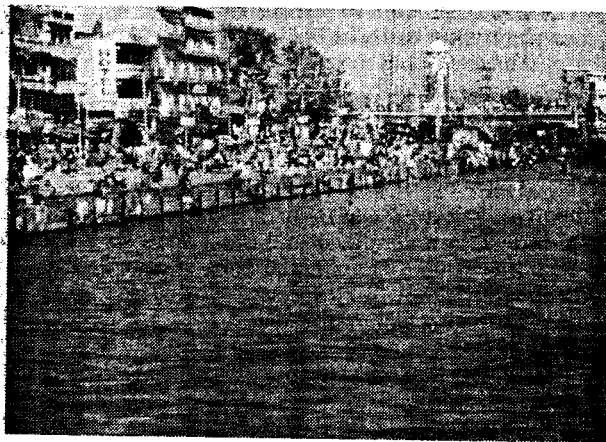
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

ST-20

The government should avoid any encroachment of Ganga floodplains and reclamation of lakes or disconnection of lakes from the river to ensure its ecological and environmental flow, the Chitale Committee has said in its report on the desiltation of Ganga.

The committee has asked the government to undertake silting of the river keeping in mind its sediment continuity. "Upstream reaches of natural constriction works, like barrages/bridges, tend to get silted leading to wandering of river. Possibly river training, cut-off developments and provision of extra waterways near the constrictions could be tried after proper assessment without impacting the morphology of river elsewhere," the report said.

It said the area freed from development in the form of oxbow lakes should be used for flood moderation rather than reclaiming it for other purposes. The report said embankments, spurs



and river training measures provided to protect the banks should not encroach upon the flood plains and delink the lakes. The report has also suggested the government modify the bridges across the Ganga that are causing large afflux to reduce the sediment deposition and erosion of banks on the upstream.

The committee on Desiltation of Ganga under Madhav Chitale, expert member, National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGBRA), was constituted in July 2016 by Ministry of Water

Resources to prepare guidelines for desiltation of the river from Bhimgauda (Uttarakhand) to Farakka (West Bengal). The report said the authorities should come up with sediment flux studies and morphological studies to confirm that there would be no significant adverse effect downstream or upstream of the river due to desilting, the report said. The committee has also recommended promoting new agricultural practices along the river flood plains that do not disturb the passage of flood.

Why Ken-Betwa link may have to wait

As recommendations for green clearance also call for fresh studies, justifications for the project remain ambiguous



IN FACT

By JAY MAZOOMDAAR

EXPRESS EDITORS INTERPRET

OF THE three gatekeepers in the Environment Ministry, the National Board For Wildlife (NBWL) and the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) recommended the Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) for clearance in 2016. Now with a favourable report tabled at a meeting of the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) last week, the stage is set for statutory green nods for the project.

And yet, the validity of such clearances, if issued at this stage, may not stand legal scrutiny. That is because the recommendations of the NBWL and the EAC, in fact, call for a fresh project report, which, in turn, will require a fresh assessment of its potential impact.

On August 23, 2016, the NBWL cleared the KBLP following an assurance that "all the power generating facilities shall be established outside the TR (Panna Tiger Reserve) and the operations shall have minimal disturbance on the TR (tiger reserve)".

While recommending the KBLP for environmental clearance on December 30, 2016, the EAC for River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects noted that "all conditions stipulated in the NBWL clearance should also be included in EC letter".

On March 30, 2017, the FAC also recommended that the proposed 78 MW power house "shall not be constructed in the forest area to be diverted". The recommendation, it said, was "based on the strong technical conviction that it will create permanent, irreversible disturbance to the tiger habitat of Panna", adding that the issue had been already discussed in the NBWL, and agreed upon by the Water Resources Ministry.

Since the present KBLP layout has the power station inside the tiger reserve, this requires chalking up a fresh project plan and getting its potential impact assessed for environmental concerns.



The present KBLP layout has the power station inside the Panna Tiger Reserve. Photo courtesy: Shekar Dattatri

Any clearance issued before this process is complete may not be legally tenable. The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) of the Supreme Court is already looking into the wildlife clearance recommended for the KBLP.

On March 30, the FAC made a set of other recommendations, which too demand a fresh project report and subsequent assessment of project viability.

For example, the FAC recommended that the project canal should be realigned to minimise the use of forestland. It also concluded that the Benefit/Cost (BC) ratio did not pay "attention to eco system services lost due to diversion of unique riverine eco system", and recommended "a detailed study and a fresh BC analyses by reputed institutions to take future action and modification if required".

Noting that trees between 10 cm and 20 cm girth were not counted while arriving at

KBLP AT A GLANCE

Forestland required	6,017 ha
In Panna national park	5,579 ha
Displaced families	1,913 (ST 648)
Trees to be felled	18-23 lakh
Project cost	Rs 9,393 crore (now estimated at over Rs 20,000 cr)
Irrigation benefit	6.35 lakh ha

an estimation of 23 lakh trees to be felled in the project area, the FAC observed that most of these trees would "move to above 20 cm

diameter class" by the time they were felled in 7-8 years. So it recommended a fresh enumeration with increased sampling intensity in the entire project area.

If these recommendations stand in the way of summary clearances for the KBLP, the project itself is on shaky ground.

To begin with, the very justification of the project is ambiguous. While the KBLP is being aggressively pushed as a solution for parched Bundelkhand, the project is meant to actually divert water from the area. According to the National Water Development Agency (NWDA), the KBLP "envisages diversion of surplus waters of Ken basin to water deficit Betwa basin".

In the upper reaches of the basin, the NWDA went on to elaborate, "an area of 1.27 lakh ha [hectares] in the Raisen and Vidisha districts of Madhya Pradesh will be benefited by utilising 659 Mm³ million cubic me-

tres} (later revised to 591 Mm³) of water annually from this link by way of substitution." Raisen and Vidisha districts belong to the Bhopal division in central Madhya Pradesh.

Along the way to Raisen and Vidisha, the link will also provide for Bundelkhand, but only 366 Mm³ (earlier 312 Mm³) to irrigate merely 0.60 lakh ha (earlier 0.47 lakh ha), according to the NWDA, in "the districts of Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur of MP and Mahoba and Jhansi of Uttar Pradesh". There will be another 1,405 Mm³ of water to irrigate an additional 3.23 lakh ha in Chhatarpur and Panna districts of Madhya Pradesh under the project.

On December 30, 2016, the EAC based its recommendation for the KBLP on the ground that the project would "provide irrigation facility to 6.35 lakh ha area of land" in Bundelkhand. As areas to be irrigated by the project in Bundelkhand's Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Panna, Mahoba and Jhansi — 0.60 ha and 3.23 lakh ha — do not add up to even 4 lakh ha, the 6.35 lakh ha claim makes up the numbers by taking into account 2.52 lakh ha already irrigated by Ken waters.

Indeed, 2.52 lakh ha in UP's Banda district already get 850 Mm³ of Ken water which, the NWDA claims, will "get stabilised to an extent of 1,600 MCM [million cubic metres] after implementation of the project". All these add up to a promise of over 4,000 Mm³ of water. Is there really so much surplus flowing down the Ken?

The 8-member committee's report tabled at the FAC meeting last week acknowledged "the misgivings in certain quarters that there isn't enough water in the Ken basin to warrant a dam of this height and that there is no point in clearing of the forest area which eventually would never ever get filled up".

Then, it went on to merely assert that "the expert members present in the meeting totally disagreed with this view and further reiterated that the detailed hydrology studies were carried out and authentic data collected before deciding the height of the dam".

These studies are not debated, apparently because Ken and Betwa are part of the international Ganga basin, and data on trans-boundary water systems are not up for public discussion. But considering a national treasure trove is at stake in Panna, a legally-mandated public scrutiny of the Ken's water status may be in order.

Indians
Ex.
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Survey: Ganga-polluting industries have shot up ^{VE 20}

AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

A NEW survey of industries along the Ganga river has revealed far greater number of industries were releasing their polluting waste into the river than was previously known.

The latest survey, carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), shows that there were in fact 1,109 grossly polluting industries along the Ganga river instead of the 764 that were known till now. The survey involved physical inspection of these industries by experts drawn not just from CPCB but also from 11 other institutes, including a few IITs, a government official said.

So far, all pollution control measures being suggested to clean the Ganga river, like restrictions on solid and liquid discharge, installation of online monitoring mechanisms, and setting up of effluent treatment plants, were being applied only on the 764 industrial units. These will now be applicable on the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviews the progress of the Namami Gange programme in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

newly identified units as well.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was informed about this new survey and the progress of Ganga cleaning programme at a review meeting on Friday. Top officials from the National Mission for Clean Ganga, CPCB and the Water Resources Ministry gave detailed presentation to the PM on the ongoing activities under the Namami Gange programme that aims to clean and rejuvenate the river.

The officials told the PM that out of the 50 projects needed to

close the present gap in sewage treatment capacity on the main stem of the river in Uttar Pradesh, 30 had already been approved and the remaining 20 would be approved in the next two months. They also said that a comprehensive action plan for 2035 would be drawn up and cleared by the end of this year.

The Prime Minister asked officers to raise the public awareness on the need to clean the river, and undertake activities that will ensure public participation in the programme.

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The Hindu
✓ Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

and documented at Bhabirath (English) & Publicity Section, CWC

पत्रिका

मोदी सरकार के तीन साल

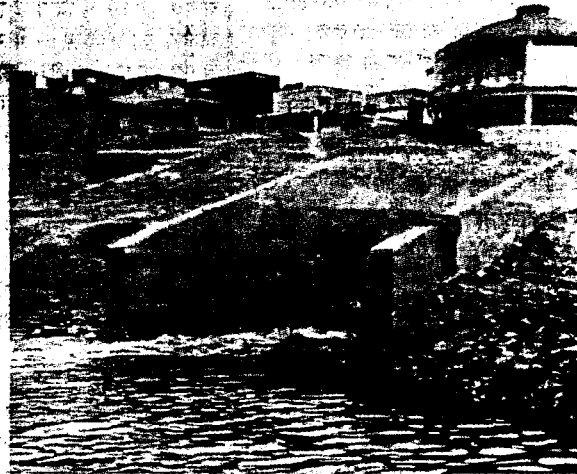
21-5-18

गंगा सफाई के लिए काशी में नहीं हुआ एक भी काम

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

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वाराणसी, जिन प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने पीएम बनने के पहले और पीएम बनने के बाद काशी ही नहीं बल्कि विदेशों तक में मां गंगा की स्वच्छता के तमाम वादे किए। यहां तक कि गंगा मंत्रालय तक बना दिया। नमामि गंगे प्रोजेक्ट को हरी झंडी दे दी। इसके लिए मोटी रकम आवंटित कर दी गई। लेकिन पीएम के संसदीय क्षेत्र में ही गंगा का बुरा हाल है। आलम यह है कि जेठ के महीने में गंगा में जगह-जगह टापू बन गए हैं। इतना तक पानी नहीं कि जलकल विभाग गंगा का पानी लिफ्ट कर लोगों को सफाई कर सके। गंगा में पानी के लिए डीएम को सिंचाई विभाग को पत्र लिखना पड़ता है। प्रदूषण का आलम यह कि मछलियां मरने लगी हैं। अब तक क्षेत्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण इकाई भी गंगा के प्रदूषित जल को लेकर खासी चिंतित है। अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रदेश सरकार को भेज भी चुकी है। लेकिन हाल है कि केंद्र हो या राज्य सरकार अथवा सरकारी मशीनरी किसी के कान पर जू नहीं रेंग रहा। मोदी सरकार के तीन साल पूरे होने की तारीख के दिन तक गंगा को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने के लिए नमामि गंगे के तहत बनारस में एक भी प्रोजेक्ट पर काम शुरू नहीं हो सका। आलम यह है कि बनारस में गंगा निर्मलीकरण के लिए अब तक सिर्फ फाइलों का गूठ ही तैयार होत रहा है। नमामि गंगे मिशन के तहत काम के खाते में सिर्फ और सिर्फ रमना में प्रस्तावित 150 करोड़ की लागत वाला 50 एमएलडी के छोटे सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट ही दर्ज है।



विचाराधीन प्रोजेक्ट

शहर की गलियों से लेकर वरुणापर में 600 किलोमीटर बांध सीवर लाइन।
गंगा पार रामनगर इलाके में सीवर लाइन व अलग ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट।
पुराने दीनापुर व भगवानपुर सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट का अपग्रेडेशन।
बनारस से सटे मिर्जापुर जिले व चुनार कस्बे में 110 किलोमीटर सीवर लाइन।
बनारस से बलिया तक 400 नालों का गंगा में गिरना रोकना।
स्टेच में गंगा किनारे के हर शहर व ग्राम में पक्के घाट।
गंगा का बेसिन 1.6 मिलियन वर्ग किलोमीटर
468.7 बिलियन मीट्रिक टन जल

साल भर में प्रवाहित होता है
प्रवाहित गंगा जल देश के कुल जल श्रोत का 25.2 फीसद
गंगा बेसिन में पड़ने वाले 5 राज्यों 45 करोड़ की आबादी
गंगा एक्शन प्लान की शुरुआत हुई 1986 में
2009 में राष्ट्रीय गंगा नदी बेसिन प्राधिकरण बना लांगीट्यूडिनल कनेक्टिविटी खत्म होने से गंगा नदी होकर भी तालाब का रूप लेती जा रही है। थोड़ा सा भी प्रदूषण होने पर उसकी पाचन क्षमता समाप्त होती जा रही है। ऐसे में गंगा में पानी छोड़ने की योजना को प्राथमिकता पर लिया जाना चाहिए।
गंगा की कुल लंबाई 2525 किमी

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Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
Indian Express
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Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
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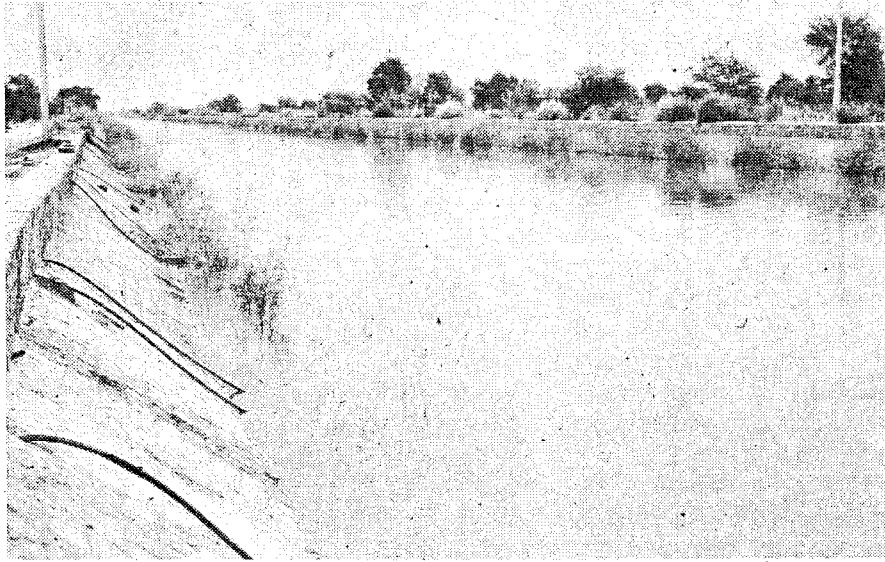
खरबां हैड से डाबला हैड तक गंगनहर फीडर में अवैध पाइप... अवैध पाइप पी रहे किसानों के हिस्से का पानी

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

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श्रीगंगानगर, गंगनहर के पानी में पंजाब में तो गोलमाल हो ही रहा है, राजस्थान के हिस्से में भी पानी क्षति कई हो रही है। अधिकारी माने या नहीं माने, इस क्षति का असर वरीयताक्रम पर पड़ रहा है। गंगनहर के पानी में क्षति का एक कारण अवैध रूप से लगी पाइपें भी हैं।

खरबां हैड से डाबला हैड तक गंगनहर फीडर में ऐसी पाइपें लगी हैं। इन पाइपों की वजह से गंगनहर फीडर के पानी में हो रही क्षति का आकलन आज तक नहीं हुआ। किसान संगठनों ने भी इनके खिलाफ कभी आवाज नहीं उठाई। जल संसाधन विभाग इन पाइपों को अवैध तो मानता है। लेकिन इन्हें हटाने की कार्रवाई आज तक नहीं की। गंगनहर के खरबां हैड से डाबला हैड तक 200 से अधिक पाइपें अवैध रूप से लगी हुई हैं। सिंचाई एवं ड्रेनेज एक्ट में बिना अनुमति के नहर में पाइप लगाकर पानी लेना चोरी की श्रेणी में आता है और ऐसा कृत्य करने वाले के खिलाफ जल संसाधन विभाग की ओर से संबंधित थाने में पानी चोरी का मामला दर्ज करवाने के साथ पाइपों को जब्त करने की कार्रवाई की जा सकती है। गंगनहर फीडर में



श्रीगंगानगर जिले में बह रही गंगनहर में पाइप लगाकर की जा रही पानी चोरी।

जितनी संख्या में अवैध पाइपें लगी हैं, उससे तो यही लगता है कि विभाग के बेलदार से लेकर उच्चाधिकारी तक नहर का निरीक्षण करते समय इन पाइपों को देखते जरूर हैं। लेकिन फिर इस ओर से आंख मूंद लेते हैं। नहर से पेयजल के लिए पानी लेने की मनाही नहीं, बशर्ते कि कोई बाल्टी के जरिए मटका भरे। पाइप के जरिए नहर से पानी उठाना तो गैर कानूनी माना जाएगा, भले ही उसका उपयोग

सिंचाई के लिए नहीं हो रहा।

मंजूरी मुश्किल

नहर में पाइप लगाकर पानी उठाने की मंजूरी लेना आसान नहीं। गंगनहर क्षेत्र में गन्ना पाइपों और बाग के पानी के पाइपों की मंजूरी लेने में जो गोलमाल हुआ है उसके चलते अब और किसी पाइप की मंजूरी लेना टेढ़ी खीर हो गया है। पाइप की मंजूरी सरकार के स्तर पर संबंधित विभाग का मंत्री देता है

और मंत्री किसी एक को पेयजल के लिए गंगनहर फीडर में पाइप डालने की मंजूरी दे दे तो फिर गंगनहर प्रणाली की सभी नहरों में पाइपें ही पाइपें नजर आएंगी। मतलब साफ है कि खरबां हैड से डाबला हैड तक गंगनहर फीडर में जो भी पाइपें लगी हैं, वे अवैध हैं और उनसे उठाए जा रहे पानी का उपयोग अगर सिंचाई में हो रहा है तो यह दूसरे किसानों के हितों पर डाका ही कहा जाएगा।

पहले हुई कार्रवाई : जल संसाधन विभाग के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि ऐसी पाइपों को हटाने का दुस्साहस कई बार कनिष्ठ एवं सहायक अभियंताओं ने किया है। उस दौरान झगड़े भी हुए। सहायक अभियंताओं ने पाइप लगाने वाले लोगों के खिलाफ पानी चोरी के मामले दर्ज करवाए तो नेता उनकी पैरवी को आगे आ गए। ऐसी स्थिति में पुलिस भी राजनीतिक दबाव में काम करती है और वह पानी चोरी के मामले में अपने हिसाब से जांच कर एफआर लगवा देती है। विभाग को एफआर के खिलाफ प्रोटेस्ट करने का मौका ही नहीं मिलता क्योंकि एफआर से संबंधित नोटिस उस अभियंता तक पहुंचता ही नहीं, जिसने मामला दर्ज कराया था।

पाइपों की जांच होगी

गंगनहर फीडर में इतनी बड़ी संख्या में पाइपें लगी हैं तो सहायक अभियंता से इसकी जांच करवाएंगे। पाइप के जरिए नहर से पानी लेने के लिए कोई अधिकृत नहीं। जांच के बाद सभी अवैध पाइपों को हटवा दिया जाएगा।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 20/5/17 in the

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The Times of India (N.D.)
Indian Express
Tribune
Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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

मोदी नमामि गंगे की धीमी गति पर चिंतित

12-20-5-17

समीक्षा बैठक

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने शुक्रवार को समीक्षा बैठक में नमामि गंगे कार्यक्रम की धीमी गति और जनभागीता की कमी पर चिंता जताई।

उन्होंने जल संसाधन समेत सभी संबंधित मंत्रालयों और विभागों को तेजी से काम करने का निर्देश दिया। बैठक में

यूपी-उत्तराखंड में भाजपा सरकार के बाद पहली बैठक

उत्तर प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड में भाजपा की सरकारें बनने के बाद यह पहली समीक्षा बैठक थी। केंद्र सरकार के मंत्रालय अब राज्यों से सहयोग न मिलने का बहाना भी नहीं कर सकते हैं। कानपुर के चमड़ा उद्योग को लेकर राज्य सरकार ने सरखी भी दिखाई थी। उत्तराखंड सरकार भी पूरा सहयोग करने की बात कह चुकी है।

प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय, नीति आयोग, जल संसाधन मंत्रालय, पेयजल और स्वच्छता मंत्रालय, राष्ट्रीय गंगा स्वच्छता मिशन और केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के अधिकारी मौजूद रहे। अधिकारियों ने गंगा की निर्मलता के पहलुओं को लेकर

शुरू किए कार्यक्रमों पर ज्यादा जोर दिया। हरिद्वार, कानपुर, इलाहाबाद, वाराणसी, पटना, भागलपुर, हावड़ा और कोलकाता जैसे प्रमुख शहरों पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। बताया कि प्रदूषण फैलाने वाले उद्योगों की गहन निगरानी की जा रही है।

Hindustan Times,
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
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Hindustan (Hindi)

✓ Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
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M.P.Chronicle
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1916 में मालवीय जी द्वारा छेड़े गए आंदोलन को दोहराना होगा गंगा को लोगों का साथ चाहिए

Piyal Bhattacharjee



अमिताशु पाठक

पिछले दिनों केंद्र की महत्वाकांक्षी परियोजना 'नमामि गंगे' की समीक्षा बैठक में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने गंगा नदी को स्वच्छ बनाने के अभियान में जन भागीदारी बढ़ाने पर जोर दिया। इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं कि आम जनता को साथ लिए बगैर केवल प्रशासनिक मशीनरी के बूते यह कार्य संपन्न नहीं हो सकता। यह बात हमारे महापुरुष शुरू से कहते आए हैं। गंगा को अविरल और निर्मल बनाए रखने के व्यापक प्रयत्न पहले भी हुए हैं, जिन्हें ध्यान में रखकर ही आज गंगा सफाई के कार्यक्रम को आगे बढ़ाया जा सकता है। गंगा के लिए की गई विभिन्न पहलकदमियों में वर्ष 1916 का जन अभियान सबसे उल्लेखनीय है। इस वर्ष महामना मदन मोहन मालवीय जी के नेतृत्व में गंगा की अविरलता की रक्षा के लिए एक जनांदोलन चलाया गया, जिसने ब्रिटिश सरकार को अपना फैसला बदलने के लिए मजबूर कर दिया। उस समय अंग्रेज सरकार ने गंगा के उद्गम स्थल गंगोत्री से ठीक नीचे भीमगौड़ा (हरिद्वार) में पहाड़ों पर ही गंगा की धारा को बांधने की योजना बनाई थी, जिसका प्रबल विरोध हुआ।



अमल विरल जलधार हार हीरक सी सोभति...

खेती में उपयोग किए जाने वाले करीब दस लाख टन उर्वरक और तीन हजार टन कीटनाशक बरसाती पानी में घुलकर गंगा में मिल जाते हैं

गंगा से जुड़ा इतिहास का यह अध्याय अत्यंत प्रेरणास्पद है। क्या आज इस तरह की कोशिशें नहीं हो सकती? दुखद बात यह है कि आज मालवीय जी जैसा कोई व्यक्तित्व नहीं है, जो जनता को एक सूत्र में पिरो सके। समस्या यह है कि आम आदमी में गंगा को लेकर कोई चेतना नहीं है। उसे साफ गंगा तो चाहिए पर इसके लिए वह थोड़ा भी कष्ट उठाने को तैयार नहीं है। सरकारें बाते तो बड़ी-बड़ी करती हैं, पर इसके लिए कई कठोर कदम उठाने की जरूरत है, जिन्हें वे उठाना नहीं चाहती। क्योंकि इससे एक तबका उनसे नाराज हो सकता है, या फिर राजस्व की हानि हो सकती है।

गंगा सफाई योजनाओं की विफलता का नतीजा यह है कि इस पवित्र नदी की गणना विश्व की सबसे प्रदूषित नदियों में होने लगी है। आलम यह है कि खेती में उपयोग किए जाने वाले करीब दस लाख टन उर्वरक और तीन हजार टन कीटनाशक बरसाती पानी में घुलकर गंगा में मिल जाते हैं। अनेक कपड़ा मिलों, डिस्टलरियों, चमड़ा कारखानों, बूचड़खानों, अस्पतालों और हजारों फैक्टरियों का कचरा गंगा में फेंका जाता है। विश्व बैंक की एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक प्रदूषण की वजह से गंगा नदी में ऑक्सीजन की मात्रा बहुत कम हो गई है। सोबर

के पानी और औद्योगिक कचरे ने क्रोमियम और मरकरी जैसे घातक रसायनों की मात्रा बढ़ा दी है। इसके अलावा ई-कोलाई बैक्टीरिया पाया गया है, जिसमें जहरीला जीन है। नदी के जल में भारी धातुओं की मात्रा 0.05 पीपीएम से अधिक नहीं होनी चाहिए, जबकि गंगा में यह 0.091 पीपीएम के खतरनाक स्तर तक पहुंच चुकी है।

गंगा के लिए गठित विशेषज्ञ दल ने इसकी धारा पर प्रस्तावित 24 परियोजनाओं पर और हाईकोर्ट ने छह जल विद्युत परियोजनाओं पर सवाल उठाए हैं। मगर अब तक इस मामले में कोई कार्रवाई न होना गंगाप्रेमियों के लिए गंभीर चिंता का विषय बना है। गंगा संबंधी नए कानून के लिए महामना मालवीय के पौत्र न्यायमूर्ति गिरिधर मालवीय की अध्यक्षता में गठित समिति गंगा प्रदूषण रोकने के लिए विभिन्न कानूनी पहलुओं पर विचार कर कानून का प्रारूप बनाने के अंतिम चरण में है।

गंगा प्रदूषण रोकने के लिए दंडात्मक प्रावधान समय की आवश्यकता है। इसके साथ ही सभी योजनाओं की जन-निगरानी (पब्लिक ऑडिट) भी आवश्यक है। तीन चरणों के गंगा ऐक्शन प्लान 1985-86 से नमामि गंगे-2016 तक लगभग 40 हजार करोड़ रुपये बहाकर भी सरकारी प्रयासों से गंगा की अविरलता तथा निर्मलता का लक्ष्य नहीं प्राप्त हो सका है। 1916 में जनांदोलन और सहभागिता का जैसा वातावरण महामना मालवीय के नेतृत्व में बना, गंगा के लिए आज वैसे ही राष्ट्रव्यापी जनांदोलन की जरूरत है। दुनिया के अनेक देशों में नदियां जनता की पहलकदमी पर ही साफ हुई हैं। जब वे ऐसा कर सकते हैं तो हम क्यों नहीं कर सकते?

मालवीय जी ने इस मसले पर जनता को एकजुट किया, हालांकि गंगा पर जागरूकता फैलाने का कार्य वह पहले से ही कर रहे थे। गंगा महासभा की स्थापना उन्होंने 1905 में ही हरिद्वार में की थी। बहरहाल, ब्रिटिश सरकार ने गंगा के सवाल पर उभरे व्यापक जन असंतोष को देखते हुए 18 और 19 दिसंबर, 1916 को दो दिवसीय सम्मेलन आयोजित किया। इस सम्मेलन में लेफ्टिनेंट गवर्नर सर मेस्टन खुद उपस्थित हुए थे। जयपुर, बीकानेर, काशी (बनारस राज्य), अलवर, कुवेसर, सुरौली, दरभंगा और कासिमपुर जैसी बड़ी रियासतों के साथ ही छोटी रियासतों के राजा-महाराजा भी पूरे लाव-लशकर के साथ इसमें भारी सर्दों के बावजूद शामिल हुए। देश के तत्कालीन जल एवं सिंचाई विशेषज्ञ और अनेक अधिकारी भी उपस्थित थे। दो दिन के लंबे विचार-विमर्श के बाद मालवीय जी की अगुआई में गंगा प्रेमियों और अंग्रेज सरकार के बीच समझौता संपन्न हुआ। इसके तहत तय हुआ कि कोई गेट या बांध नहीं बनेगा। गंगा की अविरल धारा को कोई छेड़छाड़ नहीं की जाएगी और 1000 क्यूसेक जल का प्रवाह हर हाल में बनाए रखा जाएगा।

सम्मेलन के अंत में लाला सुखबीर सिंह ने धन्यवाद देते हुए गंगा के प्रश्न का तर्कसंगत हल ढूँढ़ने के लिए लेफ्टिनेंट गवर्नर और अधिकारियों से कहा कि 'जब जनता को मां गंगा की अविरल धारा उसके घाटों पर प्रवाहित मिलेगी, तभी उसके मन को संतुष्टि मिलेगी।'