

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao envisioned Mission Bhagiratha with an aim to provide safe drinking water to every household throughout the state at an estimated cost of Rs.35,000 crore.

A mammoth 1.26 lakh kilometre stretch of pipelines would be laid to quench the thirst of people in Telangana's towns and villages apart from providing water for daily needs. Government has sanctioned Rs.4,000 crore for the FY 2015-16; the Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Rural Water Supply department has prepared the design for the project.

The Niti Ayog has agreed to fund Mission Bhagiratha as part of the Central government's commitment under the AP Reorganisation Act to fund the development of backward areas in the State. The State government has sent the proposal after consultations with the Union ministers and officials concerned at the Niti Aayog.

The objective of Mission Bhagiratha is to provide 100 litres of clean drinking water per person in rural households and 150 litres per person in urban households. This project aims to provide water to about 25,000 rural habitations and 67 urban habitations.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT

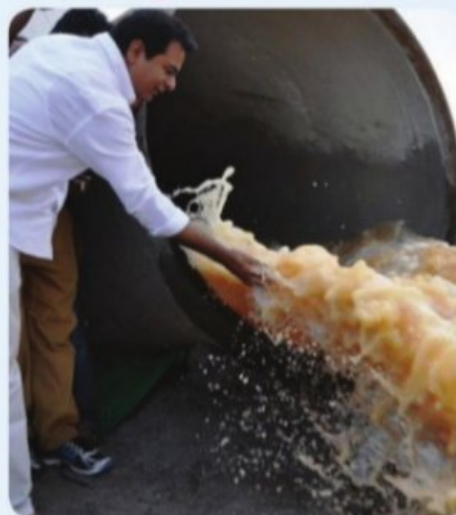
- The State government will be using latest technology for the proposed water grid project. Advanced Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) technology would be utilised for a detailed survey of the water grid. Lightweight aircrafts will be engaged for aerial survey.
- Along with this, software tools like surge analysis and smart flow would be used to resolve any problems that arise in distribution of water. Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao would be personally monitoring the entire water grid project works from Secretariat through System Control and Data Access (SCDA) technology.
- The State government intends to adopt international standards in execution of this project. To improve coordination and optimise resources, the government would follow a turn-key model where the organisations executing the project would be responsible for its maintenance too.

Concept of Mission Bhagiratha

The Telangana water grid has been planned to utilise water resources available in Krishna & Godavari – two perennial rivers flowing through the state. A total of 34 TMC of water from the Godavari and 21.5 TMC from the Krishna would be utilised for the water grid. Plans are ready to use water from Srisailem, Sriram Sagar Project, Komuram Bheem Project, Paleru Reservoir, Jurala Dam and Nizam Sagar Project. This scientifically designed project intends to use the natural gradient wherever possible and pump water where necessary and supply water through pipelines.

The main trunk pipelines of this project would run about 5,000 km and for the secondary pipelines a length of about 50,000 km would be used to fill service tanks in habitations. From here, the village-level pipeline network of about 75,000 km would be used to provide clean drinking water to households. The state-level grid will comprise of a total of 26 internal grids.

IMPROVING DIGITAL LITERACY
The Telangana State Fibre Grid Project involves taking optical fibre connectivity to villages and extending broadband to every home in the state. The network will be created alongside the state-wide water grid project.



**MISSION
BHAGIRATHA
FULFILLING THE
PROMISE
OF CLEAN
DRINKING WATER
FOR EVERYONE**

LANDMARK ACCORD REACHED PROJECTS ON RIVER GODAVARI SET TO BE REALISED

The inter-state water disputes have always been a stumbling block. But the Government of Telangana found a way out to resolve the issues. The Chief Minister has extended a hand of friendship to realise the long due projects. Thus bringing hopes to the farmers in the state.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Telangana and Maharashtra government on river Godavari Projects. The MoU will pave the way for construction of long overdue barrages on Godavari and its tributaries Penganga and Pranahita.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao signed five MoUs which will include both the ongoing and new projects. As Part of the Kaleshwaram project Medigadda barrage will be constructed 20 km downstream of Kaleshwaram in Warangal District. The Barrage would enable irrigation of 16.4 lakh acres in Telangana and over 50,000 acres in Maharashtra with the help of four small lift irrigation schemes. Both the Chief Ministers signed MoUs on Medigadda barrage on the Godavari, Tummidihatti on the Pranahita and Chanaka-Korata and two other barrages on the Penganga.

Project on the River Godavari

The Godavari is the second longest river in India after the river Ganges having its source at Trimbakeshwar, Maharashtra. The river flows from west to east with the length of 1,465 km. Telangana is using the river water after Maharashtra and from Telangana, the river flows into Andhra Pradesh before joining Bay of Bengal.

1. KALESHWARAM PROJECT ON THE RIVER GODAVARI

(a) **Medigadda Barrage** – Official sources said that the main barrage would be constructed across the Godavari at Medigadda, which is about 20 km downstream of temple town Kaleshwaram, at FRL of 100 metres with a provision for upward revision as agreed by both the states and store 16 TMC to 20 TMC of water, and utilise about 160 TMC of water by lifting for a period of 150 to 170 days. Originally state government proposed Medigadda barrage with an FRL of 103 metres which is High Flood Level of Godavari at that place. Maharashtra objected for 103 metres FRL, but accepted to put crest gates at a minimum height of 100 metres. At 103 metres FRL it is estimated that 13,074 hectares of land will submerge under backwaters both in Telangana and Maharashtra states. Medigadda barrage would be constructed in Karimnagar district at the cost of Rs 2,591 crore. The Government of India Enterprise M/s WAPCOS conducted Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) Survey for the State government and found ample water at Medigadda.



(b) **Annaram Barrage** – The Annaram barrage will be constructed with 120-m Full Reservoir Level to store 3.52 TMC ft. Annaram barrage would come up at Annaram village in Mahadevpur mandal in Karimnagar district at a cost of Rs.1,785 crore.

(c) **Sundilla Barrage** – Sundilla barrage with 130-m FRL to store 1.62 TMC ft of water. In the preliminary review, Irrigation Minister Harish Rao noted that the cost would be Rs.1,437 crore. Total cost would be Rs.5,813 Crores for the construction of three barrages at the 2015-16 rates.

2. PROJECTS ON THE RIVER PENGANGA

(a) **Chanaka Korata Barrage** – Lower Penganga project on Penganga river, which is a tributary of the Godavari, will irrigate an ayacut of 13,500 acres and 37,300 acres under gravity canal of Lower Penganga Project in Adilabad in Telangana. This project shall be taken up by Telangana.

Maharashtra will take up barrages at Rajapet and Pimpri having a storage capacity of 0.7 TMC and 1.50 TMC ft respectively. The ayacut under these barrages is 5,000 acres and 14,500 acres respectively. Water sharing from these barrages will be 50:50 and

30:70 by Telangana and Maharashtra respectively. The cost of this project would be shared by both the states as per ratio of water sharing.

3. PROJECT ON THE RIVER PRANAHITA

Tummidihatti Barrage – A component of Pranahita-Chevella project actually planned at Tummidihatti village in Adilabad district. The location of the barrage was changed to 3 kms upstream of the one originally envisaged. The change of location has avoided threat to a wildlife sanctuary in the neighbouring Maharashtra state. The Telangana government has changed the plans of barrage construction with full reservoir level (FRL) of 148 metres against 152 metres as planned while designing Pranahita-Chevella project taking into the concerns expressed by Maharashtra into consideration in respect to submergence in their territory. The Telangana government had already made it clear to Maharashtra that it would pay compensation to the affected farmers as per the existing compensation norms. Backwater of the barrage is also likely to spread into some streams in surrounding villages benefitting the local farmers too. The main objective of the project is to irrigate 2.0 lakh acres in east Adilabad district as against the originally contemplated ayacut of 56,500 acres.



TELANGANA SURGES AHEAD REPLENISHING ITS WATER RESOURCES

Mission Kakatiya - Reviving the lakes and tanks of Telangana

Tanks have been the lifeline of Telangana owing to the state's geographical positioning. The people of the state are highly dependent on the tanks which are spread across all the 10 districts. The topography and rainfall pattern in Telangana have made tank irrigation an ideal type of irrigation by storing and regulating water flow for agricultural use.

Construction of tanks in Telangana has been an age-old activity since pre Satavahana era. During the Kakatiya era, the construction of tanks was carried out with utmost technical expertise. Tanks such as Ramappa, Pakhala, Laknavaram, Ghanapuram, Bayyaram which were built by Kakatiyas resemble seas and they greatly helped agriculture and overall development and prosperity of the Kakatiya kingdom. This vision and legacy of Kakatiyas were carried forward by Qutub Shahis and Asaf Jahis who ruled this region for centuries. Hundreds of big and small tanks were built in Telangana region during their rule. Government desires to uphold the vision of Kakatiyas which envisages revival and restoration of Minor Irrigation Sources in Telangana State.

The Telangana Government has undertaken the Mission Kakatiya programme to restore all the tanks and lakes in Telangana. As part of this, the Government has identified 45,000+ tanks and lakes in a special intensive survey on minor irrigation tanks. The Government is planning to restore all these tanks and lakes to boost the water level of the state and enhance the development of agriculture based income.

The programme is aimed at desilting and restoring tanks to their past glory. A budgetary allocation of Rs.20,000 crore, over five years time period will be made for the revival of 46,300 tanks across the state. The Govt has planned to restore 9,306 Tanks every year (20% of total tanks). The programme was initiated in July 2014.

ADVANTAGES OF SILT REMOVAL & SILT APPLICATION

- The water retention capacity of the soil will increase, thereby decreasing the number of wettings
- De-silting will improve groundwater recharging capacity and increase the capacity of the tank thereby increasing the availability of water even during the summer for irrigation and drinking water purposes
- As per studies conducted, it is observed that due to de-silting the fluoride content in the groundwater will be reduced considerably
- Silt can be used as nutrient/fertiliser to the plant which generally reduces the usage of fertiliser
- The yield of the crops like cotton and chillies is increased by 20 to 30%



THE MAJOR BENEFITS OF THE RESTORATION OF TANKS

Huge gains from increase of irrigated land due to expansion of ayacut area

- Increase in groundwater levels and water quality, thereby getting the lands beyond command area under borewell irrigation
- Power savings due to the reduced need for well-irrigation that is currently used to supplement the insufficient tank water
- Development of fisheries and improvement of livestock
- Reduction in waterlogged area
- Diversification to cover irrigated area under high-value and low water intensified crops such as chillies, maize and vegetables

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

Mission Kakatiya is set to increase agriculture based income for small and marginal farmers, by accelerating the development of minor irrigation infrastructure, strengthening community based irrigation management and adopting a comprehensive programme for restoration of tanks.

Tank irrigation has huge bearing on generation of rural employment, poverty reduction and agricultural growth. The sheer size of command area under tank irrigation makes it a large centre of agricultural production and provides a critical opportunity for commercial agriculture through market linkages.

The minimum ayacut that can be irrigated with the above allocated water is about 20 lakh acres. But as per the statistics the ayacut now being irrigated is only about 9 to 10 lakh acres under minor irrigation tanks. Thus there is a gap ayacut of 10 lakh acres. The reasons for this gap ayacut are:-

- Loss of water storage capacity of tanks due to accumulation of silt in tank beds over a long period of time
- Due to dilapidated sluices, weirs and weak bunds
- Due to de-functioning of feeder channels
- Due to dilapidated condition of irrigation channels
- By de-silting the tank beds to restore original water storage capacity of tanks
- By repairing dilapidated sluices, weirs etc.
- By strengthening the tank bunds to its original standards
- By repairing the feeder channels to standards for getting water freely into tanks
- By e-sectioning of irrigation channels to standards and repairs to CM & CD works for smooth distribution of water to fields according to their requirement

BUDGET ALLOCATION

The budget allocation for the year 2016-2017 is Rs.26,657 crore for the irrigation sector that seeks to revive 46,000 tanks and provide drinking water to all households in 12 municipalities and 6,100 villages.

Protection of Water Bodies

At village level, a Social/People's organisation for each tank is proposed to be constituted to protect the tanks from encroachments and to maintain them properly.

- The State Government is taking up removal of silt every year. Farmers are being motivated to excavate and dump the silt in their fields for increase in yield of crop and maintaining the tank capacity to its standards.

- Farmers/Public representatives/People are expected to work in this direction. All the above procedures are proposed to be followed under Mission Kakatiya for its successful implementation and for restoration of the minor irrigation sources. This far-sighted programme of the Government of Telangana with community participation for ensuring sustainable water security is expected to bear its fruit in the near future and change the face of the state.



Mr. Chandrashekhar Rao said the size of tanks had shrunk deeply due to encroachments in the last few decades. He noted that the restoration of tanks would also help rural artisans engaged in different vocations.

He suggested the formation of all-community councils in villages to protect the tanks and their supply channels from encroachments as tanks would also improve the groundwater table. He also reviewed the Palamuru lift irrigation scheme on which survey was in progress and asked the officials to allocate power separately to such schemes to avoid problems.

Can't stop us from returning SYL land, state govt tells SC

Hearing on Presidential Reference in apex court today

R SEDHURAMAN
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

Punjab today maintained that the Supreme Court had no power to restrain the state government from returning the land acquired for the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal to the farmers, particularly as the Assembly had approved it unanimously on March 14.

On March 17, the SC had directed the Punjab government and the Centre to maintain status quo on the SYL canal land, thus stalling the move to return it to the farmers.

A five-member Constitu-

tion Bench headed by Justice Anil R Dave passed the order on Haryana's plea for appointing the Centre as the court receiver of the land to prevent Punjab from returning the land under a law passed in the Assembly.

In its reply filed in the SC today, the Punjab government questioned the constitutional validity of the SC's order at Haryana's instance while hearing arguments in a case arising from the Presidential reference on the validity of the Punjab Termination Agreements Act 2004. The SYL canal is meant for enabling Haryana

to draw its share of water from Ravi and Beas rivers.

The apex court was only supposed to tender its advice on the reference made by the President under Article 143, and as such could not have passed the restraint order. If Haryana wanted to challenge the SYL land Bill passed by the Punjab Assembly this month, it should file a suit in the SC, instead of seeking relief through an application in the reference case, Punjab pleaded.

The SC's status quo order is valid till tomorrow, when the reference is

slated for hearing.

In the order, the SC Bench had said "prima facie, it appears" that an attempt had been made to render two SC judgments for the completion of the SYL canal "in-executable." The apex court "cannot remain a spectator," it said.

But in its response today, Punjab said "neither Haryana nor Rajasthan is a riparian" state of the Ravi and Beas. Further, all water sharing agreements were liable to be reviewed in the light of changed circumstances, it contended while pleading against extending the restraint order.



Two weeks after the event, the site of the World Culture Festival on the Yamuna floodplains. Prem Nath Pandey

WORLD CULTURE FESTIVAL

Two weeks later, a look at who is cleaning up the Yamuna

KEDAR NAGARAJAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

AT THE conclusion of the World Culture Festival, which faced much flak for the impact it would have on the Yamuna floodplains, founder of the Art of Living (AOL) Foundation — which organised the event — Sri Sri Ravi Shankar had said AOL volunteers would be involved in the clean-up.

In an official email, AOL had listed the agencies that would be involved in cleaning up the Yamuna floodplains, the festival venue, and said a team of volunteers would participate in the exercise. Gautam Vig from AOL said, "The clean-up effort is going on. Volunteers have been coming in shifts. A lot of the plastic and food waste has been cleared by the volunteers. The event was a big one, therefore, it is unfair to expect that the clean-up will take place that soon. As is visible, most of it has been taken care of. The service is voluntary, so people cannot be made to come and clean up. But we have been actively taking part in the effort."

Two weeks after the event, *The Indian Express* visited the site and spoke to those on the ground involved in the clean-up process.

RAJ KUMAR (38),
TRUCK DRIVER:

Kumar is involved in transporting the pipes that formed part of the stage. He said he has been working at the site since the preparations for the event began. "I was part of the team that brought the pipes when the stage was being constructed. I have been coming to the site frequently. I spend about 8-9 hours a day on the job — loading the pipes into the truck, driving to Greater Noida, unloading them, putting them in the warehouse and then returning," he said.

BHARAT SINGH YADAV (63), CONTRACT LABOURER:

Yadav has been living and working at the WCF site since December. He was involved in setting up the stage, and is now working on dismantling it. He doesn't complain about the long hours of work or the pay, but about the mosquitoes he has to deal with at the venue. "The fact that we are not paid enough money for the work we do is not new. I haven't had a good night's sleep for days. During the event, the lighting tests kept me awake. Now, it is the mosquitoes," he said.

RAJESH KUMAR (24), EMPLOYEE OF UTTAR PRADESH'S PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT THAT BUILT THE PONTOON BRIDGE:

"I have been in and out of the venue since January. Our team is not that big; 20 to 25 workers are working on dismantling the



The festival was held from March 11-13. Express

bridge. More workers were involved during the construction of the bridge, but there have not been many after the event. I expected those of us still working to be paid more, but that has not happened. We are still paid the same Rs 500 a day, sometimes even less. After the event concluded, I was asked to clean up garbage as well. That is supposed to be done by others (volunteers), but they usually come for an hour or two and then leave," he said.

ROHTAK (35), CONTRACT WORKER:

He works for Third Wave, a company that supplied power generators for the event, and has been living at the site since the event ended. "...in the few days since I have arrived, I have been asked to clear plastic waste from near the stage. The people with pink gloves (AOL volunteers)

come once in a while, but they are never here for long. Only one or two of them remain," he said.

Gajendra Singh (40),
AOL VOLUNTEER:

Near the banks of the river, where a great deal of plastic and food waste is still strewn around the place, Gajendra Singh, a volunteer for AOL, was spotted cleaning up the trash and putting them into garbage bags. "Many of the volunteers have not been coming since Holi. I have been here regularly, before, during and after the event. The other volunteers usually come for a short while in the morning and leave. Some can come only when they have holidays. In the meantime, I have cleared a lot of waste from near the stage. I hope I can soon remove the plastic waste from near the river," he said.

Punjab talks tough on SYL, Haryana may cut Delhi water

'House Move On Land Not In SC Ambit'

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The water war between Punjab and Haryana appears set to intensify with the Parkash Singh Badal government defiantly telling the Supreme Court on Wednesday that it had no jurisdiction to pass an interim order virtually staying the law unanimously passed by the assembly to return land acquired for the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice A R Dave had on February 17 slammed the enactment of



Punjab also defended the 2004 law terminating water agreements with neighbouring states saying it was a necessity given the 'serious injuries caused to agriculturists'

Punjab Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal Land (Transfer of Property Rights) Bill, 2016 saying, "Prima facie it appears that effort is being made to make the 2004 decree of the Supreme Court (directing construction of SYL canal) inexecutable." It directed the Union home secretary and

21-7
Punjab's chief secretary and director general of police to take control of the entire stretch in Punjab and "strictly maintain status quo".

The Punjab irrigation secretary in an affidavit said the SC was dealing with the presidential reference of 2004 seeking the court's opinion on the constitutionality of the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 and hence, could not have forayed into the SYL issue, which was not a subject matter before the court. "Therefore, the SC does not have jurisdiction to entertain (Haryana's) injunction application in this regard," it said.

In the same breath, the Badal government defended the 2004 law terminating water agreements with neighbouring states, saying it was a necessity given the "serious injuries caused to agricul-

turists" because of the water sharing agreement of 1981. It said the state was duty bound to protect their interest and Haryana would get no more water through SYL canal.

This defiant stand could snowball into a water crisis for Delhi too as Haryana had given a veiled threat in the SC on February 17 that if one state unilaterally terminated water sharing agreements, then the other state would also resort to unconstitutional methods to protect its rights.

Punjab's governments have scripted a unique story of defiance of the SC's orders. On December 31, 1981, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan entered into an agreement to share river waters of Ravi, Beas and Sutlej between them and also with Delhi and J&K. It was also agreed that Punjab would construct the SYL canal within two years.

चम्बल को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने को मांगा एक्शन प्लान ³¹ _{AP}



कोटा. राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण (एनजीटी) ने राजस्थान राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, नगर निगम, यूआईटी और नदियों के किनारे स्थापित औद्योगिक इकाइयों से चम्बल को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने के लिए एक्शन प्लान मांगा था। एनजीटी ने चारों भागीदारों से सीवरेज और इंडस्ट्रियल वेस्टेज कम करने के तरीके, उसे रीसाइकल करने और दूषित पानी का प्रवाह समाप्त करने के लिए कार्य योजना बनाने के निर्देश दिए

थे। आरपीसीबी की चेयरमैन अपर्णा अरोड़ा ने पीसीबी के क्षेत्रीय अधिकारियों और औद्योगिक इकाइयों के प्रतिनिधियों के साथ बैठक कर एक अप्रैल तक अपनी कार्य योजना सौपने के निर्देश दिए, ताकि चार अप्रैल को इसे एनजीटी की भोपाल बेंच को सौंपा जा सके। बैठक में कोटा थर्मल, श्रीराम रेयंस, श्रीराम फर्टिलाइजर और चम्बल फर्टिलाइजर के अधिकारियों के साथ बोर्ड के अफसर मौजूद रहे।

देश में पड़ रहे सूखे पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट गंभीर

■ विस, नई दिल्ली : देश के 12 राज्यों में सूखे के हालात को लेकर दाखिल याचिका पर सुनवाई के दौरान सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कई सवाल उठाए हैं। कोर्ट ने पूछा कि क्या केंद्र राज्य सरकार को यह आदेश दे सकता है कि आप अपने राज्य के अमुक हिस्से को सूखाग्रस्त घोषित करें। क्या राज्य सरकार इसको मानने के लिए बाध्य है? क्या राज्य आपदा राहत कोष का पैसा मनरेगा में इस्तेमाल की इजाजत दे सकता है। क्या कोई मंत्री अपने व्यक्तिगत हित के लिए किसी राज्य के हिस्से को सूखाग्रस्त घोषित कर दे तो क्या उस पर अंकुश लगाया जा सकता है। अदालत ने यह भी कहा कि कई बार आपदा के वक्त पैसे बांटे जाते हैं तो क्या इसके लिए भी नियम तय होने चाहिए।

Majuli, 'island of sorrow', yearns for better days

BIJAY SANKAR BORA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MAJULI (ASSAM), MARCH 30

This picturesque river island of Majuli by the Brahmaputra, which has been turned into an island of sorrow for its thousands of backward community people, is yearning for a change that will bring about better days.

Majuli is home to 32 culturally rich vaishnavite monasteries and called the cultural and religious nerve centre of Assam. It has a colourful ethnic tapestry and an environment unique to a river island. It has been vying for the status of UNESCO World Heritage Site for several years.

"But at the same time, the perennial flood and erosion problem has made the island shrink from original over 1,200 square kilometre area to mere 650-square kilometre land mass. The problem has rendered thousands homeless as piecemeal measures taken by successive governments have failed to tackle the problem. The health service is in shambles, road communication is pathetic and livelihood options are so scarce that common tribal people grope for one to survive," said Dilip Hazarika at Kamalabari.

"It was for the first time that a Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) visited Majuli, though he came to campaign for BJP's chief ministerial candidate Sarbananda Sonowal who is contesting from Majuli LAC. People who have almost lost faith in politicians, listened to him and are tending to believe that he will connect Majuli to mainland through three



Majuli is home to 32 culturally rich vaishnavite monasteries and is called the cultural and religious nerve centre of Assam.

Locals' little hope for change

“Perennial flood and erosion has made the island shrink. It has rendered thousands homeless as piecemeal measures taken by successive governments have failed to tackle the problem. The health service is in a shambles and road communication is pathetic.”

Dilip Hazarika

“It was for the first time that a PM (Modi) visited Majuli, though he came to campaign for BJP's Sarbananda Sonowal. People who have lost faith in politicians, listened to him and are tending to believe that he will connect Majuli to mainland and improve facilities here.”

Binod Payeng

bridges across Brahmaputra and improve basic health, education, communication facilities here,” said Binod Payeng, whose village was wiped out by erosion.

He said: “Political parties have exploited gullible Majuli residents by creating a tribal/non-tribal divide. But thousands like us whose life has been devastated by flood and erosion no longer care for what caste we belong to but desperately hope for a respite from this life plagued by poverty and under development.”

Majuli's incumbent Congress MLA Rajib Lochan Pegu was dropped by Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi from

his ministry two years ago for failing to address perennial problem of Majuli in the capacity of a minister for water resources. But the Congress has still nominated him this time because he belongs to Mising tribe that comprise over 40 per cent of the total 1.14 lakh voters.

Sanmilita Gana Shakti, a local tribal political party that governs the Mising Autonomous Council and majority of panchayat bodies, has fielded Ranjit Doley in the Assembly polls. The party's president Dr Ranuj Pegu said: “MLAs from national political parties have over the years proved that they are not capable of wiping off tears from the eyes of Majuli residents.”