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Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

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The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

S. J. Phule
25.04.18
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

Ar
25/4/18

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
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Hindustan Times
Statesman
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)
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and documented at Bhadrath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC

प्रजाब-25-4-18

गंगा की सफाई परियोजनाएं जल्द पूरी हों : नितिन गडकरी

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण मंत्री नितिन गडकरी ने अधिकारियों को बिहार, झारखंड, पश्चिम बंगाल में गंगा की सफाई से जुड़ी सभी मंजूर परियोजनाएं जल्द से जल्द पूरा किये जाने का निर्देश दिया है। गडकरी ने कल यहां बिहार, झारखंड और पश्चिम बंगाल में स्थित जलमल संयंत्र परियोजनाओं की समीक्षा बैठक की अध्यक्षता की। केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि बिहार, झारखंड, पश्चिम बंगाल

● बिहार, झारखंड और पश्चिम बंगाल में स्थित जलमल संयंत्र परियोजनाओं की समीक्षा बैठक

में गंगा सफाई के कार्य की समीक्षा की गई। इन राज्यों में गंगा में आने वाले दूषित जल की कितनी रोकथाम हो पाई, इस संबंध में अधिकारियों से जानकारी ली गई।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 25.04.2018 in the

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

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
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दिल्ली एनसीआर में बारिश के आसार

नई दिल्ली। मौसम बुधवार से फिर करवट ले सकता है। राजधानी में सुबह से ही बादल छाए रहेंगे। गुरुवार सुबह दिल्ली व आसपास के इलाकों में धूल भरी आंधी व बूदाबादी की संभावना है। शुक्रवार को दिल्ली व एनसीआर के कई इलाकों में बारिश हो सकती है।

मौसम वैज्ञानिक कुलदीप श्रीवास्तव ने बताया कि अधिकतम तापमान 40 डिग्री व न्यूनतम तापमान 22 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहेगा। दिल्ली में मंगलवार को अधिकतम तापमान 38.6 डिग्री रहा। यह सामान्य से एक डिग्री अधिक है। वहीं न्यूनतम तापमान 20.5 डिग्री रहा। यह सामान्य से तीन डिग्री कम है। (प्र.सं.)

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Bring back the lakes

Citizen action on rejuvenation of water bodies is gathering momentum in Bengaluru and is making a difference on the ground



CITIES AT CROSS ROADS

BY ISHER JUDGE
AHLUWALIA

AT A WATER Retreat organised by the Bangalore Sustainability Forum at the School of Ancient Wisdom in Bengaluru last week, I realised how far behind Delhi is when it comes to citizen engagement. Considering what we have done to the Yamuna and how desperately we need a citizen-driven movement to save this lifeline of our capital city, I was eager to learn what Bengalurians are doing to save their lakes.

Bengaluru's history and geography are intimately connected with its lakes. Taking advantage of the undulating terrain, a system of cascading lakes was created centuries ago to provide natural rainwater harvesting in which the *raja kaluves* or stormwater drains carry surplus water from the higher elevation lakes to the lower ones. These lakes, or tanks as they are called locally, supplied water, helped recharge groundwater and also prevented flooding.

Bengaluru has come a long way from being the Land of a Thousand Lakes. BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike) puts the number of currently "live" lakes (that is, those still surviving on the map and with potential for reclamation) at 190. On the other hand, Karnataka ENVIS reports that only about 80 lakes remain, of which only 34 are actually "live". Most of the lakes and canals have disappeared through encroachment by housing complexes, bus stands, malls, stadiums, and what have you. Many that remain are choked with untreated sewage and effluents, while construction debris and garbage is also dumped there routinely. The most polluted is the Bellandur lake which, because of its location, is at the receiving end of all the sewage and chemical effluents that flow downstream.

The good news is how citizen action on lake rejuvenation is gathering momentum in Bengaluru and is making a difference on the ground. While BBMP is restoring the lakes, the task is far from accomplished. Sustainable solutions will be found only

when sewage and effluents are treated and not just dumped into the lakes, but in the interim, citizen groups are working with great sensitivity with BBMP in rejuvenating lakes, one at a time, while BBMP lays down pipelines for bypassing wastewater.

I narrate the story of the rejuvenation of the Kaikondrahalli lake (covering 48 acres) on Sarjapur road in southeast Bengaluru to show the power of urban collective action, the importance of human leadership, and the effectiveness of partnering with government. I spent a couple of hours at the lake in the company of Priya Ramasubban, the force behind the transformation of Kaikondrahalli, and philanthropist Rohini Nilekani, who has been trying to focus the attention of our country on the water challenges that are knocking at our door. What I saw was breathtaking and inspiring.

In 2008, when Priya moved to live close to Kaikondrahalli lake, she read in the newspapers about a proposed plan of BBMP to rejuvenate the lake. She gathered a group of local residents and approached the BBMP with a request to be involved in the process of rejuvenation. They learnt that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) had already been prepared and a budget had been sanctioned. They were lucky that the Chief Engineer of the Lakes Division of BBMP, B V Satish, believed in working with local residents and was willing to share the DPR with them.

The first shock was when they examined the DPR with the help of some technical experts. The plan was essentially based on an engineering approach which would include a garden with exotic gladioli, gazebos, and a boating jetty. It would also fence off the lake from an adjacent school for low-income children. Priya's group lost no time in reaching out to a number of technical experts including Harini Nagendra, an accomplished ecologist, to advise them on an alternative plan which would focus on ecology rather than only aesthetics and be inclusive.

The group came to the conclusion that it was much more important to preserve the original watershed area of the lake and plant indigenous trees in the surrounding area. They also felt that the plan should not only provide access to the lake for the children from the adjacent school, which had its play area on the lake land but also washroom facilities which they earlier did not have. A separate pond should be built into the plan for religious practices during festivals. In redesigning the DPR, the group reached out to Vasudevan Kadalayil, an architect, who gave his services pro bono. A

horticulturist, an ornithologist, and many more joined in.

After four years, once the infrastructure work was completed and water started flowing in, the citizens' group formed themselves into a Trust — MAPSAS (Mahadevapura Environment Protection and Development Trust) and assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the lake at the invitation of BBMP. There are other groups such as Friends of Lakes that have also come up to advise residents around different lakes on how to participate in the rejuvenation exercise and act as watchdogs.

During my visit to Kaikondrahalli lake, a charming surprise was to come my way as I saw a discrete plaque next to a jackfruit tree. The tree was planted in 2012 by Nobel Laureate Elinor Ostrom, lauding the collective action to develop these urban commons. I saw lots of medicinal trees along the way. I was told that once local fishing communities get licenses from the fishing department to fish, they come to the lake for fishing and do voluntary de-weeding in return. Cowherds are encouraged to take away grass for cattle-feed. The trustees of MAPSAS, mostly women, are planning to train disadvantaged women in the skills using reeds and weeds from the foreshore and wetlands to make handicraft products so that they can supplement their income.

The MAPSAS motto of public land for public good has found resonance in the local community. The larger support network is provided by WhatsApp groups, Facebook pages and regular meetings. The *kere habbas* (lake festivals) have now become a regular feature and they keep everyone enthused and active with respect to the lakes as their common resource, and therefore in need of their watchful eye and loving participation.

As Priya put it, not all battles have been won and there will be challenges galore. The real estate interests, the politicians, the bureaucrats in the government departments with overlapping jurisdictions, and the differences within the community — all need to be reconciled and resolved to nurture and enjoy the public commons that have been created. Ostrom, who won her Nobel Prize for work on the enormous potential of community action to resolve difficult problems, is now no more. But she would be happy to see what has been achieved at the lake where she planted the jackfruit tree.

The writer is chairperson, ICRIER, Delhi, and former chairperson of the high-powered expert committee on urban infrastructure and services

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Hindu Star Times - 25.7.2018

Five sins snuffing the life of

BADLY HIT Narmada is affected by too much love and too much neglect. Thoughtless intervention has made matters worse, along with a smattering of bad luck

Gayatri Jayaraman

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A state government's report card for the first year of conserving the Narmada is due next month. Former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijay Singh has just ended his much-publicised parikrama in Narsingpur. Chief minister Shivrāj Chouhan says he has at least started a conversation about conservation, while nothing was done during Digvijay's time. But experts say that the environmental degradation of the Narmada had, in fact, begun over two decades ago.

In 1998, Govind Kumar Mishra, now retired vice-chancellor of the Nipaji Deshmukh University, Jabalpur, and author of several books on the Narmada, took a jal yatra, travelling on water along with friends, including another academic and fellow author SK Tiwari.

In the infamous Shulpanjhad (jungle), Bhils looted their belongings, and fed them a meal before sending them onward, stark naked - a loss the pilgrims attributed to surrender to the river. In others, they struggled to swim in dead water, the infected corpses of sadhus floating by. Outside cities, they found residue from industries, drains, sewage chugging directly into the river.

Today, Mishra continues his lifelong ritual of heading to the ghat at Jabalpur every morning. He says he has only watched the river deteriorate. "Swachh Bharat is meaningless if the ghats are swept but sewage from the cities flows into the river," he says. A number of thoughtless drives, mixed with well-intentioned ones, have harmed the ecological balance of the Narmada. Here are five key factors that expert blame for the decline of the Narmada.

THOUGHTLESS PLANTATION

The MP government often talks about the plantation of two crore saplings on a single day in July 2017. However, combatting deforestation and widespread eucalyptus plantations is not a one-time effort. The world over, eucalyptus plantations are dubbed 'ecological terrorists'. The forest department reportedly argued before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that eucalyptus was an indigenous tree from Kerala. It was actually introduced to one of the Mysore royal palace gardens in the Nandi Hills in 1790. Its global push was a result of a thoughtless World Bank policy. Ramchandra Guha, in his book *Environmentalism: A Global History*, documents how in the 1970s, Thailand, pressed for foreign exchange, wiped out natural forests and planted acres of eucalyptus to provide chips to paper mills.

In a 2000 publication, *India Alleviating Poverty Through Forest Development* in 2000, researchers in West Bengal reflected on its expensive mistake: "It is only now, almost 15 years after the approval of the last project... that one can look back and recognise those shortcomings..." it noted. Between 1960 and 1980,

several states clear-cut natural forests and planted eucalyptus in their place. Uttar Pradesh was the worst hit, according to experts. "In the 1990s, Indian scientists were extolling the virtues of eucalyptus as a control system to intercept sewage water. In 2003, NABARD was funding Indian farmers to plant eucalyptus in 'wastelands'. Seedlings were distributed for free.

Eighty per cent of India's paper industry has depended on eucalyptus pulp, and paper mills opened along the river's course. Environmentalist Shardul Bajkar explains: "The tree has been a favourite of the social forestry department because it grows quickly and to a great height. Besides, it also became a source of good revenue. Indigenous trees shed leaves in summer to stop losing water. The eucalyptus, a perennial, works like a fountain, pulling water out of the soil and throwing it into the air." It also fixes nitrogen in the soil to the extent that it alters the chemistry, such that local species are unable to take root after the eucalyptus is uprooted.

Last year, the government passed a proposal to replace every eucalyptus with five fruit trees along each embankment at a budget of ₹534.20 crore. Groups have been formed for the protection of the saplings. But the threat to saplings is not all external.

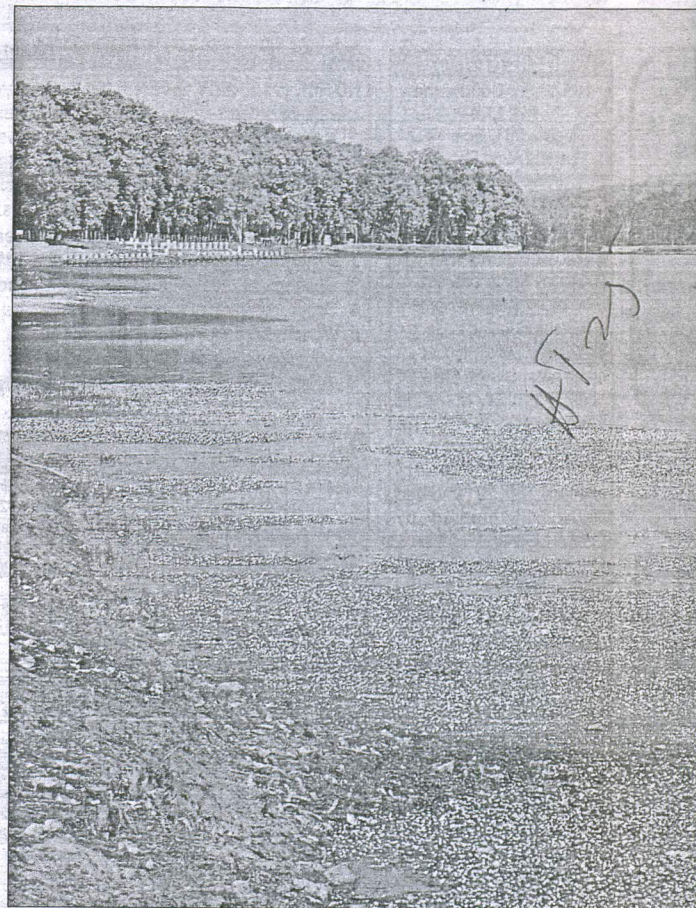
SAND MINING

During the Namami Devi Narmade Sewa Yatra in May 2017, chief minister Chouhan announced the formation of an expert panel to submit a report while he executed a "complete mining ban".

In September 2017, the NGT passed an order on three applications pending before it to halt sand mining in Narsingpur, Jabalpur and Gadawara. It cited previous 2014 orders that had brought in the 2016 Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines. Along with the amendments in the state laws, the River Sand Mining Policy 2015, these were made fully operational from October 1, 2017.

The NGT also asked for geo-tagging, e-challans, geo-fencing, marked transportation routes, and a mining ban at the base of the river. Compliance was to be shown by October 3, 2017. The ban came into effect but it was lifted a month later, when on November 13, 2017, the CM tabled a new sand mining and sale policy, allowing the use of machines for mining in rivers other than the Narmada. Of 1,266 sand mines, 445 were auctioned. The new policy was implemented in the remaining 821 mines. In 2016-17, the state earned ₹240 crore in sand mining royalty.

Several experts said they weren't invited to any meeting. But three professors at IIT Kharagpur, with whom the government has signed an MoU, attended at least three meetings and conducted field surveys. Among them, Prof Abhijit Mukherjee, a geologist, says he doesn't doubt the sincerity of the state government. "It is even involving various scien-



■ Experts are of the opinion that environmental degradation of the Narmada had, i

tific agencies like the GSI to do a thorough understanding of the river course," Mukherjee said.

Mining goes on even in the chief minister's home constituency of Sehore. The former revenue minister, the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Kamal Patel, filed an application with the NGT in October 2017 alleging mining in Harda, Hoshangabad, Dewas and Sehore districts. He submitted evidence of the use of Pokelin machines, allegedly by a consortium of 'illegal miners and government officials' through private companies. "The chief minister tries, but we can only pass laws, those who have to execute them are hand in glove," he said. Lal Singh Arya, Harda district-in-charge, has filed complaints, as did former Indian forest service officer, Azad Singh Dabas, regarding mining in Harda and Hoshangabad.

In December 2017, the Gujarat high court observed that illegal mining was ravaging rivers. Government bodies such as State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority, however, shrug off jurisdiction. Sanjeev Sachdev, its chief scientific officer, said: "We do not have authority to monitor mining, we just use the mining department's reports as required." The NGT has had to issue orders for integrated action between government departments several times.

UNTREATED SEWAGE DUMPING

Sweeping the ghats is a cosmetic clean-up, sewage going directly into the river is a much bigger polluter. Nearly 50,000 dairy animals inhabit the banks of

tributaries Parrihat, Hiren and Gaur near Jabalpur. The Gaur is jocularly referred to as the 'gobar' (cow dung) river here. The NGT directed the creator dairy hubs. These effluents also create nitrogen-enriched water that spawns Azolla weeds, or 'choee', which gives off stench. The Panchayat and Rural Development Department aimed to make the Narmada basin open defecation free 2018. However, the NGT observed that citizens opted for personal septic tanks and soak pits, which are effectively "turning all the natural drainage network of the township into a sewer network".

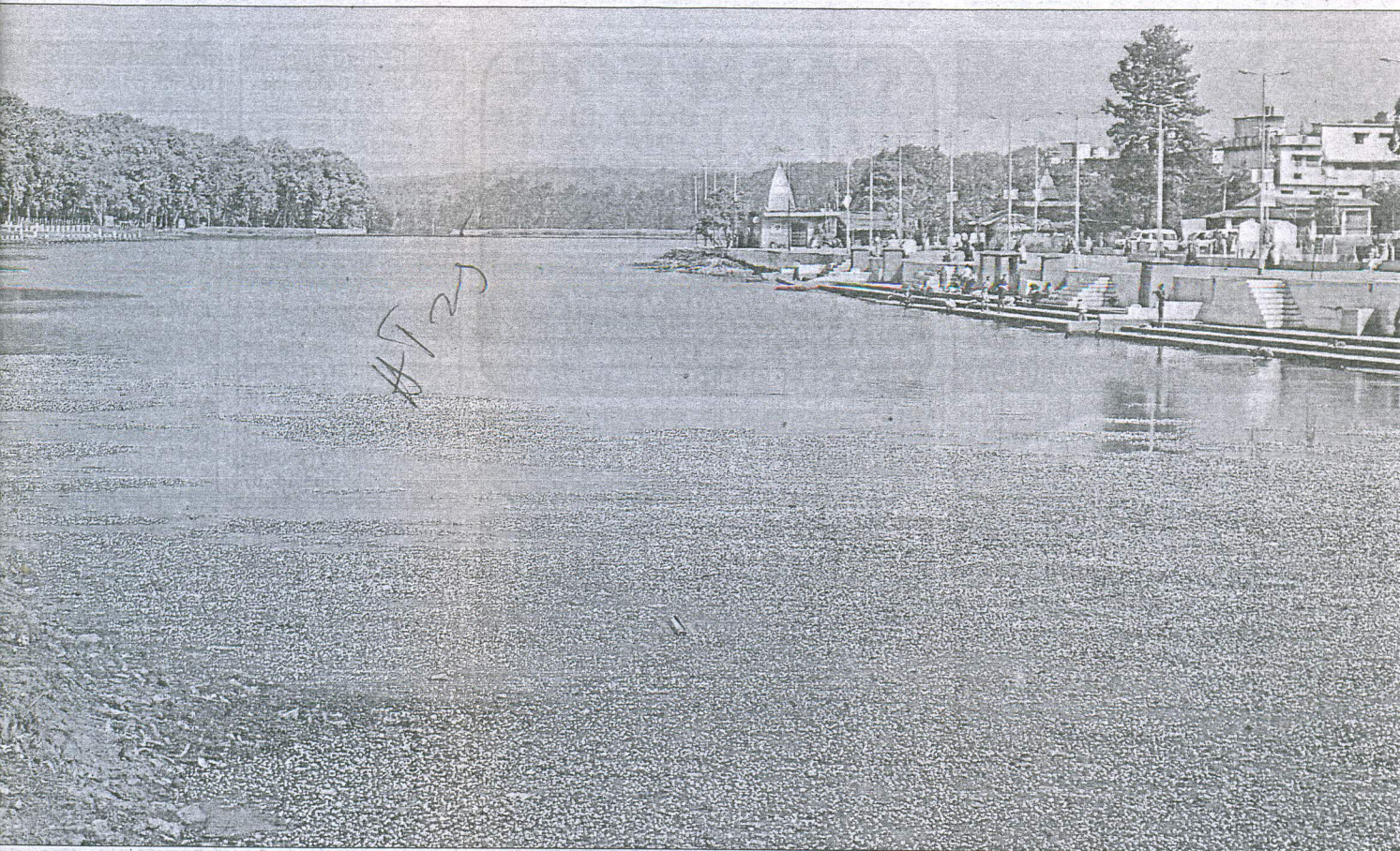
INDUSTRIAL WASTE DUMPING

The NGT identified 54 urban/township that pollute the river. Small industries such as the textiles at Maheshwar, dump toxic dyes. At Hoshangabad, paper mills dump untreated effluents. Industrial zones, especially in Gujarat, offer the river up not only as a water source, but ready drain. Brick kilns, already banned by the Environment (Protection) Act 1986, lead to erosion. The NGT asks industries to use treated water, but find that Sewage Treatment Plants have not been actioned. An estimate of ₹585 crores for the creation of 14 sustainability transformation plans (STPs) was submitted, two have been actioned.

RITUAL DUMPING

Other discharges into the river are plastic, prayer items, offerings and corpses. Despite a plastic bag ban announced year ago, the MPPCB said it retrieved 1 tonnes of plastic bags in the last year.

g the life out of Narmada



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HT PHOTO

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RITUAL DUMPING

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In 2016, Prof Mukesh Katakwar, of the
Department of Chemistry, Govt PG Col-
lege, Pipariya, Hoshangabad, observed
skin problems related to the high pH
value of the water, due to caustic soda and
soda ash from dyeing.

He found odour pollution and respira-
tory problems. Gastric ulcers were found
because of impact of river pollution on
crops and fish.

"The high level of im-migration to the
area is putting considerable pressure on
poor sanitation infrastructure and may
be increasing the risk of contracting com-
municable diseases... yellow fever, chol-
era, dengue, malaria and other epidemic
disease are also available in this area...."
he noted.

Without intervention, and with cli-
mate change, the fear of the Narmada
dying within a decade is not irrational -
mainly because the river is 60% rain-fed,
says AK Gosain, professor of civil engi-
neering at IIT Delhi.

"The availability of water depends
entirely on the demand imposed on it, and
the demand is more than the availability.
There is not only mineral and sand min-
ing, but ground-water mining. Point pol-
lution at source comes from sewage pour-
ing into rivers but at non-point source, it
also comes from fertilisers and pesticides.
Unscientific planting of trees also won't
solve the problem," he says.

Of the 28 million acre feet (MAF)
pegged by the tribunal for water sharing
with Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Maharash-
tra, 18.25 MAF goes to MP, 9 MAF to Guj-
arat, 0.25 MAF to Maharashtra, and 0.5
MAF to Rajasthan. This year, the sharing

for anything beyond drinking water has
been stopped effective March 15.

Madhya Pradesh CM Chouhan may
have announced schemes that reach out
to 1100 villages and 2.5 lakh people, collab-
orative work with 2000 NGOs, 700 Nar-
mada Committees and the Narmada Seva
Mission, but he's losing the optics battle.
Narottam Mishra, state minister for
water resources, public relations and
parliamentary affairs, puts it down to
impatience.

"The government has addressed a
majority of the concerns of NGT in the
Narmada Seva Mission action plan docu-
ment. In fact, we have been very proac-
tive. We don't have any magic wand. Do
you see this level of action and planning in
any other state with respect to conserva-
tion of rivers and environment?" he
asked. It has been a year since Narmada
Seva Mission was launched. "We have
been exploiting rivers for generations,
the treatment will take time," he said.

On April 8, Chouhan conducted a mon-
itoring meeting and issued directives.
The government says it has been proac-
tive on banning polythene, tree felling,
establishment of toilets, crematoriums,
cracking down on illegal mining and pol-
luting industries, and sewage treatment
plants at a cost of ₹1,500 crore.

But, for the Narmada, it may be too lit-
tle, too late.