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Boat rides dry up at Purana Qila

Facility shut for over 100 days now; authorities unsure when it will reopen as deal with ASI expired

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

NEW DELHI: For over 100 days now Delhiites have been missing out on the popular boat ride at Purana Quila, even as the authorities say they are not sure when the facility will re-open. This popular tourist site

This popular tourist site has remained closed all winter and though the neighbouring Delhi zoo is now open to the public, after having been kept out of bounds following a bird flu scare, the club continues to wear a sorry look with boats stacked together and the water body all dried up.

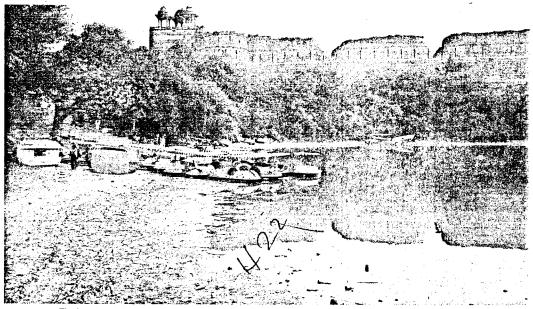
Agreement not renewed

Trouble began when the Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation (DTTDC), that was previously running the operations here, was unable to renew its agreement with the Archaeological Survey of India.

A Delhi government official said: "The ASI had referred the matter to the Ministry of Culture which has now asked the India Tourism Development Corporation to run the facility. We hope the place will soon have the public back."

Water from Yamuna

The Purana Quila lake on average attracted 2,000-4,000 visitors a day and sourced water from the



IN DEEP WATER: The boating club wears a sorry look with boats stacked together and the water body all dried up.

Yamuna and through borewell. "There has been a drop in our revenue," said a senior official.

Lower footfall

A DTTDC official said the company's five-year long MoU expired on March 31 last year.

"The ASI allowed us to run the boating club till August 10. Earlier, the agreement used to get renewed on time.

The place has missed the

annual high of footfall that we see during the annual trade fair held at Pragati Maidan nearby and New Year, when we get about 7,000 people on an average," he said.

Officials say that boating previously earned ₹ 6 lakh per month on an average and during the peak season it would go up to ₹9 lakh.

"Our monthly electricity bill to maintain the facility comes to around ₹45,000 and with 70 boats, we have assets worth ₹ 2 crore lying unused," said a DTTDC official.

Losing its charm?

Visitors coming to the place too claim that the spot has "lost its charm".

"The place is very popular with children and we come here during the summer and winter vacation and spend an entire day here. Children love to go to the Delhi Zoo and then come here for a

boat ride. This is a clean, affordable place for the middle class and with the facility closing down it has adversely affected us. The place was a good option to keep the children close to nature and also away from the malls. We urge the Delhi government or the Centre to look into the matter and ensure that the place is open to the public as soon a possible," said Surabhi, a resident of Pandara Road.

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Central team in TN to assess drought situation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A central team, comprising officials from agriculture, home and finance ministry, reached Tamil Nadu on Saturday to assess drought situation in the state. The Centre will release assistance to the state after analysing the ground report.

Besides studying the damage caused to agricultural crops, the inter-ministerial team would also take stock of the drinking water scarcity.

The state government had on January 16 requested the Centre to sanction Rs 39,565 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund towards drought relief measures.

Chief Minister O Panneerselvam later requested the PM Narendra Modi to urgently release assistance to the state when he met the latter here on Thursday.

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When haste is not necessary

Growth without environmental safety can prove counterproductive in the long run

elaying project clearances by 'repeatedly asking for different studies' has not gone down well with the minister for environment and forests, Anil Madhav Dave. Mr Dave has set out the following priorities – zero corruption, fast project clearance, no compromise on the ease of doing business, and a wariness of NGOs funded by vested foreign interests. The NDA government has not been holding back on clearing projects. It has pushed through 2,000 projects worth \$10 lakh crore since taking over. The project approval time has been reduced to 190 days from 600 during the UPA's tenure.

The minister's desire to push development is unexceptional. But some of his statements suggest that in his haste to do so, he may be compromising genuine environmental concerns. According to an expert present at the meeting, the minister wondered whether we should be bothered about cutting trees when jawans were dying at the border. He also saw no merit in putting speed breakers on highways to save animals when the CRPF jawans are getting hurt in blasts in Chhattisgarh. Clearly, the minister is mixing patriotism with environmentalism though such a link is a real stretch. There have been some disturbing changes brought about by this government in the field of environment. One is the removal of consent from the gram sabhas while prospecting for minerals in forests. The other has been to reconfigure the national board of wildlife, something which is now under scrutiny by the Supreme Court. The ministry has also allowed coal mines with a capacity of less than 16 million tonnes per year to expand without a public hearing. Another has been to ease forest norms and allow industries to come closer to national parks. These are all aimed at hastening development.

But the impact of environmental damage due to lax laws can hurt business and development in the long run. In some cases, unlike what the minister suggests, it is necessary to have several studies before it can be ascertained whether a project is viable or not. In the case of mining, projects have got held up in the past at huge cost and loss of investor confidence because the proper environmental procedures were not followed. Time and again the courts have had to step in to protect the environment and act against damaging practices. Development and environmental protection can easily go together but perhaps not at the pace that the government wants to set. It would be better to begin new projects with built-in environmental safeguards rather than make haste only to repent in leisure.

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Living in hotter world

he world has turned the page on 2016 with the worrying revelation that it was the warmest year on the instrumental record since the late 19th century, and the hottest of three record-breaking years in a row. While the rise in global average surface temperature by about 1.1º C last year over the pre-industrial era was aggravated by the El Nino phenomenon of 2015-16, the trend is a warning to all countries that they cannot afford to rely on carbon-intensive growth any longer. Explaining the scientific view, NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies points to the rise in temperature as being driven "largely by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions into the atmosphere." The warming pattern must be seen in the context of declining sea ice cover in the Arctic, compounding the loss of ice sheets in Greenland and the Antarctic. In the Arctic, which is witnessing a decline in the extent of sea ice in the lowest month at the rate of about 13% every decade, melting creates a vicious circle of more exposure of 'dark areas' to sunlight, higher melting and more dark surface absorbing heat. Such phenomena accelerate the rate of global warming, with con-sequences through climate change for coastal areas, access to water, farming and human health.

A warming globe with changes to the climate in the form of altered rainfall, drought, floods, lost biodiversity and reduced crop yields would particularly affect millions in China and India. It is heartening that Chinese President Xi Jinping asserted the importance of the Paris Agreement on climate change at the Davos meeting of the World Economic Forum, and virtually cautioned incoming U.S. President Donald Trump against reneging on it. India's own commitment to the climate accord must be strengthened with clear and unambiguous actions. This should lead to a scaling up of renewable energy and measurable decline in use of fossil fuels. Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal has promised a steady increase in solar power capacity, going beyond the target of 100 gigawatts by 2022, but such goals become more credible when there is action in individual States to make the average citizen a partner in the effort. States should be ranked on their policies that help unlock investment in the sector, including domestic rooftop installations, and the weak service infrastructure for solar should be upgraded without delay. India's water stress is heightened by extreme weather episodes, and this requires an enhanced policy response to protect farmers, livestock and vulnerable communities.

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A NEW BALANCE

Environment ministry cannot be an obstacle to development, nor merely a clearing house for projects

NTHURSDAY, ENVIRONMENT Minister Anil Madhav Dave asked non-official experts, who are part of committees constituted by his ministry, to expedite clearances of pending projects over the next three months. While the minister clarified that his directives pertain to "genuine projects", his 45minute address to the experts seemed to convey that they had become stumbling blocks for developmental initiatives. "Clear projects fast. Don't hold back development," he told them. The minister's directives might seem salutary given that the UPA government convoluted environmental clearance procedures till they became virtually meaningless. But by apparently seeking to attenuate the role of experts, Dave's directives run the risk of diluting the environmental safeguards his ministry is mandated to uphold.

Environmental clearance procedures are a prerequisite for efficient and sustainable management of natural resources. They ensure that adverse impacts of economic growth are mitigated and managed, but these procedures are not, ipso facto, against development and growth. Maintaining a balance between environment and development, nevertheless, is not an easy task. The inputs of scientists and non-official experts on the environment ministry's project appraisal committees are critical to ensure that the imperatives of economic growth and protection of natural resources are served. Independent experts help maintain the checks and balances in the country's environmental clearance procedures. Unfortunately, Dave's directives not only lend weight to the arguments that see environment and economic growth in confrontational terms. they also create the impression that the government would much rather have rubber stamps — and not independent experts — in its project appraisal committees.

Dave's emphasis on speedy clearance of projects seems to be a continuation of a disquieting trend that gained ground under his predecessor, Prakash Javadekar: The environment ministry is keen to be judged by the number of projects it clears. "Don't compromise on the ease of doing business, the key goal of the government," Dave told the independent experts on Thursday. A fast-developing country does require the environment ministry to work in tandem with agencies that further economic growth, but it would be alarming if the ministry gives up its primary function and becomes a clearing house. It's nobody's case that the environmental clearance procedures in the country are foolproof. Data on projects, for example, is either scanty or dubious. The environment ministry does require a change in direction. But it requires more careful thought and judgement than has been evident so far.

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PAKTO INDIA, WB: INFORM

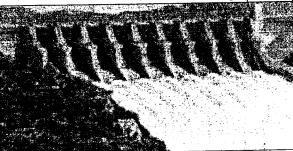
MATTER WAS DISCUSSED DURING AN INTER-MINIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Islamabad, 20 January

Pakistan today asked India and the World Bank to inform it about all the dams and hydropower projects proposed to be built by India under the Indus Waters Treaty on the western rivers, and not just the two projects under dispute currently.

The matter was discussed during an inter-ministerial meeting presided over by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar vesterday.Ministers and other representatives of the ministries of water and power, foreign affairs and law and justice, the Attorney General's office and civil and military experts attended the meeting. The meeting observed that the president of the World Bank had drawn up the lots for appointment of umpires for a court of arbitration before it had put on hold the process about two months

ago.
"This meant that the World Bank was convinced and had accepted Pakistan's



position," Attorney General Ashtar Ausaf claimed.

Pakistan said its stance was that not only the two schemes under dispute at the moment the Kishanganga and Ratle projects but technical and other details of all the upcoming projects should be shared with the World Bank and Pakistan, along with their designs and locations, so that Islamabad could examine them in a manner that they did not create problems every now and then and the treaty could function smoothly, said Ausaf. The meeting also asked a taskforce led by the attorney general to formulate a strategy for future handling of the disputed projects. Ausaf said the chief executive officer of the bank, Kristalina I Georgieva, who is second only in hierarchy to its president, would arrive on January 26 for deliberations on the subject.

He said the senior official was inducted into the World Bank group on January 2 and her visit to Pakistan would be her first trip outside Washington, which meant that the bank was attaching great importance to Islamabad's case.

At the same time, Ausaf said, it was decided that the bank must be reminded that it had a critical role to play and that it should honour its responsibilities

under the treaty. The Finance Ministry said that Pakistan viewed the treaty as a useful and time-tested mechanism for sharing water with India and that Islamabad had always abided by it.It said it was in the interest of both countries that they continue to implement the terms of the treaty. In this spirit, Pakistan would continue to fulfil its obligations under the IWT. The contrasting stances of Pakistan and India were deliberated in detail at the meeting.The treaty, signed in 1960, gives India control over the three eastern rivers of the Indus basin - the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej -- while Pakistan has the three western rivers -- the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum. The IWT also sets up a mechanism, the Permanent Indus Commission, which includes a commissioner from each country.

The current dispute revolves around the Kishenganga (330 megawatts) and Ratle (850 megawatts) hydroelectric plants.

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इण्डेंट पर किसान गठन ने उठाया सवाल

दुरुस्त नहीं करवाया तो लेंगे आंदोलन का सहारा

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

rajasthanpatrika.com

श्रीगंगानगर. जल संसाधन विभाग की ओर से गंगनहर के लिए भाखड़ा ब्यास प्रबंधन बोर्ड (बीबीएमबी) को भेजे गए इण्डेन्ट पर गंगनहर बचाओं किसान समिति के नेताओं की भृकुटि तन गई है। जल संसाधन विभाग ने जनवरी के लिए 1200 तथा फरवरी के लिए 1400 क्यूसेक पानी का इण्डेन्ट बीबीएमबी को भेजा है। समिति के नेताओं ने पानी की इस मांग को किसानों की जरूरत के हिसाब से कम बताते हुए जल संसाधन विभाग से इसे बीबीएमबी से दुरुस्त करवाए जाने की मांग की है।

गंगनहर बचाओ किसान समिति की ओर से शनिवार को होटल मून लाइट में आयोजित प्रेस कान्फ्रेंस में संयोजक रणजीत सिंह राजू ने कहा कि भाखड़ा बांध में पानी की कमी के चलते बीबीएमबी की ओर से राजस्थान के हिस्से में की गई दस प्रतिशत कटौती को जल संसाधन मंत्री गंगनहर के किसानों पर थोपना चाहते है जबकि यह कटौती इंदिरा गांधी नहर व भाखड़ा नहर के हिस्से में की गई है। गंगनहर पर इस आदेश का असर इसलिए नहीं होता कि गंगनहरं का पानी नदी में आने वाले पानी के बहाव का हिस्सा है। प्रेस कान्फ्रेंस में समिति के सुभाष सहगल, संतवीरसिंह मोहनपुरा, मंगलसिंह बसरा, चमकौर सिंह बराड़ आदि भी मौजूद थे।

गंगनहर का हिस्सा

प्रेस कान्प्रेंस में किसानों ने बताया कि सालभर में गंगनहर का शेयर 1.44 एमएएफ है। इसके अनुसार गंगनहर को साल में 7 लाख 20 हजार क्युसेक पानी मिलना चाहिए। इसमें से 3 लाख 60 हजार क्यूरोक पानी 20 सितम्बर से 20 मई तक तथा इतना ही पानी 21 मई से 19 सितम्बर तक मिलना तय है। समिति के सदस्यों ने बताया कि21 मई से 20 सितम्बर तक 1 लाख क्युसेक पानी कम मिला है। इसे 20 सितम्बर से 20 मई तक मिलने वाले पानी में जोड़ दिया जाए तो गंगनहर के किसानों को रोजाना 1850 क्यूसेक पानी मिलना चाहिए. लेकिन ऐसा हो नहीं रहा। जल संसाधन विभाग ने पिछले माह 1400 क्यूसेक तथा जनवरी के लिए 1200 और फरवरी के लिए 1400 क्यूरोक का इण्डेन्ट भेजकर भेदभाव की पुष्टि कर दी है।

सरकार गंभीर नहीं

समिति के सदस्यों ने आरोप लगाया कि राज्य सरकार पंजाब में हैडवर्क्स एवं नहर की मरम्मत के प्रति गंभीर नहीं है। हेडवर्क्स की मरम्मत एवं फिरोजपुर फीडर की मरम्मत एवं सफाई के लिए राज्य सरकार ने 39 करोड़ रुपए देना तय किया था। लेकिन आज तक राशि जारी नहीं की। अब सरकार 29 करोड़ रुपए जारी करने की बात कह रही है, जिससे केवल हेडवर्क्स की मरम्मत हो पाएगी। फिरोजपुर फीडर के लिए 10 करोड़ रुपए जारी नहीं करने से गंगनहर के किसानों को आगे भी सिंचाई पानी की कमी का समना करना पड़ेगा। समिति सदस्यों का कहना था कि राज्य सरकार को पंजाब में 45 आरडी नीचे और उपर के कट को सही करने के लिए 7.60 लाख रुपए खर्च करने हैं। लेकिन आज तक इसकी कोई तैयारी नहीं। इससे पिछली बार की तरह इस बार भी बंदी व्यर्थ जाएगी।

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एनीकटों के गेट में फंसा जल संसाधन विभाग

नेता प्रतिपक्ष की शिकायत पर **का**र्रवाई के आदेश **मु**ख्य सचिव ने प्रमुख अभियंता से मांगी रिपोर्ट

रायपुर @ पत्रिका. जल संसाधन विभाग एनीकटों के गेट में लग रहे ऑटोमेटिक गेट में फंस गया है। नेता प्रतिपक्ष टीएस सिंहदेव की शिकायत के बाद मुख्य सचिव विवेक ढांड ने मामले में कार्रवाई का आदेश दिया है। उन्होंने जल संसाधन विभाग के प्रमुख अभियंता को पत्र लिखकर कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट भी तलब किया है। दरअसल विधानसभा के शीतकालीन सत्र में एनिकटों और बैराजों में लगाए जा रहे ऑटोमेटिक गेट की खरीदी प्रक्रिया को लेकर सवाल हुए थे। इसपर चर्चा तो नहीं हुई लेकिन विभाग की ओर से एक जवाब आया था। पिछली 4 जनवरी को नेता प्रतिपक्ष टीएस सिंहदेव ने मुख्य सचिव को एक पत्र लिखकर जल संसाधन विभाग के जवाब में मिली खामियों

की जानकारी दी थी। उनका कहना था कि राज्य के जल संसाधन विभाग में इस तरह के गेट की जो दरें बताई गई हैं, वे मध्य प्रदेश जल संसाधन विभाग में प्रचलित दरों की दोगुनी है। यही नहीं विभाग ने भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो के मापदंड का हवाला दिया है वह चयन की प्रक्रिया बता रहा है, वह तकनीकी मापदंड नहीं है। सिंहदेव ने ऑटोमेटिक गेट की पूरी खरीदी प्रक्रिया पर पुनर्विचार करने की मांग की थी।

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इस्लामाबाद, (भाषा): पाकिस्तान की दो संसदीय समितियों ने एक दुर्लभ संयुक्त प्रस्ताव पारित कर भारत से कहा है कि वह जम्मू-कश्मीर में चल रही 'किशनगंगा और रातले पनिबज्ली' परियोजनाओं का काम तुरंत स्थगित करे तथा जल-विवाद को सुलझाने के लिए मध्यस्थता अदालत के गठन पर राजी हो। विदेश तथा जल एवं बिजली मामलों पर नेशनल् असेम्बली की समितियों ने कंल इस्लामाबाद में संयुक्त बैठक कर भारत के साथ चल रहे जल विवाद पर चर्चा की। 🕏

बैठक में आम सहमति से स्वीकार किए गए संयुक्त प्रस्ताव में भारत से परियोजना का काम

पाक का कड़ा रुख

💌 दो संसदीय समितियों ने संयुक्त प्रस्ताव पारित करके मध्यस्थता अदालत गुदित करने पर राजी 🤃 होने को कहा

उस्ताव में विश्व बैंक से अनुरोध किया गया है कि भारत की 'किशनगंगा और रातले पनबिजली' परियोजनाओं के निर्माण कार्य के खिलाफ पाकिस्तान के रुख की दीनों पड़ोसी देशों के बीच कुछ सुनवाई के लिए एक मध्यस्थता तनाव पैदा हो गया है और अदालत का गठन किया जाएं।

में भारत से परियोजना का काम जल संधि' (आईडब्ल्यूटी) के किया है कि वह भारत को निर्माण स्थिगित करने को कहा गया है। तहत, यह विश्व बैंक की जिम्मेदारी करने से रोके।

है कि वह बिना देरी किए अपनी भूमिका निभाएं। समितियों में शामिल सरकार और विपक्षी दलों के सदस्यों द्वारा आम सहमति से स्वीकार किए गए संयुक्त प्रस्ताव में कहा गया है कि जब तक विश्व बैंक मध्यस्थता अदालत का गठन नहीं करती, उसे मामले के सुलझने तक भारत को 'रैटल बांध' पर निर्माण कार्य स्थगित करने के लिए कहना चाहिए। इन पश्चिमी नदियों पर भारत द्वारा पनिवजली परियोजनाओं के निर्माण कार्य से पाकिस्तान 'सिंधु जल संधि' के इसमें कहा गया है कि सिंधु समन्वयक विश्व बैंक से अनुरोध

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91 प्रमुख जलाशयों के जलस्तर

नई दिल्ली, (भाषी): देशके 91 प्रमुख जलाशयों अनुसार, उत्तरी क्षेत्र में हिमाचल प्रदेश, पंजाब के जलस्तर में 19 जनवरी की समाप्त सप्ताह तथा राजस्थान में 18.01 बीसीएम की कुल के दौरान दो प्रतिशत की कमी दर्ज की गई है। 19 जनवरी 2017 को समाप्त सप्ताह के दौरान इन जलाशयों में 82.915 अरब घन मीटर जल भें कुल उपलब्ध संग्रहण 7.28 बीसीएम है, जो का संग्रहण आंका गया जो यह इन जलाशयों की कुल संग्रहण क्षमता का 53 प्रतिशत है। इन 91 जलाशयों की कुल संग्रहण क्षमता 157.799 बीसीएम है, जो समग, रूप से देश की अनुमानित कुल जल संग्रहण क्षमता 253.388 बीसीएम का लगभग 62 प्रतिशत है। इन 91 जलाशयों में से 37 जलाशय ऐसे हैं जो 60 मेगावाट से अधिक की स्थापित क्षमता के साथ पनविजली संबंधी लाभ देते हैं।

जल संसाधन मंत्रालय की विञ्चप्ति के

संग्रहण क्षमता वाले छह जलाश्य हैं, जो केन्द्रीय जल आयोग की निगरानी में हैं। इन जलाशयों इन जलाशयों की कुल संग्रहण क्षमता का 40 प्रतिशत है।

पिछले वर्ष की इसी अवधि में इन जलाशयों की संग्रहण स्थिति 47 प्रतिशत थी। पिछले दस वर्षों का सीसत संग्रहण इसी अवधि में इन जलाशयों की कुल संग्रहण क्षमता का 49 प्रतिशत था। इस तरह पिछले वर्ष की इसी अवधि की तुलना में चालू वर्ष में संग्रहण कमतर है और यह पिछले दस वर्षों की इसी अवधि के दौरान रहे औसत संग्रहण से भी कमतर है।

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केंद्र से पूछा, भूजल स्तर बढ़ाने के लिए क्या किया

नई दिल्ली विशेष संवाददाता

कृषि भूमि के अधिग्रहण और उन पर लगातार बन रही ऊँची इमारतें, औद्योगिक क्षेत्र और अन्य प्रोजेक्टों के कारण लगातार गिर रहे भूजल के स्तर पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने गंभीर चिंता जताई है।

मुख्य न्यायाधीश जिस्टस जेएस खेहर और डीवाई चंद्रचूड़ की पीठ ने सभी राज्यों से भूजल स्तर रिचार्ज करने के लिए जारी दिशा-निर्देशों पर की गई कार्रवाई का ब्योरा मांगा है। पीठ ने केंद्र सरकार से भी कहा कि वह भी बताए कि उसने राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों को दिशा-निर्देश जारी करने के बाद उनके अमल करवाने के लिए क्या कार्रवाई की।

कोर्ट ने केंद्रीय भूजल आयोग के प्रशासक से कहा कि वह भी इस बारे में शपथपत्र कोर्ट में दें। उन्होंने कहा कि भूजलिरचार्ज करने के लिए मास्टर प्लान बनाकर दे दिया गया है और 2013 में इसकी प्रति राज्यों को दे दी गई थी। पीठ ने यह निर्देश अधिवक्ता डीके गर्ग द्वारा दायर एक जनहित याचिका पर सुनवाई करते हुए दिए।