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S. P. Sharma  
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Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

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For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,  
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# 'Goa ready to share Mahadayi water'

Goa and Karnataka are locked in a two-decade-old dispute over the river as Karnataka is planning to build a dam on it

SNS & PTI

PANAJI, 21 DECEMBER

**T**he BJP today sought to score over the ruling Congress by seeking to work out an agreement with its party ruled Goa government on the nearly two decade old Mahadayi river water dispute.

Karnataka BJP chief B S Yeddyurappa and other leaders met Parrikar in the presence of party president Amit Shah in Delhi over the Mahadayi river water sharing issue yesterday.

In a letter written to Yeddyurappa today, Parrikar said Goa will not oppose giving water to Karnataka for its drinking needs.

"The same needs, however, is to be discussed bilaterally as suggested by the Hon-ourable Tribunal (Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal)," Parrikar said in the letter, copies of which were distributed at his Press conference here.

Goa and Karnataka are locked in a two-decade-old dispute over the river as Karnataka is planning to build a dam on it. The river originates in Karnataka before flowing into Goa where it is called Mandovi.

Yeddyurappa, the former Karnataka chief minister, had also written a letter to Parrikar yesterday over the utilisation of 7.56 TMC water from the Mahadayi for drinking purposes for the drought-prone north Karnataka. Parrikar, in his letter to Yeddyurappa, said though the issue of drinking water is one of the matters pending before the Tribunal, "In principle, the state of Goa would not oppose the reasonable and justified quantum of water meant to be

utilised for drinking". The BJP had tom-tommed its intention to make a big announcement at its poll eve Parivaratan yatra, held today at Hubballi. The party is determined to wrest Karnataka from the ruling Congress, which explains why the central leadership of the BJP also met yesterday to see how best to ease poll bound Karnataka's problem with Goa on the Mahadayi dispute.

## CM dubs BJP effort as 'political gimmick'

PTI

BENGALURU, 21 DECEMBER

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah today dubbed the BJP's efforts to resolve the Mahadayi river water sharing issue with neighbouring Goa as a "political gimmick" ahead of assembly elections in the state early next year. Questioning as to how BJP state President B S Yed-

dyurappa can make an announcement on the matter, he said either Goa chief minister has to communicate to the state government any decision taken by them or they will have to submit an affidavit informing the tribunal, which is seized of the issue.

"Who is Yeddyurappa to make the announcement ... this is just a political gimmick" keeping in mind the assembly elections next year.

Stating that he welcomes any attempt to resolve the issue, Siddaramaiah said he was still ready to participate if PM calls a meeting of chief ministers of all three riparian states - Maharashtra being the other - to resolve the issue.

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ka's problem with Goa on the Mahadayi dispute

"The government of Goa understands that access to the drinking water is a basic human need....on humanitarian ground, the Government of Goa is willing to consider the request to work out an amicable settlement strictly restricted to drinking water only to the drought-prone areas," it said. The discussion shall be without prejudice to the rights and contentions before the Tribunal, Parrikar's letter said.

Parrikar said "how much water Karnataka would receive would be worked out through the talks". The CM also said that "Goa does not trust the Congress chief minister Siddaramaiah of Karnataka, hence the letter was sent to Yeddyurappa".

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## Maha Assembly: Opp fear diversion of water to Gujarat

PTI  
NAGPUR, 21 DECEMBER

The Congress and the NCP today expressed an apprehension in the Maharashtra Assembly that the BJP-led state government may divert more water to neighbouring Gujarat from the proposed Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada projects.

However, state water resources minister Girish Mahajan denied the charge.

Stating that the BJP could form government in Maharashtra in 2014 due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, NCP MLA Ajit Pawar said: "We do not want to see Modi influencing the project and taking more water to Gujarat from Maharashtra. The National Water Development Authority is preparing a detailed plan of the project."

The Damanganga-Pinjal project proposes to divert the surplus water of the Bhugad and Khargihill reservoirs in the Damanganga basin to Mumbai, via the Pinjal dam on the Pinjal river in the Vaitarna basin.

Bhugad village is located in Nasik district of Maharashtra near the border of Valsad district of Gujarat.

The project is expected to provide 909 million cubic metres of water to Mumbai for the city's domestic and industrial requirements.

Daman Ganga river flows through Maharashtra and Gujarat, as well as the Union Territories of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Leader of the Opposition and Congress MLA Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil said the state government should protect the interest of the people of Maharashtra as far as the river-linking projects are concerned.

"Godavari command area



AJIT PAWAR  
NCP MLA

We do not want to see Modi influencing the project and taking more water to

Gujarat from Maharashtra. The National Water Development Authority is preparing a detailed plan of the project

is known as a scarcity region. With river linking projects such as the Daman Ganga-Pinjal and the Par-Tapi-Narmada, the state government should protect the interest of our people as well as the state," Vikhe Patil said.

The Par Tapi Narmada Link proposes to transfer water from the water surplus regions of Western Ghats to the water deficit regions of Saurashtra and Kutch. The link project includes seven reservoirs proposed in north Maharashtra and south Gujarat.

The water from the seven proposed reservoirs would be taken through a canal, which would save Sardar Sarovar water. That water will be used to extend irrigation in Saurashtra and Kutch region.

"The state government should not give lame excuses such as an inability to lift water to level as high as 600 meters. Maharashtra has already implemented lift irrigation schemes like Tembhuri, Mhaisai in Sangli district. It is possible to lift water from Gujarat to Maharashtra," Vikhe Patil said.

Allaying the concerns raised by the Opposition leaders, water resources minister Girish Mahajan said "not a single extra drop" of water will be given to Gujarat.

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■ Pollutants flowing into the Ganga, Varanasi. In February, the NGT had rapped the State for 'wasting public money' in the name of the river cleaning project

RAJESH KUMAR/HT

## The CAG rap on Ganga's pollution may be futile

To clean the Ganga, the State must start with rejuvenating and cleaning the tributaries that feed the mighty river

KUMKUM  
DASGUPTA

A few years ago, I was in Varanasi for a short visit with a set of friends who swear by the place. After "soaking up the city", as a friend loves to put it dramatically, we decided to do a touristic thing: A boat ride along the Ganga. As we slowly moved from one ghāt to another — stinking refuse of the city floating past us and children swimming next to them, nonchalantly — another boat with three Japanese tourists and their guide went past ours. Soon enough, the tourists took out their fancy pocket cameras and started clicking furiously: Not the sunset, not the ghats, but the filth in the river and the two open cremations on the riverbank. The guide was undaunted by all this: He continued to regale them with stories of what the Ganga means to Indians and so on, but I think it was all lost on them: the tourists were more moved by the present condition of the river than its historicity.

It's really surprising that a country that views the Ganga as a some kind of a religious entity, has failed so spectacularly to keep it clean. There is no point blaming successive governments only; citizens are equally to blame. There has been no dearth of plans and funding to clean up the river.

But now it seems we have a new (strange)

problem at hand: the State has even lost the capacity to plan and spend the money meant to rid the river of pollutants. In a report, the Comptroller and Auditor General has said The National Mission for Clean Ganga "could not utilise any amount out of the Clean Ganga Fund", which meant that the entire amount of Rs198.14 crore (March 31, 2017) was lying in banks. Slamming the Centre for inaction, the CAG said the mission "could not finalise the long-term action plans even after more than six-and-a-half years of signing of agreement with the consortium of Indian Institutes of Technology". In February, the National Green Tribunal had rapped State agencies for "only wasting public money" in the name of the cleaning project.

To clean the river, spending on Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) won't be enough; the State has to ensure that the flow of the river is intact. According to the Namami Gange Mission, rejuvenation implies restoring the "wholesomeness" of the river and that includes three things: Aviral dhara (continuous flow), nirmal dhara (unpolluted flow) and ecological and geological integrity. Yet the State it seems is overly focused on 'nirmal dhara' but not 'aviral dhara', forgetting that nirmal dhara is only a subset of aviral dhara, not the other way round. To ensure that there is aviral dhara, the focus cannot be only on the main river but also on the smaller rivers, which feed it. The main problem with the STPs was not only that they could not cope with increasing pressure, but also bad maintenance. Is it surprising then that we are back to square one on the Ganga cleaning mission?

■ kumkum.dasgupta@hindustantimes

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# नदियों को प्रदूषण मुक्त किया जाए

नई दिल्ली, 22 दिसंबर 17

लोकसभा में गुरुवार को बांग्लादेश के नदियों को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने के लिए सहायक नदियों को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने की जरूरत का मुद्दा उठा। इस दौरान सदस्यों ने जलमल शोधन संयंत्रों की क्षमता में इजाफा करने का सुझाव दिया।

सदन में शून्यकाल के दौरान, बाजपुरा के शोधन संयंत्रों ने यह मामला उठाया। यह कहा कि गंगा और यमुना नदियों की स्वच्छ बनाने के लिए सबसे जरूरी है कि

## बिहार के बालू माफिया का मुद्दा उठाया गया

राजद में निर्वासित लोकसभा सदस्य राजेश रंजन ने बिहार में कथित बालू माफिया के मुद्दे को गुरुवार को लोकसभा में उठाया। मामले में उन्होंने केंद्र से इस संबंध में हस्तक्षेप की मांग की। राजेश ने शून्यकाल में इस विषय को उठाते हुए कहा कि राज्य में बालू सज्जों पर कथित रूप से चाटिया बरसाई जा रही है और उसका बेजोड़ गिरावट हो रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि बालू माफिया के खिलाफ कार्रवाई होनी चाहिए।

इनकी सहायक नदियों को पहले प्रदूषण मुक्त किया जाए। उन्होंने कहा कि उनके निर्वाचन क्षेत्र सहारनपुर में यमुना नदी की सहायक नदियां घमोला और हिंडन में प्रदूषण का स्तर चरम सीमा पर पहुंच चुका है और इन नदियों के प्रदूषण के

कारण लाखों की आबादी प्रभावित हो रही है और वे बीमारियों का शिकार हो रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि इन सहायक नदियों में प्रदूषण के स्तर को कम करने के लिए जलमल शोधन संयंत्रों की क्षमता को बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए।

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पंजाब केसरी

## गंगा, यमुना की सहायक नदियों को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने की मांग

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा) : लोकसभा में गंगा को निर्मल करने के लिए नमामि गंगे परियोजना के तहत गंगा-यमुना की सहायक नदियों को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने की जरूरत का मुद्दा उठा और सदस्यों ने इस उद्देश्य के लिये जलमल शोधन संयंत्रों की क्षमता में इजाफा करने का सुझाव दिया गया। सदन में शून्यकाल के दौरान, भाजपा के राघव लखनपाल ने यह मामला उठाते हुए कहा कि गंगा और यमुना नदी को स्वच्छ बनाने के लिए सबसे जरूरी है कि इनकी सहायक नदियों को पहले प्रदूषण मुक्त किया जाए। उन्होंने कहा कि उनके निर्वाचन क्षेत्र सहारनपुर में यमुना नदी की सहायक नदियों धमोला और हिंडन में प्रदूषण का स्तर चरम सीमा पर पहुंच चुका है और इन नदियों के प्रदूषण के कारण लाखों की आबादी प्रभावित हो रही है और वे बीमारियों का शिकार हो रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि इन सहायक नदियों में प्रदूषण के स्तर को कम करने के लिए जलमल शोधन संयंत्रों की क्षमता का बढ़ाया



जाना चाहिए। साकपा के ए संपत ने पिछले दिनों तमिलनाडु, केरल और लक्षद्वीप में आए ओखी तूफान से लाखों मछुआरों के प्रभावित होने का मसला उठाया और कहा कि केरल के लिए आपदा कोष से दी जाने वाली राशि तुरंत मुहैया कराई जाए। उन्होंने कहा कि 14वें वित्त आयोग की सिफारिशों के अनुसार, आपदा कोष से केरल को 204 करोड़ रुपये मिलने चाहिए। हालांकि उन्होंने प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी की प्रभावित मछुआरों से

मुलाकात की सराहना की। भाजपा के नारण भाई कछारिया ने दून हादसों को रोकने के लिए आईआईटी कानपुर द्वारा विकसित दुर्घटनारोधी उपकरणों को लगाने की परियोजना पर आगे काम किए जाने की मांग की। उन्होंने कहा कि इस परियोजना को गृह मंत्रालय पहले ही हरी झंडी दिखा चुका है। इसी पार्टी के लखनपाल साहू ने छत्तीसगढ़ की संविधान की आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल कर उसे संरक्षण का दर्जा दिए जाने की मांग की।