

News item/letter/article/editorial published on March-25.3.2017 in the

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Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.F.Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Durfiya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

India can take just 1 drought: Govt

1/3 of The Country Depends On Polluted Water Or Has No Access To Resource

Chethan.Kumar
timesgroup.com

Luru: India is "water d" and drifting inex- towards what is tech- termed a "water scar- ndition". A majority of ntry's populace is eit- rced to use contaminat- er, or is deprived of ac- the resource entirely. the country prepares arsh summer—the In- feteorological Depart- (IMD) forecasts tempe- es will be 1°C above nor- n most parts—the latest mation from the Union r resources ministry re- that India can sustain one drought season, gi- ts live storage.

he numbers make for eading. A country is ified "water stressed" if capita availability is less

TIMES OF INSUFFICIENCY

> Per capita live storage: 209 m ³	> % groundwater available: 50%
> Per capita water availability: 1,545 m ³	> Districts affected by groundwater contamination: 320 out of 640
> Water stressed condition: 1,700 m ³ *	> Deaths due to groundwater contamination: Over 18,000 in seven years
> Water scarcity condition: Less than 1,000 m ³ *	> Surface water pollution levels: 40% coliform; 60% faecal coliform
> Prediction for 2025: 1,341 m ³ *	> Summer prediction: 1° C above normal temperature in all parts barring the North East
> Prediction for 2050: 1,140 m ³ *	
> % population dependent on groundwater: 68 crore / 56%	
> % population receiving piped water: 48.6 crore / 40.1%	

*Per capita availability

(Source: Ministry of Water Resources (Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation), Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, IMD)

than 1,700 cubic metres. In India, the reading against this parameter is 1,545 cubic met-

res. Factoring multiple vari- ables, including population, the ministry predicts availabi-

lity could fall to 1,341 cubic metres in 2025, and even plummet to 1,140 cubic metres in 2050, which is perilously close to a "water scarcity condition" (per capita availability of less than 1,000 cubic metres).

While the prevailing bleak situation can be attributed to successive droughts, the condition is largely a consequence of overexploitation and pollution over the years. With 68 crore people—56% of the country's population—relying on groundwater, the government has also been encouraging borewells.

Another set of documents from the ministry of drinking water and sanitation throw another disturbing fact into stark relief: water in 320 of the 640 districts in the country is contaminated. Among the pollutants are fluoride, arsenic, other chemicals and hea-

vy metals such as chromium and lead. Contaminated water affects more than 6 lakh habitations directly, while many more are adversely affected indirectly. According to the Union health ministry, five diseases that result from water contamination have claimed more than 18,000 lives in the past seven years.

S S Hegde, senior scientist with the water resources ministry, told TOI, "There are two kinds of pollution: geogenic (caused by nature) and anthropogenic (resulting from human activity). Chemicals such as fluoride and arsenic are largely geogenic. But, there is a water problem, and it's largely because of overexploitation. As far as pollution is concerned, some of these chemicals cannot be treated with available technologies."

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The river as being

The judgment enhancing the status of rivers is hardly game-changing



SHIBANI GHOSH

In a recent judgment, the Uttarakhand High Court declared the rivers Yamuna and Ganga as legal or juridical persons, enjoying all the rights, duties and liabilities of a living person. Indian courts have granted this status to temple deities, religious books, corporations, etc., but it is for the first time that an element of the natural environment has been declared a legal person. And it is not just the two rivers – all their tributaries, streams, every natural water body flowing continuously or intermittently off these rivers will enjoy this status.

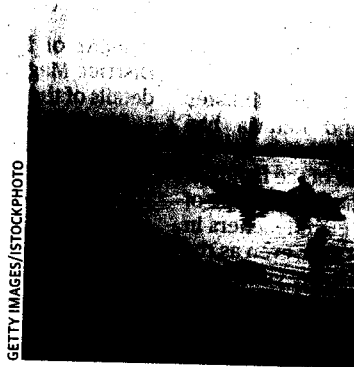
The dismal ecological state of these rivers, as well as the variety of factors responsible, is well documented. And so are the crores of rupees spent by government agencies to (unsuccessfully) attempt a clean-up. Could this judgment be a game-changer?

Before answering that question, let us take a step back. What was this case about? The two issues before the High Court were: removal

of illegal constructions on the banks of a canal in Dehradun, and the division of water resources between Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand (which had not been resolved since the formation of the new State). In December 2016, the High Court directed the removal of the constructions. It also directed the constitution of the Ganga Management Board (a statutory body under the U.P. Reorganisation Act 2000), and prohibited mining of the Ganga riverbed and its highest flood plain area. On the issue of resource division, the court directed the Central government to notify the settlement reached by the two States in a time-bound manner.

Three months later, when the matter came up before the court once again, the encroachments were still there, the settlement between the States was yet to take place, and the board had not been constituted. The court issued directions for time-bound action. But separately, it took three logical leaps.

First, for the court, an 'extraordinary situation' had been created which required extraordinary measures for the protection of the Ganga and the Yamuna. From what was a clear breach of statutory duties under the U.P. Reorganisation Act, and the regrettable, though



scarcely unprecedented, inability of the State to remove encroachments, the case became one concerning the protection of the health and well-being of the two rivers. The issue may have been elaborated upon in court, but the judgment, unfortunately, does not tell us more.

Second, the court recorded how the rivers provide 'physical and spiritual sustenance' to half the Indian population. It found the constitution of the board to be necessary for various purposes including irrigation, water supply, and power generation. And then, curiously, found it expedient to give legal status to the rivers as living persons.

Third, the court decides to exercise the *parens patriae* jurisdiction to declare the rivers and all their

tributaries, etc. as living persons. *Parens patriae*, literally 'parent of the country', is an inherent power of the sovereign, and not the courts, to provide protection to persons unable to take care of themselves. It was (in)famously deployed by the Indian government in the Bhopal Gas tragedy case to represent the claims of the victims. The Director, Namami Gange, the Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand and the Advocate General of Uttarakhand have been appointed as the persons *in loco parentis* – persons who will act 'in the place of parents' for the two rivers. These officers are now expected to act on behalf of the rivers for their protection and conservation. They are 'bound to uphold the status' of the rivers and also to promote their health and well-being.

The right to sue

The judgment comes close on the heels of New Zealand granting legal status to the Whanganui river. But unlike the comprehensive Bill passed by the New Zealand Parliament recognising rights and settling claims, the High Court's declaration is terse, and raises several questions. In the eyes of the law, living persons such as companies, associations, deities etc., have rights and duties – primary among these being the right to sue and the capacity

to be sued. Which implies that from now on, the rivers can sue persons acting against their interests. But what for? Do they have a right not to be a receptacle for tons of sewage? Can they demand minimum ecological flows? A right not to be dammed, dredged, or diverted? If yes, who will sue whom? Can the Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand now sue a Municipal Corporation in Uttar Pradesh or Bihar for the discharge of effluents downstream? Or will the Director, Namami Gange, sue the Central government for approving another hydro-power project on the river? Do other riparian State governments now have less of a role in the protection of the rivers as they are not the identified 'custodians'? And what are rivers' duties?

The judgment does not take away existing statutory and constitutional rights and duties of citizens and government agencies to counter the pollution and degradation of these rivers. What it does do is to identify three officers who will be the first-line defenders for the rivers. Perhaps they will not be able to pass the (institutional) buck any more. But is that game-changing? Sadly, no.

Shibani Ghosh is an environmental lawyer

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SYL ROCKS PUNJAB, HARYANA AGAIN

KHATTAR TO LEAD ALL-PARTY DELEGATION TO MEET RAJNATH ON THE ISSUE AMID OPPOSITION CRITICISM

SHIV RAWAL

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Chandigarh, 24 March

Political parties in Haryana and Punjab are once again raising the pitch over the contentious Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal water issue.

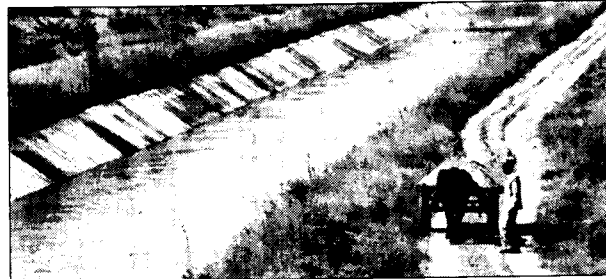
While immediately after taking oath as Punjab chief minister on 19 March, Captain Amarinder Singh made it clear that the state has no extra water to share with others, Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced he would lead an all-party delegation to meet Union home minister Raj-

nath Singh on 24 March.

Leaders of all political parties from Haryana have been invited by the government for a preliminary discussion at Delhi before proceeding to meet Rajnath Singh.

However, Khattar's decision of leading an all-party delegation has kicked off a controversy with parties in Opposition alleging that the BJP government in the state led by Khattar has failed to fix an appointment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi while the Punjab CM succeeded in meeting Modi on Wednesday.

Taking a dig at the Khat-



tar government, Haryana's leading Opposition party the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) on Thursday said that after failing to get time from the Prime Minister, the Khattar government has now decided to meet the Union home minister.

Leader of Opposition and senior INLD leader Abhay Singh Chautala said, "From the very beginning INLD is fighting for Haryana's legitimate share from the SYL while the ruling BJP always says the matter is subjudice. If it is

subjudice, then why is the state government fixing a meeting with the Centre."

Chautala further stated that his party leaders would go to meet Rajnath Singh but not as a part of the delegation. If nothing happens even after meeting Rajnath Singh, the INLD would go for indefinite agitation at Jantar-Mantar from 6 April until the digging of the SYL canal is accomplished, he added.

On the other hand, finance minister Captain Abhimanyu refuted INLD's claims, saying that Union Home Ministry has a vital role to play in accomplish-

ing digging of the canal.

Recently, after joining Captain Amarinder led Congress government in Punjab, as irrigation and power minister Rana Gurjit Singh has also said that their government would save the state's water.

Earlier, a political storm was witnessed in both the states when the Supreme Court on 10 November last year, held as unconstitutional the 2004 Punjab Termination of Agreements Act passed by the Punjab State Legislative Assembly to terminate the SYL canal water sharing agreement with Haryana.

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OUT OF MY MIND



MEGHNAD DESAI

THE Uttarakhand High Court has declared the rivers Ganga and Yamuna to have a human persona. The Honourable Court hopes thereby that the rivers will be better treated, not polluted, and kept clean. I very much doubt it.

The Ganga and Yamuna are deep parts of India's heritage. Many people treat them not as human beings but as divine. They

Pity the rivers

1 B 26

bathe in them, wash their clothes, float dead bodies, cremate their loved ones on the banks and consign their ashes to the waters of these rivers. No doubt industrial and household waste is also lovingly dumped into their waters. If we treat them so badly when they are divine, what hope is there that we will do any better calling them human?

But there is also a larger issue. The Honourable Court no doubt relies on the copious list of rights that humans have as citizens of India. But can anyone hold their hand on heart and say that these rights are enjoyed by the overwhelming majority of the citizens?

Forget the utopian ideals of right to live

or to a sustainable livelihood. Even a basic right such as security of life and limbs is difficult for women to enjoy from the pre-birth life in a womb till old age and widowhood. There are dowries and domestic violence, insecurity of going about in large cities for young women, who face the danger of rape. Men may do better but not by much, unless they are in the top echelons of income and caste. Most people have a precarious living whatever the per capita income and the growth rate.

There is an excessive faith among Indians in the power of the judiciary and the efficiency of litigation. Yet many of the things people go to court for are curable if they behave better themselves. If our atti-

tude to rivers was really one of respect and not veneration, we may protect them at least from our own pollution. If we were careful of public property, we would not dump household waste wherever and whenever. No law can make us avoid public defecation, spitting, throwing plastic mugs and cardboard cartons on the street. Yes the laws are there but who takes the blindest notice. It is a question of our own public morality, not of legal obligation.

Of course there are laws against polluting these rivers. There have been schemes to clean them up. Remember Rajiv Gandhi's pledge to clean up the Ganga, and now of course we have the Prime Minister's promise and Uma Bharti in charge. Yet somehow

one cannot expect that the Ganga will ever be clean. I bet there is more likelihood of an ISRO moon landing or a Ram Mandir than of a clean Ganga.

The citizens' faith in the judiciary is matched by the confidence the judges have in their own power. Not only do they interpret the Constitution but even instruct us to be patriotic by getting up for the national anthem in cinema halls.

The most revealing contrast is, however, with the reform of cricket. There was no general injunction that cricketers be treated as human beings. There was a detailed insistence on restructuring the BCCI. If only rivers were loved as much as cricket, we could have them clean in no time.

New Delhi

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ONCE MAGNIFICENT

The Ganga is a persona alright,
but a haggard ecological entity

IN THE SECOND half of the 19th century, European jute factories in Calcutta had installed septic latrine tanks for their workforce. These tanks discharged the effluents directly into the river Hooghly. For Calcutta's Hindu population, this was not done. How could they allow the Hooghly, a distributary of the Ganga, to be defiled? Some colonial officials understood this sentiment. But many could not. What puzzled them even more was that a section of the Hindus seemed to be arguing that the disposal of sewage into the Hooghly was causing the river sorrow. While they could grudgingly accept the deification of the river, bestowing the water body with a persona was difficult to fathom. About 130 years later, the Uttarakhand High Court has ruled that the Ganga — along with the Yamuna — is indeed a person, and it has all the rights of a human being. But ironically, it has had to do so in order to protect the rivers from ravages, similar to the ones people in colonial India were railing against.

The Ganga, like all rivers, has a personality. Its annual rhythms are linked to the livelihoods of farmers, fishermen, boatmen, traders, as well as to the Hindu ritual calendar. Along with its tributaries, the river makes its own path, but replete with sand and sediment, it is also known to change course often and does not like being confined by banks. It goes into spate and, as atonement of sorts, leaves behind as soil nourishing silt. It has inspired myth, poetry, films, literature.

But while Ganga as cosmology and metaphor excites people, the river as an ecological entity is in distress. In their paper, 'Impact of environmental aberrations on fisheries on Ganga,' M. Sinha and M.A. Khan note that the river's basin which was largely free of human activities until the 1940s became a disposal site for agricultural, industrial and sewerage wastes after Independence. The river is still a persona, but it bears little resemblance to the river whose deification confounded colonial authorities.



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क्लोजर 20 दिन का, जोधपुर के लिए पानी मात्र 10 दिन का

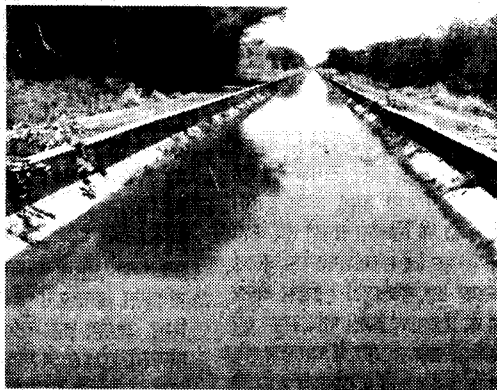
दो विभागों के
अधिकारियों के बीच
में ठनी, जोधपुर के
लिए खड़ी हो सकती
है समस्या, सरकार
को भेजी रिपोर्ट, उच्च
स्तर पर होना है
निर्णय 27-3-17

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
rajasthanpatrika.com

बासनी/जोधपुर. तमाम
विरोधाभास के बीच में आज रात
से इन्दिरा गांधी नहर में क्लोजर
शुरू होने जा रहा है, जो कि 16
अप्रैल तक रहेगा। इस बीच सबसे
बड़ा संशय जोधपुर के लिए पानी
की पोंडिंग को लेकर है। इस बारे
में अभी तक कोई निर्णय नहीं होने
से आने वाले दिनों में शहर व
करीब 850 गांव के लोगों को
पेयजल संकट का सामना करना
पड़ सकता है।

27 मार्च मध्यरात्रि से इन्दिरा
गांधी नहर में क्लोजर शुरू हो
जाएगा। इसके साथ ही राजीव
गांधी लिफ्ट कैनाल में पानी की
आवक भी पूरी तरह से बंद हो
जाएगी। जोधपुर शहर को पिलाने
के लिए जलदाय विभाग के पास
227 एमसीएफटी पानी जमा है।
इसमें से 100 एमसीएफटी पानी
डेड स्टोरेज के रूप में जलाशयों
में रहेगा जो सप्लाई नहीं किया
जा सकता।

शेष 127 एमसीएफटी पानी से
काम चलाना होगा। रोजाना शहर



राजीव गांधी लिफ्ट कैनाल।

फाइल फोटो

फैक्ट फाइल

127 एमसीएफटी पानी है जोधपुर के दो जलाशयों में

20 दिन का क्लोजर है इन्दिरा गांधी नहर में

10 दिन का पानी है जोधपुर के पास पीने के लिए

20 दिन नहीं आएगा कैनाल का पानी जोधपुर में

24 घंटे पानी सप्लाई होता है शहर में पानी

54 फीट पानी का भराव है कायलाना में

43 फीट पानी चढ़ा हुआ है तखतसागर में

में 12-13 एमसीएफटी पानी
सप्लाई किया जाता है। इस हिसाब
से मात्र 10 दिन की सप्लाई के
इंतजाम है। जबकि क्लोजर की
अवधि 27 मार्च से 16 अप्रैल
तक है। यानी पानी है दस दिन का
और क्लोजर रहेगा 19 से 21
दिन का। पोंडिंग नहीं हुआ तो
जोधपुर के अलावा करीब 850
गांवों में भी पानी का संकट पैदा
हो जाएगा।

6 विभागीय स्तर पर पानी का जितना इंतजाम करना था वो हमने कर
दिया। इससे ज्यादा पानी के लिए जगह नहीं है। इसलिए इन्दिरा गांधी
नहर बीकानेर के अधिकारियों को पोंडिंग करने के लिए कहा था, अब वे
मुकर रहे हैं तो हमने सरकार को पूरी रिपोर्ट बनाकर भेज दी है। क्लोजर 20
दिन का है और हमारे पास 10 दिन का पानी है।

केलाश रामदेव, अधीक्षण अभियंता नगर वृत्त, जलदाय विभाग

6 फिलहाल हमारे लिए कैनाल व नहर में पोंडिंग करना संभव नहीं है।
पोंडिंग करेंगे तो हम मॉटेनेंस का काम कैसे कर पाएंगे। जोधपुर के
अधिकारियों को चाहिए कि वे अपने स्तर पर पानी की व्यवस्था करेंगे, इसके
लिए हम हरसंभव मदद के लिए तैयार हैं।

विनोद मित्तल, अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, इन्दिरा गांधी नहर, बीकानेर

नहर प्रशासन ने पोंडिंग से झटके हाथ

जलदाय विभाग ने इन्दिरा गांधी
नहर प्रशासन को प्रस्ताव भेजा था
कि राजीव गांधी लिफ्ट कैनाल में
आरडी 421 से 1121 के बीच
पोंडिंग की जाए ताकि क्लोजर के
समय जोधपुर के लिए पर्याप्त पानी
मिल सके। आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने
बताया कि इन्दिरा गांधी नहर
प्रशासन ने लिखित में देते हुए यह
स्पष्ट मना कर दिया कि जोधपुर के
लिए कैनाल में वे पोंडिंग नहीं कर
सकते। साथ में यह भी कहा है कि
अगर जोधपुर क्लोजर के दौरान
अपने लिए 20 दिन के लिए पानी
की व्यवस्था नहीं कर सकता है तो
यह सोचने वाली बात है। इसके
बाद जलदाय विभाग के
अधिकारियों की सांसे फूल गई हैं।
जलदाय विभाग ने इस मामले में
हस्तक्षेप करने के लिए राज्य
सरकार को रिपोर्ट बनाकर भेज दी
है। अब राज्य सरकार तय करेगी
कि जोधपुर में क्लोजर के दौरान
जलापूर्ति के लिए कैनाल में पोंडिंग
होगी या नहीं।

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Blitz

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

मोदी ने स्वच्छ गंगा अभियान के लिए 19 अरब की योजना को दी मंजूरी

नई दिल्ली, (दिनेश शर्मा): केन्द्र में मोदी सरकार तथा उत्तर प्रदेश में योगी सरकार ने अपने वायदों का पालन शुरू कर दिया है। यूपी के मुख्यमंत्री आदित्यनाथ योगी तथा पी.एम. मोदी की केमिस्ट्री से भगवा दल में ऊर्जा आ रही है जबकि विपक्ष खुद को ठगा सा महसूस कर रहा है। यूपी के साथ ही उत्तराखंड में भी विकास का गणित नया इतिहास रच सकता है।

मोदी सरकार द्वारा स्वच्छ गंगा अभियान को गति देने हेतु 19 अरब की विभिन्न परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी देने पर आर.एस.एस. भगवा परिवार भी गदगद है जबकि यूपी में अवैध बूचड़खानों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई पर भी संघ ने साधुवाद जताया है। पता चला है कि आर.एस.एस. की कोयम्बटूर में सम्पन्न तीन दिवसीय प्रति निधि की बैठक में चार राज्यों में भाजपा का परचम लहराने तथा मोदी व योगी द्वारा विकास व अन्य मुद्दों पर मोर्चा बंदी पर संघ ने भी अपने समर्थन की मुहर लगायी है। चर्चा गर्म है कि यूपी और उत्तराखंड में भाजपा की जीत का असर पीएम

संघ गदगद

■ चुनाव आचार संहिता के कारण घोषणा रुकी रही

मोदी की प्रिय परियोजनाओं पर दिखने लगा है। स्वच्छ गंगा परियोजनाओं पर 19 अरब रुपए लगाने की मंजूरी का फैसला तो मार्च की बैठक में कर दिया था परन्तु आचार संहिता लागू होने की वजह से सरकार ने मंजूर हुई परियोजनाओं का ऐलान रोक रखा था। एनएमसीजी की ओर से मंजूर हुई 20 परियोजनाओं में अकेले 13 परियोजनाएं उत्तराखंड से हैं। इसमें मल जल उपचार संयंत्रों की स्थापना, मौजूदा सीवर उपचार संयंत्रों की व्यवस्था और उन्नयन तथा हरिद्वार में मलजल नेटवर्क कायम करने आदि कार्य शामिल हैं। इन सभी पर करीब 415 करोड़ रुपए की लागत आएगी।

इधर वाराणसी में गंगा को स्वच्छ करने हेतु पीपीपी माडल वाली 151 करोड़ रुपए की

परियोजनाओं का भी अनुमोदन किया गया है। उत्तराखंड के लिए अनुमोदित परियोजनाओं में चार अलकबंदा नदी को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने से संबंधित हैं। इसमें जोशीमठ रुद्रप्रयाग, कर्ण प्रयाग और कीर्तिनगर में नए लघु एसटीफोज लगाना आदि शामिल हैं। इनमें करीब 78 करोड़ रुपए की लागत आने की संभावना है। इसके अतिरिक्त गंगा का प्रदूषण दूर करने के लिए ऋषिकेश में 158 करोड़ रुपए से अधिक के लागत वाली एक बड़ी परियोजना का भी अनुमोदन किया गया है।

किसी से छुपा नहीं है कि वाराणसी जो कि पीएम का संसदीय क्षेत्र है यहां लोकसभा चुनाव के बाद हाल ही में विधानसभा चुनाव के दौरान भी प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने स्वच्छ गंगा का वायदा किया था। इतना ही नहीं मुख्यमंत्री आदित्यनाथ योगी व साध्वी उमा भारती ने भी गंगा की स्वच्छता पर जोर दिया। उम्मीद की जा रही है कि आने वाले वर्षों में गंगा व यमुना का जल विषमुक्त हो सकता है।

●● 4518 - 25-3-17 ●●●●

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The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.F.Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

हरियाणा को पानी मिलने की राह में कानूनी रोड़ा

कानून में बदलाव के बिना एसवाईएल का पानी मिलना बेहद कठिन

गृहमंत्री से मिलने गए सर्वदलीय शिष्ट मंडल के सामने सोलिस्टर जनरल ने दी जानकारी

पत्रिका न्यूज़ नेटवर्क

rajasthanpatrika.com

नई दिल्ली. पंजाब और हरियाणा के बीच तनाव का सबब बनी एसवाईएल नहर के मामले में एक चौकाने वाला तथ्य सामने आया है। हरियाणा को उसके हिस्से का पानी दिलाने के लिए एसवाईएल नहर पूरी बनाने की मांग को लेकर प्रदेश का सर्वदलीय शिष्टमंडल केन्द्रीय गृहमंत्री राजनाथ सिंह से मिलने गया तो सोलिस्टर जनरल ने यह जानकारी दी। गृहमंत्री ने सोलिस्टर जनरल को मामले के कानूनी पहलू की जानकारी देने के लिए बुलाया था। उन्होंने बताया कि पुराने कानून के कारण पंजाब पर नहर बनाने और हरियाणा को पानी देने के लिए केंद्र के पास सीमित अधिकार हैं। इसके लिए या तो उच्चतम न्यायालय के आदेश पर पंजाब को नहर बनानी पड़ेगी और या फिर पानी को लेकर पुराने कानून की जगह नया कानून पास करना होगा। उन्होंने



नई दिल्ली में एस.वाई.एल. (सतलुज यमुना लिंक) नहर का निर्माण करवाने के संदर्भ में केन्द्रीय गृह मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह को हरियाणा के सर्वदलीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व करते हुए हरियाणा के पक्ष से अवगत कराते हुए हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री मनोहर लाल।

कहा कि मामला उच्चतम न्यायालय में लंबित है और उसके फैसले के बाद ही अगली निर्णायक कार्यवाही के बारे में विचार किया जाना संभव हो पाएगा। राजनाथ सिंह से मिलने वालों में प्रदेश के सीएम मनोहर लाल काग्रेस की तरफ से पूर्व सीएम भूपेंद्र हुड्डा विधायक दल की नेता किरण चौधरी प्रदेशाध्यक्ष अशोक तंवर, इनेलो की तरफ से विपक्ष के नेता अभय चौटाला, प्रदेशाध्यक्ष अशोक अरोड़ा, बसपा विधायक टेकचंद और निर्दलीय विधायक जयप्रकाश शामिल थे।

गृहमंत्री के पास जाना औचित्यहीन

सूत्रों का कहना है कि प्रदेश के सर्वदलीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल का गृहमंत्री से मिलने का कोई औचित्य नहीं था। इस मामले को लेकर गृह मंत्रालय में कोई फाइल पैडिंग नहीं पड़ी है। इस मामले में या प्रधानमंत्री

से मिलने का फायदा था और या कानून मंत्री से। गृहमंत्री से मिलने का समय प्रदेश सरकार ने मजबूरी में लिया।

सीएम चार महीने से प्रधानमंत्री मोदी से मिलने का समय मांग रहे हैं मगर अभी तक उनको समय नहीं दिया गया। इस कारण झेंप मिटाने और विपक्षी दलों का मुंह बंद करने के लिए गृहमंत्री से मिलने की योजना बनाई गई। इनेलो एसवाईएल को भाजपा और काग्रेस दोनों को घेरने के लिए नहर खोदने के कार्यक्रम का आयोजन कर चुकी है। उसकी बढ़त को कम करने के लिए काग्रेस नेता भूपेंद्र हुड्डा ने भाजपा के गृहमंत्री से मिलने के न्यौते को स्वीकार कर लिया। हुड्डा को पूरा क्रेडिट देने से रोकने के लिए प्रदेशाध्यक्ष अशोक तंवर और विधायक दल की नेता किरण चौधरी ने भी प्रतिनिधिमंडल में शामिल हो गईं।

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Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle

A & J (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Durīya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

तमिलनाडु को कावेरी जल नहीं देगा कर्नाटक

बेंगलुरु, (भाषा): कर्नाटक ने आज कहा कि उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्देश के मुताबिक तमिलनाडु को कावेरी नदी का जल देने का कोई सवाल नहीं उठता, क्योंकि राज्य खुद पेयजल की कमी की समस्या से जूझ रहा है। कर्नाटक सरकार में जल संसाधन मंत्री एम.बी. पाटिल ने बताया,

“पेयजल के लिये पानी नहीं है। अगर हमारे

पास पानी होता तभी हम उन्हें जल दे

सकते थे। बेंगलुरु, मैसूरु और आस-

पास के गांवों को पीने का पानी

उपलब्ध कराने के लिये ही 3-4

टीएमसी फुट जल की कमी हो रही

है। इसलिए जल देने का कोई सवाल

ही नहीं उठता।” वह इस सवाल का

जवाब दे रहे थे कि क्या राज्य शीर्ष

अदालत के निर्देश की पृष्ठभूमि में

तमिलनाडु को जल देगा। पाटिल ने कहा

कि कर्नाटक सरकार शीर्ष अदालत के

समक्ष इस बात का उल्लेख कर चुकी है और

राज्य की कानूनी टीम इस मुद्दे पर काम कर रही है।

न्यायमूर्ति दीपक मिश्रा की अध्यक्षता वाली उच्चतम न्यायालय

की एक पीठ ने 21 मार्च को कहा था कि कर्नाटक द्वारा कावेरी

का 2000 क्यूसेक जल देने संबंधी सभी अंतरिम आदेश अगले

आदेशों तक प्रभावी रहेंगे। उच्चतम न्यायालय ने यह भी कहा

था कि 15 लगातार कार्य दिवस के लिये जल साझा करने

पर कावेरी जल विवाद न्यायाधिकरण के वर्ष 2007 के निर्देश

के खिलाफ तमिलनाडु, कर्नाटक और केरल की याचिकाओं

पर न्यायालय 11 जुलाई को अंतिम सुनवाई करेगा।

ये कहकर
उच्चतम न्यायालय
का आदेश टुकराया
कि जब हमारे पास
ही पानी नहीं
तो दूसरों को
कैसे देंगे

4 जास-25-3-17

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Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

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LISTEN TO THE RIVER

India, Pakistan must recognise that Indus waters could be the basis for a very different relationship between them

LAST WEEK, EXPERTS from India and Pakistan met in Lahore to hold technical discussions on the welter of issues arising from the two countries' joint administration of the Indus River waters system — the last remnant of significant diplomatic engagement between the two nations. The permanent Indus Waters Commission, which has survived through 57 years punctuated by four wars, has proved the most robust bilateral institution the two countries have created. It is also, however, the most fraught. In water-scarce Pakistan, farmers' organisations have threatened mass protests against what they cast as Indian plans to choke their irrigation systems; jihadists have been quick to cash in, using the issue to warn of a coming apocalypse. Islamabad used the talks to focus attention on three Indian projects that it claims violate the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, the 1,000 megawatt Pakal Dul on the Chenab, the 120 MW Miyar, and the 43 MW Lower Kalnai. Pakistani media reports have claimed India has agreed to halt work on the Miyar project; New Delhi, for its part, has refused to comment on what it describes as "hypothetical contingencies".

In essence, New Delhi has decided to push forward with a series of major projects on the Indus system that evoke strategic fear in Pakistan. The most important of these new projects are the 1,856 MW Sawalkot dam, which promises to wipe out Jammu and Kashmir's power deficit, and the Tulbul project, which would ease river transport between Srinagar and Baramulla. Though the projects are consistent with the IWT, Pakistan fears these — along with the dams at Salal and Baglihar — will give India the strategic capacity to devastate agriculture in Pakistan, should it choose to do so, by impounding water during critical periods of the agrarian cycle. Thus, water could become a weapon of war — a fear that has grown since Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned that "blood and water cannot flow in the same direction" after the Uri attacks.

Fear, obviously, cannot be a reason for India to give up its legitimate treaty rights. Yet, India ought not to brush away Pakistan's concerns; Pakistan, similarly, ought to be under no illusion that its use of terrorism to pursue strategic aims will be cost-free. This is because the Indus waters could be the basis for a very different relationship between the two countries. High dams in the inner Himalayas, inconceivable when the IWT was written, could provide Pakistan with the water it desperately needs. Those very dams could meet India's burgeoning power needs. The lesson is that a rational conversation between the two countries can open the way for win-win outcomes.

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Statesman

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Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

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India sticking to letter²⁵ of Indus treaty, says MEA

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India is sticking to the letter of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and has refused to change its design of the Miyar dam, as sought by

Pakistan. "There has been no change in the Indian position on any of the matters discussed at the Commission meeting," MEA spokesperson Gopal Baglay said.

India defended its presence

at the Lahore meeting of the Indus Commissioners last week, saying, "So long as we are a party to the treaty, it is our legal obligation to attend the treaty-mandated meetings, which are held at least once every fiscal."

Pakistan has asked India to change the design of the Miyar dam, and Pakistan minister for water said India had agreed to do so. India refuted that report, denying any such changes.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on March 25 3 2017 in the

Hindustan Times	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	M.P.Chronicle
Statesman	Punjab Keshari (Hindi)	A a j (Hindi)
The Times of India (N.D.)	The Hindu	Indian Nation
Indian Express	Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)	Nai Duniya (Hindi)
Tribune	Deccan Chronicle	The Times of India (A)
Hindustan (Hindi)	Deccan Herald	Blitz

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

Will consult Bengal on Teesta at right time: Centre²⁵

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Calcutta: Unruffled by West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee's statement expressing deep concern at not having been "consulted" on the

proposed Teesta water-sharing pact between India and Bangladesh, the Centre said stakeholders would be consulted at the right time in the spirit of "cooperative federalism."

MEA spokesperson Gopal

Baglay said just as the Centre and state had collaborated during the land boundary agreement, there would be consultations here too.

Banerjee said the signing of the Teesta treaty would be on

May 25 following the visit of Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina on April 7-10. North-eastern CMs had been invited to the signing, she said, but not her as though Teesta flows through West Bengal.

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Statesman

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Indian Express ✓

Tribune

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Govt evasive on Indus meet

New Delhi: The government on Friday remained evasive about its participation in a meeting with Pakistan on its two hydropower projects to be held in the US next month. Referring to the Indo-Pak talks under the Indus Waters Treaty in Pakistan on March 20-21, MEA spokesperson Gopal Baglay said they had detailed technical discussions at the meeting which were being assessed. "At this stage, it would be premature to talk of hypothetical contingencies," Baglay said.