

Central Water Commission  
WSE Dte.,

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West Block II, Wing No-4  
R. K. Puram, New Delhi – 66.

Dated 12.3.2019

Subject: Submission of News Clippings.

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 will be uploaded on the CWC website.

S. Maheshwari  
12.3.2019  
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

~~Deputy Director, WSE Dte.~~

XK  
12/3/2019

o/c

Director, WSE Dte. - in meeting

For information to

Chairman CWC, New Delhi

Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned, uploaded at [www.cwc.nic.in](http://www.cwc.nic.in)

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 12/3/2019 in the

Hindustan Times  
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The Time of India (New Delhi)

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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu (New Delhi) ✓

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

The Times of India (A)

Business standard

The Economic Times

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

## Green panel orders inspection of Yamuna floodplain in Agra

Seeks report on its demarcation within four weeks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal on Monday asked the Director of Namami Gange and the Director General of National Institute of Hydrology to inspect the Yamuna floodplain in Agra and submit a report within four weeks on its demarcation.

A Bench headed by Justice R.S. Rathore said certain reports obtained earlier were not only inconsistent but serious objections had been raised against them.

"The Director, Namami Gange, as well as, the Director General, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee shall nominate officials, concerning with the subject, who after visiting the site they should file a report with regard to floodplain within the timeline, mentioned above. The report should clearly reflect the demarcation of river floodplain in Agra and the construction in it," the tribunal said.

The matter is posted for next hearing on April 12.

The tribunal had earlier refused to vacate its 2015 order restraining construction and transfer of possession of flats on Yamuna floodplain in Agra after two builders sought lifting of the ban.

### 'No entitlement'

It had said that even if the builders have transferred the flat to the purchasers, it does not entitle them to file an application for vacating the interim order passed in 2015 as the matter is still pending.

Hindustan Times  
Statesman  
The Time of India (New Delhi)  
Indian Express  
Tribune

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DNA, Mumbai  
Tuesday, 12th March 2019;

# The classic no-win situation

India has done little to address the severe water crisis afflicting its portion of the Indus Basin



Purushottam  
Sharma Panigrahi

The Indian government, in the aftermath of Pulwama, announced its intention to maximise the use of water flowing to Pakistan via the Indus system. As a multi-pronged strategy, India shifted its focus on the Indus

Water Treaty (IWT).

The geographical setting of the Indus river system has facilitated partitioning of the six rivers in equal numbers between the two riparian countries under the 1960 IWT, which was achieved after nine years of intense negotiation under the aegis of the World Bank.

Pakistan, being one of the world's most arid countries, with an average rainfall of less than 240 mm, is quite dependent on Indus waters. Under the Treaty, India was given control over the water flowing in the three 'eastern' rivers of the Indus River System (Beas, Ravi and Sutlej) with the mean flow of 33 million acre-feet (MAF), which is 20 per cent of the annual flow of all Indus Rivers (168 MAF). In contrast, Pakistan was given control over the water flowing from the 2 'western' rivers (Chenab and Jhelum) with a mean flow of 80 MAF that corresponds to 80 per cent of the annual flow.

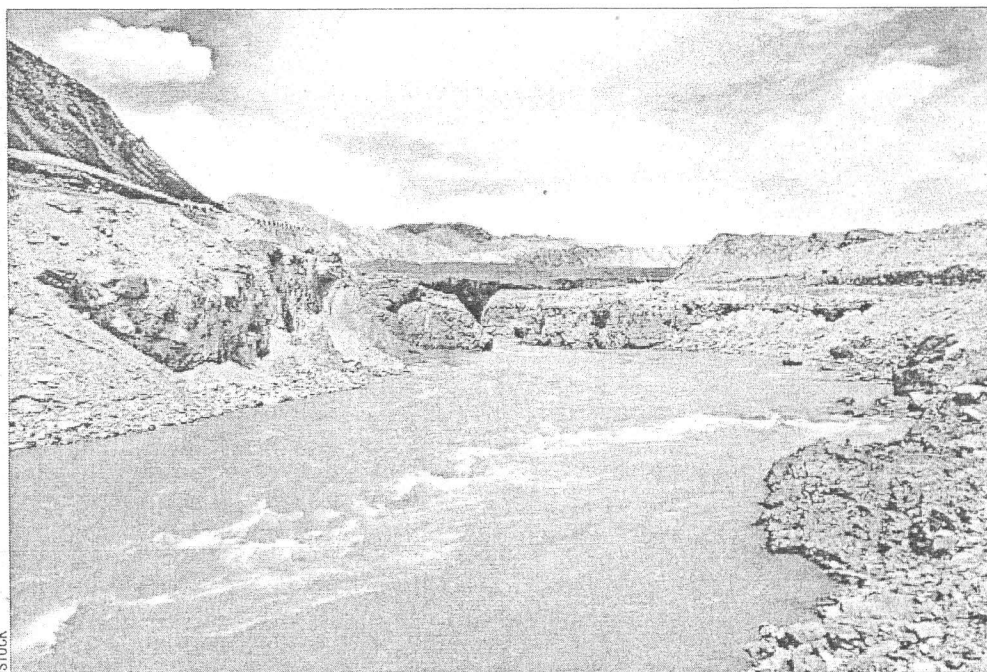
Although India has retained the right to use the 'western' rivers on non-consumptive basis (power generation/industrial consumption/navigation) so as not to affect the volume of water flowing into these rivers, it has done little in effectively addressing the severe water crisis afflicting the Indian portion of the Indus Basin.

Political ecologists and critics of the scarcity discourse have established that social power dynamics shape water issues in the Indus basin, especially when both countries deal with acute drought.

In 2003, the Jammu & Kashmir state assembly passed an unanimous resolution for abrogation of the Treaty, which further re-asserted the need for its revision in 2016.

On the face of it, this Treaty is heavily skewed in favour of Pakistan, which enjoys a lion's share of the water and its utilisation. The treaty has not considered Gujarat – the lowermost riparian area – as part of the Indus river basin, as the Great Rann of Kutch area was disputed territory between the two nations. This was settled in 1968 by sharing the total disputed area in a 9:1 ratio between India and Pakistan.

Since the ratification of the treaty, over the past over 58 years, India and Pakistan have not engaged in any water wars. This is partly due to the fact that



The geographical setting of Indus river system has helped partitioning of the 6 rivers in equal numbers between the two riparian countries under 1960 IWT

India has failed to utilise its share of the waters, allowing unused waters to flow into Pakistan.

Effective and complete utilisation of Indus waters falling in India's share is the first step towards harvesting the Treaty and this has not been objected to by Pakistan, as evidenced from the February 21, 2019, statement of its Ministry of Water Resources. It is imperative that India should consider active utilisation of the 'western' rivers, albeit for non-consumptive basis.

The formal inauguration of the Kishanganga Hydropower project in J&K in May 2018 is a salutary step in this direction, even though it just marks a beginning.

India has an abundance of small dams and barrages in the Indus basin. Pakistan's objection to such projects was overruled by the Court of Arbitration under the Treaty, which paves the way for India to install and run several projects on the 'western' rivers, hitherto flowing un-channelled into Pakistan.

These projects will serve as an effective tool in India's hand to remind Pakistan that India will not hesitate to harness the waters flowing into Pakistan beyond the contours of the Treaty in the event of a war or war-like situation be-

The two co-riparian neighbours are often at loggerheads over water resources. It is frequently asked whether India or Pakistan can unilaterally abrogate the treaty? The answer is No

tween the two nations.

Every single dimension of human activity in this basin, whether economic, social, or political, is burdened with a huge handicap arising from the basin's sovereignty-based, resource-dividing and relentless unilateralism.

India must consider setting up of a dedicated specialised body dealing exclusively with effective utilisation of the rivers under the Treaty. This body may be tasked with the study of the Indus river basins in India, determination of the needs of each state wherein the river basins exist, formulating state-wise projects on the rivers and their basins and time-bound implementation of these projects.

Besides ensuring development of effective canal systems to ease the peren-

nial water shortages for home consumption and agriculture, the body could also explore the feasibility of channeling excess water from these rivers to other river basins.

This will usher a new phase of infrastructure development and economic growth in this perennially neglected basin.

The two co-riparian neighbours are often at loggerheads over water resources. It is frequently asked whether India or Pakistan can unilaterally abrogate the treaty? The answer is No.

Article 12 of the treaty states that "the provisions of this Treaty, or, the provisions of this Treaty as modified under the provisions of Paragraph (3), shall continue in force until terminated by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two governments."

The IWT is about sharing of water of six rivers — Indus, Chenab, Jhelum, Beas, Ravi and Sutlej — between India and Pakistan. The importance of the Indus basin to the co-riparian states extends far beyond the immediately tangible material benefits in terms of its waters and any failure to cooperate risks the future of this basin and the future water security of generations to come.

Author is a Supreme Court advocate

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# Make every Delhiite pay Yamuna cess: CS

## DJB Told To Start Levy Without Further Delay

Ritam.Halder@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Chief secretary Vijay Dev has asked Delhi Jal Board to start the process of levying environmental compensation of Rs 100-300-500 per household. In a meeting of the National Green Tribunal-appointed monitoring committee on Yamuna, the top bureaucrat of the city government "expressed displeasure at the delay and directed the CEO DJB to pursue levy of sewage charges by following the most feasible alternative without further loss of time".

In 2015, holding every Delhi resident responsible for polluting the Yamuna, the NGT had ordered every household to pay a certain amount each month as environment compensation ranging between Rs 100 and Rs 500. However, not a single penny has been collected as authorities are yet to initiate the collection process.



**COST OF DIRTY YAMUNA:** In 2015, NGT had ordered every household to pay a certain amount each month as environment compensation ranging between ₹100 and ₹500

"It was informed by the members of the monitoring committee that levy of environmental compensation (EC) under Polluters Pays Principle was a direction of National Green Tribunal for all households, irrespective of whether they lived in a sewerage or unsewered area. However, the Delhi Jal Board is yet to comply with the said directions issued in 2015," minutes of the meeting held last week states.

According to the monitoring committee, merely because subsidy for sewage treatment has been subsumed in the water subsidy cannot be a ground that households pay nothing for the treatment of sewage generation and avoid paying anything.

"This was happening even in the case of upscale colonies, which could not be the intention of the policy. Besides, DJB had reported that the Delhi government had decided to levy flat charges of Rs 100/300/500 sometime in 2015 but this was not given effect to because a conduit for collection of these sewage conveyance charges was not decided," it said.

The committee informed Dev that NGT had already been apprised of the reluctance of DJB to implement this direction, and this would become an important issue for recording non-compliance of the tribunal's orders when the next report is sent in early May.

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## Rain over 2 days may bring down temperature

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Strong showers lashed parts of the capital on Monday evening, bringing down mercury by several notches as air quality remained in the "moderate" category on CPCB's index. Delhi recorded an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of 187 on Monday; however, agencies say it can improve to "satisfactory" over the next three days.

According to officials from the regional met department, parts of northern India saw light rain due to an active western disturbance, which is likely to cause more rain on Wednesday and Thursday. "The maximum temperature that touched 28 degrees Celsius could fall to around 24 degrees Celsius in the next three days," said a senior met official.

Delhi recorded a maximum of 28.4 degrees Celsius on Monday — one degree below normal. The minimum was recorded at 12.4 degrees Celsius — two notches below normal for this time of the season. Till 8.30pm on Monday, Safdarjung station had recorded 0.6mm of rainfall, while Palam had received 0.3mm of rain in the same period.

Forecasts by SAFAR — a body under the ministry of earth sciences — said air quality could improve to satisfactory over the next three days, owing to spells of rain. The last time Delhi recorded "satisfactory" air quality was on March 3.

"The region is under the influence of a western disturbance and characterised by high surface wind speed that is helping in dispersion of pollutants. The air quality can be in the moderate to higher end of satisfactory range for next three days," said SAFAR on Monday.

An AQI from 51 to 100 is classified as "satisfactory", from 101 to 200 is classified as "moderate" and from 201 to 300 is classified as "poor" on CPCB's index. Forecast for Tuesday shows partly cloudy skies during the day with a maximum and minimum of 28 and 10 degrees Celsius respectively, the official added.



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#### PERENNIAL PROBLEM



■ Nearly 50% of the country is currently facing drought. This will only hasten the pace of already depleting groundwater resources in the country

HINDUSTAN TIMES

## Rivers are critical for groundwater recharge <sup>HT</sup> <sub>12</sub>

When a river flows, almost 20-30% of its monsoon water feeds aquifers, saturating the water table

MANOJ MISRA



In a report released recently, the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, the University of California, and the India Meteorological Department, Pune, said nearly 50% of the country is currently facing drought with at least 16% falling in the exceptional or extreme category. The drought will only hasten the pace of already depleting groundwater resources in the country. At present, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu are the worst affected even though India had a normal monsoon in 2018.

The scientists said that the situation is dire because of two reasons: India's groundwater recharge is not adequate even though drought conditions are making us extract more and more of the resource; and people are wasting too much water. At 260 cubic km per year, the country is the highest user of groundwater in the world. We use 25% of all groundwater extracted globally, ahead of the US and China. This was not the case in the 1960s and 1970s but the need to grow more food (the Green Revolution) changed that. In 1947, the share of groundwater in agriculture was 35%; today it is 70%.

India cannot avoid a water disaster unless people understand the critical relationship that exists between adequate river flows and

aquifer recharge, and the reasons behind its current broken state. When a river flows, almost 20-30% of its monsoon water feeds aquifers, saturating the water table; 30-40% evaporates; and 40-50% flows on the surface. But when we hold the monsoon flow in a reservoir behind a dam, both the surface flow and the associated aquifers suffer. People also don't realise that an aquifer is an ecosystem in its own right and hence when rivers don't run free, both rivers as an ecosystem and aquifer as an associated ecosystem suffer.

With more and more structures (dams, barrages and anicuts) being built on our rivers and their tributaries (the Ganga basin already has 942 dams, barrages and weirs in its various tributaries), the flow gets reduced and so do the opportunities for groundwater recharge. It also compromises the other natural ecological functions of a river. The situation is worse in the case of the peninsular rivers, which receive no water due to glacial melt.

To make India water secure, we must restrict groundwater withdrawal to shallow aquifers, which get annually recharged during the monsoon season, thanks to the flowing streams.

We must realise that each passing year is an opportunity lost and the sooner we realise that flowing rivers are in the nation's larger interest, the better it would be. One of the key reasons for damming a river has been electricity generation. But now that solar power is fast replacing other methods of power production, we will hopefully see rivers flowing freely in India again.

Manoj Misra is convener, Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan  
The views expressed are personal