

News item/letter/article/editorial published on May-12-05-2015 in the

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
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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

Now, breach in Shahsi Lake poses threat

AMIR KARIM TANTRAY

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 11

After the bursting of an artificial lake on the Phutkal river last week, fresh flash-floods hit the area causing extensive damage.

The flash-floods occurred due to a breach in the Shahsi

Lake following the melting of snow. The latest spate of floods has led to huge damage in Hunderman Brok, Maal, Lankarchey Brok, Thang, Ichu-Shargandik, Kochik, Thulus and Pursa in Kargil district with irrigation canals, land, livestock, roads, trees, pashmina goat and other

infrastructure in the area getting washed away

The artificial lake on the Phutkal burst on May 7 causing huge damage in the Zanskar sub-division of Kargil. Several bridges, buildings and fields got washed away and people were forced to leave their houses and move

to safer places. Now, the threat arising from the breach in the Shahsi Lake has caused panic in the area.

Though the current flash-floods are of low intensity, there are apprehensions that if the situation is not addressed soon, it could turn into a disaster.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on May-11.05.2015 in the

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

A a j (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

Hailstorms continue to lash Belagavi

DH 11

BELAGAVI: For the fourth time in just over a week, the City roads and gardens wore an ornamental look with hailstones adorning them on Sunday.

The city continued to receive rain for the second day on Sunday.

The hailstones caused excitement among the residents, especially children who eagerly collected them.

As the rain lashed for over 30 minutes, drainwater overflowed onto the roads. Mo-



torists suffered due to the waterlogging in low-lying areas.
DH News Service

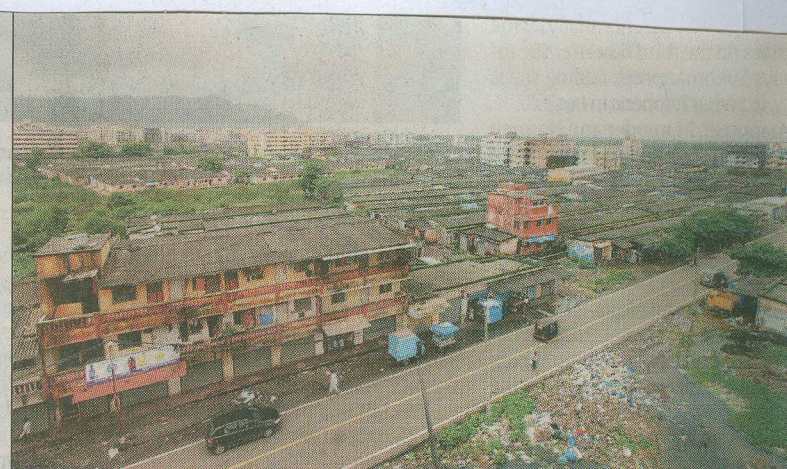
News item/letter/article/editorial published on May - 10.05.2015 in the

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
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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



Divia, cramped with buildings separated by alleys, is just 22 km from Mumbai



(Clockwise from top) At the Divia railway station; most Divia residents fill water from a tap at the Hanuman temple in Mumbra; their water cans full, they simply cross the tracks to the opposite platform to take the train back to Divia; on most days, the trains are choc-a-bloc, with the women forced to sit right at the entrance of the trains with their utensils

trying to pull water into buildings. Inside a nearly-dry shallow well near Mumbradevi Colony in Divia, at least 20 jet pumps are at work in a desperate effort to draw water.

"Just 10 years ago, Divia was not how you see it today," says Shailesh Patil, the local corporator of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena. "Water was never a problem then. Divia was mostly open farmlands with a few old buildings. In just a decade, the population surged from thousands to lakhs. People looking for space closer to Mumbai came to Divia. The civic infrastructure simply could not keep up with the spurt in population," says Patil, adding that some areas closer to the corporation's main water lines get "adequate" supply for about 2-3 hours a day and the supply tapers as one moves further away.

A corporation official said the population of Divia shot up between 2011 and 2015, growing more than six times to 4.5 lakh now from about 70,000 then. As the demand for housing skyrocketed, illegal buildings mushroomed.

Two years ago, the corporation increased the daily water supply to Divia from 15 million litres to 18.5 million litres. However, a constrained distribution network meant that nothing really changed for

those who needed it the most.

Vijay Bhoir, a local NCP leader, says, "More than 95 per cent of the construction in Divia is unauthorised and the existing water supply network can't meet their needs. Unfortunately, the administration's effort until now has been on getting more water sanctioned for Divia, but the problem really is in the distribution network. Until that is strengthened, the water problem will continue."

For now, the corporation has its "plans" — lay additional water pipelines in some of the worst-affected areas, provide concrete casing for the water lines to check pilferage, and form a vigil squad by June to keep an eye on illegal water connections.

• • •

Kavita isn't banking on any of these "plans". As she hauls her steel pot over the threshold of her house, she has plans of her own. It's already 9.30 pm, late for dinner. But before that, she pours some of the water she has just got from Mumbra into a utensil and puts it on boil. That done, Kavita sits down for the biggest indulgence — she pours herself a glass full of water and guzzles it down.

New Delhi

News item/letter/article/editorial published on May 12.05.2015 in the

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

A a j (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

Hotels, hospitals, malls fined over rainwater harvesting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, 11 May

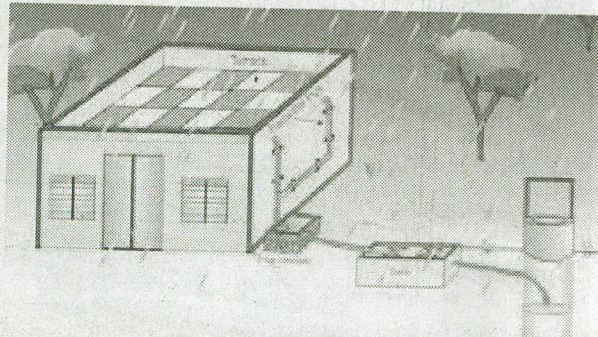
Worried over depleting groundwater levels in the national capital, National Green Tribunal today imposed hefty fines on five-star hotels, malls and hospitals for not installing proper rainwater harvesting systems in their premises.

A bench, headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar, said these units have even not "cared" to take the steps to install rainwater harvesting systems even after several reminders.

"Do you even know the depletion level of the groundwater in Delhi? You have a responsibility towards society," the bench, which was not satisfied with functioning of rainwater harvesting systems, said.

The green panel imposed a fine of Rs 7.50 lakh each on Jaypee Siddharth, Piccadilly Hotel while Tirupati Infraprojects Pvt Ltd (Indus Hotels & Spa) was imposed Rs 5 lakh.

The Tribunal also imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh each on hospitals -- B M Gupta Hospital Pvt Ltd, Indraprastha Medical Corporation Ltd (Apollo Hospital) Santom Hospital, and Jaipur Golden Hospital-- while Holy Family hospital was imposed Rs 3 lakh.



The National Green Tribunal imposed a fine of Rs 7.50 lakh each on Jaypee Siddharth, Piccadilly Hotel while Tirupati Infraprojects Pvt Ltd (Indus Hotels & Spa) was imposed Rs 5 lakh

Among the malls/commercial complexes, Laxmi Buildtech Pvt. Ltd and Lifestyle Builders Pvt Ltd was imposed 5 lakh each while Upaj Buildcon Pvt Ltd was imposed Rs 3 lakh as fine.

Slamming the hotels and hospitals for drawing groundwater without permission from Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), the bench directed them to obtain the requisite consent from the board.

The Tribunal also issued bailable warrants against Aman Hospitality (Kempinski Ambience) and Ibis Hotel for their non-appearance despite notices being served to them.

The directions came after a joint inspection status

report, submitted by Delhi Pollution Control Committee, said a number of five-star hotels, malls and hospitals are not compliant with the rainwater harvesting systems and in a number of cases where they have been provided, they are not satisfactorily operational.

The Tribunal had earlier issued notice to--Asian Hotels Ltd (Hyatt Regency), Hotel Excelsior (Shangri-La) Jaypee Siddharth, Piccadilly Hotel, Tirupati Infraprojects Pvt Ltd (Indus Hotels & Spa), Aman Hospitality (Kempinski Ambience), Eros Resorts & Hotels Pvt Ltd (Double Tree by Hilton), Eros Resorts & Hotels Pvt Ltd (Hilton) and Ibis Hotel.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 12/5/15 in the

✓ 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

A a j (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

Overcast skies bring some respite from heat

NEW DELHI: You can expect some respite from the scorching heat on Tuesday as the Meteorological department predicts some rain on Tuesday.

According to Met forecasts, skies will be partly cloudy on Tuesday with light rain and thunderstorm in some areas.

"The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to hover around 39 and 28 degrees respectively," a Met official said.

The city got some respite on Monday, too, as Delhi's maximum temperature dipped below

40 degree Celsius mark while many parts of the city witnessed overcast sky.

According to the weatherman, the day temperature stood one notch above the season's average at 39.8 degrees, while the minimum settled three notches above normal at 28.3 degrees.

Humidity in air oscillated between 45 and 29 per cent.

On Sunday, the maximum temperature had settled at 42.3 degrees while the minimum temperature was 26.2 degrees Celsius.

HTC

News item/letter/article/editorial published on May-12-05-2015 in the

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)
Blitz

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

Green revolution is now in the red

To make agriculture profitable, relax or remove land-ceiling limits and corporatise farm inputs to keep the costs down, writes MANISH TEWARI



■ How does a farmer then sustain himself? He grows his own vegetables, has an odd buffalo for milk, and leads a rudimentary existence. If there is an illness in the family or a marriage, the farmer is caught between a rock and a hard place

REUTERS

Travels through the Punjab hinterland is always a learning experience for me. Recently, on a hot May afternoon, I had a long and detailed conversation with a group of farmers on the rustic realities of farming today.

To understand the essence of the conversation, we need to look at some data first. The average size of a land holding in India is 1.16 hectares. This is roughly 2.8 acres. Conventional wisdom holds that 84% of the farmers in Punjab have a landholding of less than five acres. Though official data puts the average size of a landholding at 3.77 hectares in the state, this is more a statistical sophistry than an accurate analysis of the situation. Most farmers grow only two crops: Wheat that is sown in November and harvested in April and rice that is planted in June and reaped in early October.

The farmers I spoke to described the agrarian crisis using a rough-and-ready tutorial on the economics of farming in layman terms. One acre of land in a good year yields about 20 quintals of wheat. A quintal is equal to 100 kilogrammes. In a bad year, like the current one, the yield can go down by half or three-fourths i.e. 7-10 quintals. At a minimum support price (MSP) of ₹1,450 per quintal a farmer can get about ₹29,000 per acre.

But we need to take into account the cost of inputs. Each acre requires about one quintal of fertiliser that costs about ₹2,000, it requires about one-and-a-half quintal of urea (₹1,000). It requires a dose of zinc (₹200), three sprays of pesticide (₹1,500), seed (₹800), four rounds of watering (₹800), manual harvesting (₹3,000) and there are sundry expenses like tractor and diesel of around ₹2,000.

So a farmer spends about ₹11,300 per acre considering that electricity is free. He thus earns about ₹17,700 per acre for six months of hard work that translates into ₹2,950 per month and if he has a plot of three acres, it comes up to ₹8,850 per month. This does not take into account the wages of an entire family of four or five persons who would

WITH IMMIGRATION BARRIERS AT THEIR ZENITH, RECRUITMENT IN THE ARMY DWINDLING AND EVEN TERRORISM HAVING BEEN EXPERIMENTED WITH, ALIENATING LAND HOLDINGS IS NO LONGER ABOUT CHOICE BUT A COMPULSION. IF THE PRICE IS RIGHT ACQUISITION IS NOT A TABOO

be toiling ceaselessly to make these numbers a reality.

Then the agriculturists explained the economics of the second crop. The yield of rice per acre is about 25 quintals in a good year. At an MSP of ₹1,400 per quintal it translates into a figure of ₹35,000 per acre. With an input cost of ₹13,800, which is slightly higher than wheat, the farmer earns about ₹21,200 per acre for six months of hard work that translates into ₹3,500 a month. Now if he has a three-acre plot, it means ₹10,500 per a month for the whole family.

Thus in a good year, a family can earn about ₹19,350 a month but if there is any unnatural occurrence it can all go down the drain. However, if you are a contract farmer, who has taken the land on lease and are paying to the owner ₹40,000 per acre annually, then your monthly income is down to ₹9,500 per month for a three-acre agricultural holding. These figures do not take into account the all-pervasive spectre of rural indebtedness where a farmer is on an average paying an 18% annual rate of interest to the moneylender from cradle to cremation.

How does a farmer then sustain himself? He grows his own vegetables, has an odd buffalo for milk, and leads a very rudimentary existence. If there is an illness in the family or when a marriage is supposed to take place, the farmer is caught between a rock and a hard place. Children's education on such meagre earnings is a non-priority.

What then keeps the farmer going? "Two things," explained one of the older men. The "notional satisfaction" that the value of land is multiplying — if you are near a city, it could be ₹2-3 crore an acre and if you are in the hinterland it could be ₹25-30 lakh an acre. The value is the only social security net. Coupled with that is the insecurity over what to do if they sell the land.

But the younger generation is not prepared to wait. They want to monetise the land not because they want to buy flashy cars or pay for their drug habits. The sensible ones see that as the only head start that can give them a better quality of life than what their parents have had.

With immigration barriers at their zenith, recruitment in the armed forces dwindling and even terrorism having been experimented with, alienating land holdings is no longer about choice but a compulsion. If the price is right acquisition is not a taboo.

What is the solution? Surprisingly, the old gentleman gave an answer that one would have expected from a kulak. Address the structural issues beginning with relaxing or removing land-ceiling limits altogether so that agriculture becomes remunerative and collectivise, or corporatise farm inputs so that input costs can come down. Some farmers would lose out in this shake-out but farming would survive.

This is a dormant volcano in the crucible of the green revolution with fertile soil, means of irrigation and an open-ended MSP supported public procurement programme to boot. The situation is fast evolving from the death of farmers to the death of farming.

The dialogue left me wondering whether the concerns of India for the vast unknown called Bharat were still as far removed as the physical miles between Delhi and a smouldering settlement called Dedka, tucked away in the what was a 'no go' area during the height of militancy in Punjab.

Manish Tewari is a lawyer and a former Union minister
The views expressed by the author are personal

News item/letter/article/editorial published on May-11-05-2015 in the

Hindustan Times	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	M.P.Chronicle
Statesman	Punjab Keshari (Hindi)	Aaj (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

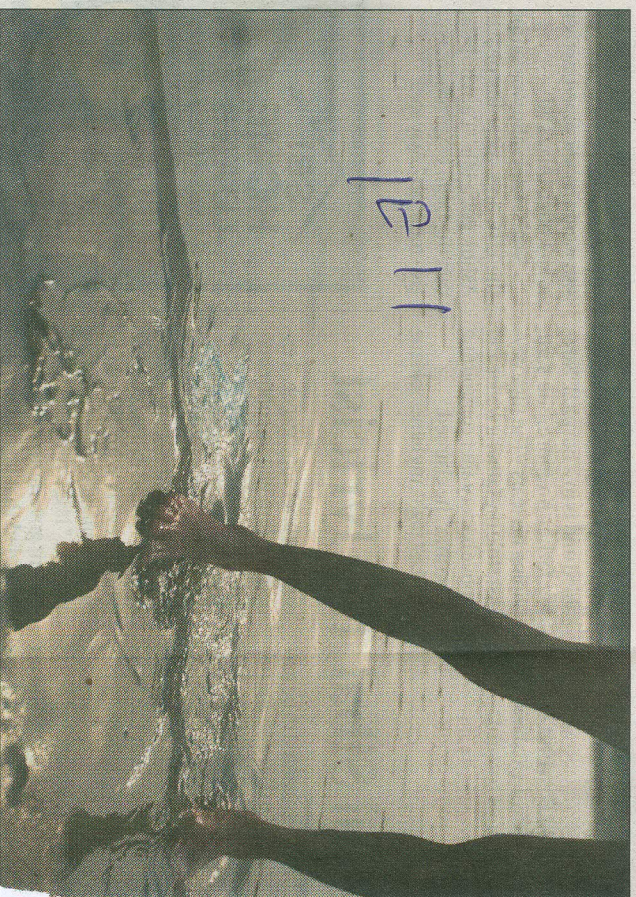
and documented at Bhagiriath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

NGT directives on Yamuna

Throwing of waste material and dumping of debris into the river prohibited

Rs 50,000 fine for dumping debris on the floodplain, fine of Rs 5,000 for dumping other material

- CCTV to be installed at various locations to check throwing of debris
- Delhi government to physically demarcate floodplains
- Drains in Delhi to be cleaned: Delhi Police special team to work with DDA
- Ensure conservation of existing bio-diversity parks and wetlands
- No agricultural activity on banks of the Yamuna
- Principal secretaries of Haryana, Delhi, UP, Uttarakhand and HP to meet in order to ensure minimum environmental flow of river Yamuna is maintained
- Effluents from industry clusters in Haryana to come under scanner
- DPCC to ensure that all common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) operate at optimum capacity
- DSIDC and other authorities to ensure that all industries discharge trade effluents only in the drain
- DJB to ensure that all existing STP operate efficiently to optimum capacity
- DJB, DDA, Revenue department to take possession of required land on which STPs, within 4 weeks
- All STPs shall release effluents as per standards
- DJB and DSIDC, through DPCC or other body, to introduce online monitoring system at specified observation points
- DJB to provide itself with desludging vehicles to transport sludge from septic tanks to nearest STP
- Desludging vehicles to have GPS to ensure proper collection and transportation
- No illegal, unauthorised washing, slaughtering or running of dairies is permitted on the banks of the drains



A boy stands on the edge of the river directly opposite the Najafgarh drain. Oinam Arand

News item/letter/article/editorial published on May-11.05.2015 in the

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

A a j (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

Fresh tremors hit Nepal, toll in earthquake crosses 8,000

SHIRISH B PRADHAN

KATHMANDU, MAY 10

FOUR FRESH tremors on Sunday jolted Nepal, triggering panic among the people already battered by the devastating earthquake and about 160 aftershocks as the death toll crossed 8,000.

Massive landslide and avalanche also forced suspension of rescue works in the popular trekking area of Langtang, where Nepal Army's rescue team has taken out 90 dead bodies, including nine foreigners, so far.

According to some media reports, as many as 120 bodies have been pulled out and rescuers who were searching for bodies have moved to safe places. Lieutenant Colonel Anup Jung Thapa said the rescue works was disrupted due to huge piles of frequent avalanche in and around the area.

Meanwhile, four tremors jolted the Himalayan nation on Sunday, bringing the total number of aftershocks with 4 or more magnitude on the Richter Scale to over 156. A 4.2-magnitude tremor was recorded at 1.50 am with its epicentre 100 km east of Kathmandu was followed by a 4-magnitude tremor at 2.44 am with epicentre at Udaypur district. The third tremor was of 4.4-magnitude struck at 6.34 am with epicentre at Sindhupalchowk/Tibet. Another 4.2-magnitude tremor struck at 3:20 pm with its epicentre at Kavre district. No damage due to the tremors was reported so far. However, they sent a fresh wave of fear and panic among the people.

Meanwhile, the death toll from the April 25 earthquake reached 8,019 while the number of injured stands at 16,033, according to Nepal Police. PTI

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
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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

Tax welcome, Delhi must do more for the river that made it possible

METRO MATTERS



SHIVANI SINGH

Like that proverbial woman behind every successful man, there is a river flowing by every great city. And quite like her, she seldom gets her due. More than two decades ago when Delhi stooped to trash its lifeline, taking note of a news report published in Hindustan Times, the Supreme Court began hearing the 'Maili Yamuna' case in July 1994.

Last week — 21 years later and after crores of rupees had gone down the drain — the National Green Tribunal ordered that every Delhiite pay environment compensation to be used to revive the dead river under the "Maili se Nirmal Yamuna Revitalisation Project 2017".

This compensation — anything between ₹100 and ₹500 a month — will be proportional to a household's property tax or water bill, whichever is higher, and will be added to the monthly utility bills. The money thus collected will fund Delhi Jal Board's Yamuna clean-up project and the cess will be withdrawn once the estimated cost of the project, ₹3,700 crore, is met.

The tax based on the 'polluter-pay principle' - whoever causes pollution pays to clean it up - is a fair deal considering most of the raw sewage flushed out of our homes goes directly into the river. The Yamuna in



■ The Rajghat and Indraprastha power plants were releasing 7.5 tonnes of arsenic into the Yamuna every year. S BURMAULA / HT

Delhi is barely 2% of the river's length but contributes to 76% of the pollution load.

One hopes this tax will make us notice the plight of the river and demand accountability from the government that promised to work on deadlines. In the last two decades, more than ₹1,500 crore have been spent on setting up 17 sewage treatment plants that remained under-utilised in the absence of pipelines to carry effluents to these facilities.

Of the 3,800 million litre sewage generated in Delhi per day, 2,800 MLD is thrown untreated into the river. Now, an interceptor sewer network, worth another ₹4,000 crore, to tap and transport the sewage to the STPs, is in the works. The Yamuna tax will fund this project.

But cleaning the Yamuna is more than just a sewage treatment project. Highly toxic fly ash dumped by the city's thermal power plants is also choking the river. A study by the geological department of Delhi University found that Rajghat and Indraprastha power plants were releasing 7.5 tonnes of arsenic into the Yamuna every year. Covering the floodplains with impermeable concrete structures and construction debris has proved to be another killer.

Most importantly, the Yamuna is already dead when it reaches Delhi, drained of all its water stored upstream. Experts say that the river cannot be restored to bathing quality without releasing freshwater in it. For that to happen, the water-sharing agreement

between Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh will need a renegotiation. Governments have to go beyond thinking of setting up of tourist spots on the riverfront. It will also require Delhi residents to ration their water use.

But why should an average Delhi citizen care about the river? Because for a city that survives on borrowed water, it is our best insurance against water scarcity. The Yamuna — with its vast sand aquifer that runs 2-km wide and nearly 40 metres deep along the 48-km stretch of the river along Delhi — is the biggest reserve for freshwater the city will ever get.

In 2011, the Delhi Jal Board found that the 97 square kilometres of Yamuna floodplains — Delhi's largest groundwater recharge zone — were capable of providing as much as 250 million gallons of water per day (MGD), almost one-third of the city's demand. The study also concluded that if the government fails to check the blatant encroachment on these floodplains, it would be equivalent to an economic loss of ₹50 crore per square kilometre annually.

Back in 1913, Delhi municipality fined a hefty ₹50 if anyone fouled wells, tanks or the Yamuna by washing, throwing garbage or sewage.

Factoring in a century's inflation, a monthly compensation of ₹100-500 is a small price for turning the Yamuna into the city's master gutter.

It is time to give back to the river that made Delhi possible.

■ shivani.singh@hindustantimes.com

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

A a j (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

Uttarakhand primed for quake unseen in centuries, say experts

Zia Haq

■ Zia.haq@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: New research partly funded by the Indian government to forecast earthquakes has made a grim prediction: a great quake never seen in centuries could strike Uttarakhand, an area home to 10 million people.

A 700-year-old 'fault' beneath the state has reached a tipping point, an Indo-Australian team of experts has concluded after gruelling lab and on-site investigations, including the scouring of three river-beds – those of the Bhagirathi, Alaknanda and Kali.

Notice of an impending earthquake may be scary, but it isn't such a bad idea. Even seconds of advanced quake warning can reduce loss of lives, according to the US Geological Survey.

Quakes can't really be predicted. But by using complex

RUMBLES FROM THE PAST

A look at five major earthquakes that have struck India

BIHAR, 1934

The 8.1-magnitude quake with epicentre in Nepal killed over **30,000**

GUJARAT, 2001

The 7.7 tremor killed over **20,000** on Republic Day. Bhuj was worst-affected

MAHARASHTRA, 1993

Measuring 6.4 on Richter scale, the quake claimed over **20,000** lives

ASSAM, 1950

Close to **1,500** killed in the 8.6 quake that originated in Tibet

UTTARKASHI, 1991

The 6.1 quake killed over **1,000** people

modern science, geologists can marry data sets from past quakes with slow changes in landscape patterns to tell where a tremor is due.

In two related studies, published in US journals Lithosphere and JGR, scientists arrived at a seemingly simple but common conclu-

sion. Perched precariously on the edges of two colliding continental plates, Uttarakhand is "primed" for a "large" tremor.

The team was funded partly by the India's ministry of earth sciences, department of science and technology as well as by the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund.

"Decollement beneath Uttarakhand provides a sufficiently large and coherent fault segment capable of hosting a large earthquake. It is the most prominent gap not to have ruptured in about 500-700 years," said one of the authors, CP Rajendran of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore.

In geology, décollement is a process in which some strata become detached. "Fault" is a gently curved fracture, while "strike" is the direction of a line formed by fault or other features.

It's not just the discovery of all these features that made the team predict a large Uttarakhand quake. It's the long time the fault has been taking to rupture — about 700 years — that makes a devastating quake in Uttarakhand overdue, Rajendran said.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on May-12.05.2015 in the

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
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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

[news]
शॉट्स

भूकंप के लगातार झटकों से फट सकते हैं ग्लेशियर

नेपाल: लोगों को चौकस रहने की चेतावनी

काठमांडू @ पत्रिका

patrika.com/world

नेपाल में आए भयंकर भूकंप से ग्लेशियरों को खतरा पैदा हो गया है। भूगर्भ विज्ञानियों ने चेतावनी दी है कि 25 अप्रैल के विनाशकारी भूकंप के बाद आए लगातार झटकों से यहां के लगभग 20 हिमनदों के लिए गंभीर खतरा पैदा हो गया है। यह खतरा इतना गंभीर है कि इससे हिमनद फट भी सकते हैं। कातिपुर न्यूज में सोमवार को प्रकाशित रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, विशेषज्ञों ने माउंट एवरेस्ट के नजदीक स्थित इन हिमनदों के निचले क्षेत्रों में रह रहे लोगों को चेतावनी दी है कि वे चौकस रहें।

नेपाल के राष्ट्रीय भूकंपविज्ञान रिकॉर्ड केंद्र के मुताबिक, रविवार शाम तक भूकंप बाद के 160 से अधिक झटके दर्ज किए गए। नेपाल विश्वविद्यालय के सेंटर फॉर मेटेरोलॉजी एंड हाइड्रोलॉजी के प्रमुख रिजन भक्त कायस्थ ने कहा कि भूकंप बाद के लगातार झटकों से ग्लेशियरों के आसपास की जमीन काफी कमजोर हो गई है। भूकंप जोखिम वाले क्षेत्रों में स्थित 20 अतिसंवेदनशील ग्लेशियरों में से तीन ग्लेशियर झीलें थुलागी, शो रोल्पा और इमजा एक गंभीर खतरा पैदा कर सकती हैं।



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
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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

पांच सितारा होटल समेत 11 संस्थानों पर जुर्माना

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

वर्षा जल संचयन नहीं करने की लापरवाही पर मिली चेतावनी को नजरअंदाज करने वाले दिल्ली के ग्यारह व्यवसायिक संस्थानों पर नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (एनजीटी) ने 3 से 7.5 लाख रुपये तक का जुर्माना लगाया है।

इनमें मॉल, कॉर्पोरेट कॉम्प्लेक्स, अस्पताल और पांच सितारा होटल शामिल हैं। यह संस्थान लगातार बारिश के पानी के संचयन के दिशा-निर्देशों के आधार पर समुचित व्यवस्था को लगातार अनदेखा कर रहे थे।

जस्टिस स्वतंत्र कुमार की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने विक्रांत तोगड़ की ओर से दायर मामले में जेपी सिद्धार्थ होटल और पिकाडली होटल को वर्षा जल संचयन की व्यवस्था नहीं करने पर जुर्माना लगाकर दंडित किया है। दोनों को 7.5-

एनजीटी की कार्रवाई

- एनजीटी ने 3 से 7.5 लाख रुपये का जुर्माने का किया आदेश
- पेश नहीं होने वाले संस्थानों को जारी किया जमानती वारंट

7.5 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना भुगतना होगा। इसके अलावा अन्य नौ संस्थानों पर 3 से पांच लाख रुपये तक का जुर्माना किया गया है।

इनमें तिरुपति इंफ्रा प्रोजेक्ट्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड पर पांच लाख का जुर्माना किया है, जो इंडस होटल्स व स्पा चलाता है। इसके अलावा लक्ष्मी बिल्डटेक प्राइवेट लिमिटेड और लाइफ स्टाइल बिल्डटेक प्राइवेट लिमिटेड पर भी पांच-पांच लाख का जुर्माना किया है। वहीं उपज बिल्डकॉन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड पर तीन

लाख रुपये, अपोलो हॉस्पिटल, जयपुर गोल्डन हॉस्पिटल, सैनटॉम हॉस्पिटल और बीएम गुप्ता हॉस्पिटल पर भी पांच-पांच लाख रुपये का जुर्माना किया है। जबकि होली फैमिली अस्पताल पर तीन लाख रुपये का जुर्माना किया है।

पिछले महीने ट्रिब्यूनल ने 23 मॉल और व्यवसायिक कॉम्प्लेक्स, 17 अस्पतालों और नौ पांच सितारा होटलों से बारिश के पानी को सहेजने की व्यवस्था पर जवाब मांगा था, जिस पर संस्थान कोई ठोस जवाब पेश नहीं कर सके। इससे पहले एनजीटी ने इस मसले पर दिल्ली प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड और दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के अधिकारियों की बनायी समितिको निरीक्षण कर वर्षा जल संचयन की सही व्यवस्था नहीं करने वाले संस्थानों की सूची सौंपने को कहा था। एनजीटी ने गत माह निरीक्षण समिति

की ओर से पेश हुए रिपोर्ट पर 49 व्यवसायिक संस्थानों से जवाब तलब किया था। इन संस्थानों में से बेबुनियादी और बेवजह की दलील देने वाले ग्यारह संस्थानों पर एनजीटी ने जुर्माना किया है। जबकि जवाब नहीं देने वालों को जमानती वारंट जारी किया है।

एनजीटी ने मॉल, व्यवसायिक कॉम्प्लेक्स और पांच सितारा होटलों से कहा है कि वे एक सप्ताह के भीतर वर्षा जल संचयन की समुचित व्यवस्था करें, अन्यथा उन्हें बंद करने का आदेश दिया जाएगा। साथ ही सभी अस्पतालों को मानसून के आने से पहले जल संचयन की व्यवस्था करने को कहा है। यदि अस्पतालों ने लापरवाही बरती तो उन्हें भारी आर्थिक जुर्माना भुगतना होगा और उनके सीईओ के खिलाफ कड़ी कानूनी कार्रवाई का आदेश दिया जाएगा।

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)
Blitz

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

To fetch a pail of water

A township near Mumbai, most of Diva gets drinking water for 10 min every 2-3 days, if at all. When they run out of drinking water, the only option is to squeeze into a crowded local train to Mumbra, 4 km away, with pots and cans. MANASI PHADKE and photographer DEEPAK JOSHI make that trip

KAVITA Kumawat has a train to catch to Mumbra. So she firmly tucks in the loose end of the *pallu* of her floral polyester sari and hurries to the Diva Junction railway station that's metres away from her ground-floor house in the Kalubai chawl. Just before she leaves, she picks up what's now her constant companion on these daily train journeys — an empty steel pot that sits snugly on the left hollow of her waist.

At the station, Kavita joins about eight other women, all carrying pots and cans. A little past 6 pm, the CST local on the Central Line pulls in and the women jostle to enter the first-class compartment, their utensils clanking as they are dragged in.

In Diva, a township of about 4.5 lakh people where Kavita lives, the four-km train ride to Mumbra to fetch drinking water is a daily feature. Every day, Diva residents — mostly women — carry water cans and squeeze themselves into the already-congested compartments of the suburban railway trains. The errand is so routine that many of them don't even bother to change out of their night clothes or worn-out saris before taking the train.

Some are working couples, with the husband and wife taking turns to run the water errand. So if one of them wakes up at 4 am to be able to get water from Mumbra before heading to work, the other makes a trip after work in the evening. Some have purchased season tickets to Mumbra just to be able to get water, while many others don't bother with the tickets. They usually get into first-class compartments because getting into the packed second-class ones with all those water cans is nearly impossible. The railway ticket-checkers, they say, are sympathetic to their predicament and let them travel ticketless. Some residents get their children along to help.

Today is a Sunday and Kavita, a homemaker, is relieved at the thought of winding up her day earlier than usual. On weekdays, the local trains are choc-a-bloc and Kavita can't think of setting foot into a compartment with a water pot in hand during peak hours — she does the trip twice, in the afternoon and after 9 pm.

By the time she is back from Mumbra at night, with barely enough water to last her household till the next afternoon, it is usually past midnight. And then, she has to catch the train by noon the following day.



Kavita makes the trip twice daily, often returning home past midnight

square foot.

Most households here get water for about 10 minutes every two or three days, that too unannounced, at any time of the day or night. Residents say these are the luckier households — for, there are some taps in Diva that have stayed dry for years.

Despite this, the Shiv Sena-BJP controlled Thane Municipal Corporation, under whose administrative jurisdiction Diva falls, continues to send regular water bills to its residents. Some brazenly refuse to pay for a service they have never got, while others pay, hoping the situation might improve some day. According to a corporation official who didn't want to be named, in the last financial year, they collected about Rs 1.45 crore in the form of water tax from Diva and another Rs 7.5 crore as property tax.

"Why should we pay when we don't get

Some of Diva's residents have purchased season tickets to Mumbra just to be able to get water, while many others don't bother with the tickets. They usually get into first-class compartments because getting into the packed second-class ones with all those water cans is nearly impossible. The railway ticket-checkers they

even a drop of water?" snaps 54-year-old Lata Shelke, a homemaker who lives with her 16-year-old daughter in one of the farthest corners of Diva East. "I can't remember the last time water flowed from our tap. Must have been at least three or four years ago. Still, the corporation regularly sent us water bills. A few months ago, they cut our water connection saying we hadn't paid our bills." Shelke herself doesn't do the train trips but buys a pot of water for Rs 50 from women who have made a business of getting water from Mumbra.

Shreya Jadhav, 27, says she is regular with her water bills. She begins her day at 6 am, makes two trips to Mumbra for water, each time climbing three floors up to her house with a 20-litre water can, and sleeps much past midnight. In between, she packs in an 8-hour call centre job in Thane and does her household chores. "Even after all that water I get from Mumbra, I end up buying mineral water for my year-old daughter. Half my monthly salary of Rs 6,000 is spent in getting water. But we still pay our water bills because I don't want to lose the five-minute supply I get."

Divia has sufficient ground water that borewells pull up. However, with the area surrounded by the marshlands of the Thane creek, the groundwater is highly saline and unfit for drinking or cooking.

Fifty-year-old Chandrakala Baraskar from Nagwadi, one of the areas in Diva worst affected by the water crisis, says, "We use the bore water for our toilets, bathing, brushing, washing clothes. The water is so saline that if I put it in a *kadhai* on fire, I can actually make salt."

Back in the train compartment, the women squat right at the entrance — their pots and cans spread out before them. The conversation inside the train is mostly idle chatter, though water is a recurring theme. A woman tells Kavita about the wedding of her neighbour's daughter. "The wedding will be held in their village. Imagine arranging for water for all those guests in Diva," she exclaims. There are guffaws and a few sighs and the women get talking again.

At Mumbra, Kavita and the others make their way out of the railway station, crossing the road to a Hanuman temple that has a public tap. For "smaller needs", she says, people in the township go to the lone tap at the Diva railway station where authorities allow residents to fill one water can each.

At the tap in the temple, there is already a queue. A group of women gets into a squabble as one of them attempts to fill a third can after filling her quota of two.

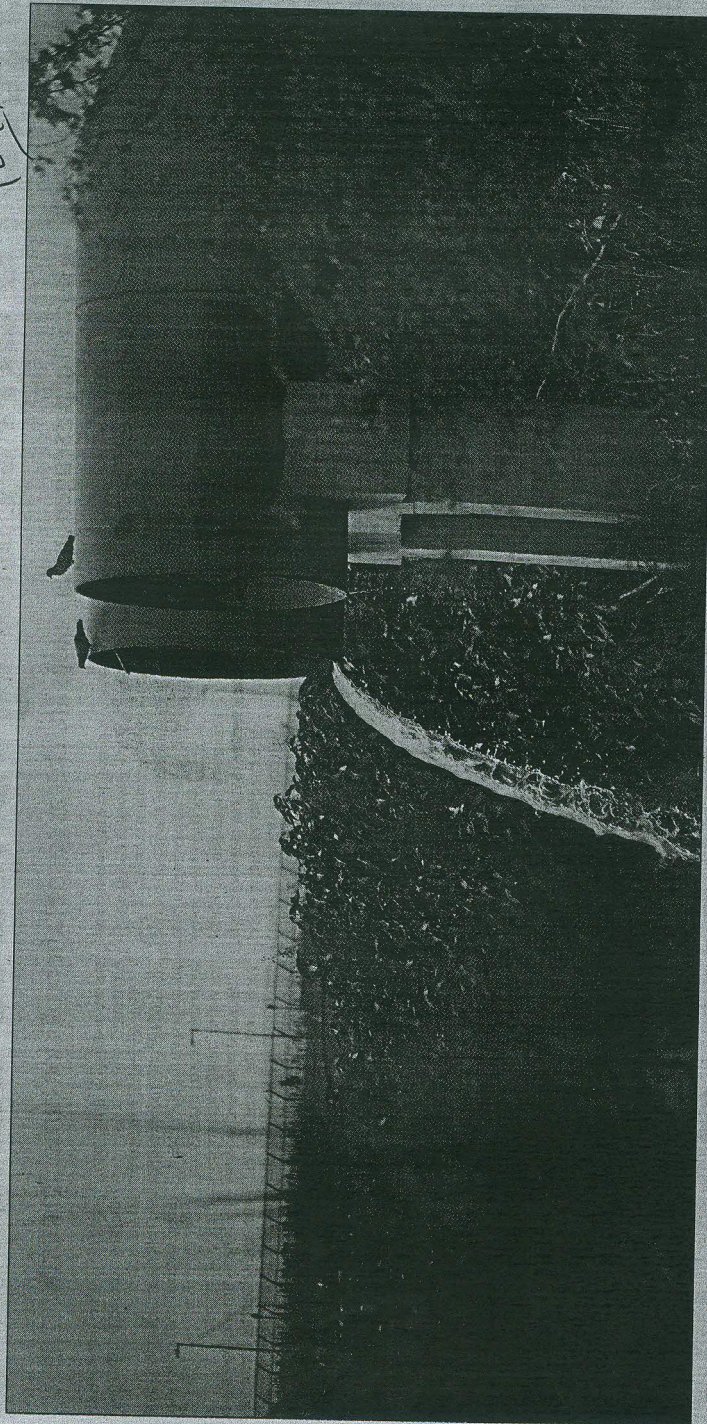
On their way back to the Mumbra station platform, Kavita and her neighbours cross the railway tracks because it is too much of an effort to walk to the other end of the station and take the foot over-bridge with all those water cans.

After a 10-minute wait, a train pulls in. But the women's compartment is packed so Kavita decides to give this train a miss. She lets one more train pass before boarding the next. "It's better today as it's a Sunday," says Kavita.

Slow death of a river

Every toilet in Delhi flows straight into the Yamuna, turning it into a public cesspool. While various agencies plan and prod one another over its cleaning, and thousands of crores are spent, a pristine, flowing Yamuna remains a dream. ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL and ADITI VATSA report from its stinking bank

16/1



Untreated sewage being released into Yamuna near Wazirabad bridge barrage. Onnam Anand

MORE THAN Rs 1,500 crore has been spent in the past two decades under the aegis of the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP). The sewage interceptor project — to ensure that only treated sewage is discharged into three drains emptying into the river — cost the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) a total of Rs 1,962 crore. The phase of the National Green Tribunal's Yamuna revitalisation project is expected to cost another Rs 3,659 crore. But despite optimism, experts, bureaucrats and politicians agree that implementing the Tribunal's order will be hard.

Manoj Mishra, the petitioner in the case at the Tribunal, explained that the reason previous plans didn't work was the "obsession with cleaning of water". He explained, "We need to remember that it is the water flow in the river which is crucial. All rivers have a capacity to clean themselves through their environmental flow. This aspect of

river restoration was never explored. For the first time that a judicial body, the NGT in this case, in its January 13 judgment, spoke about ensuring the environmental flow of the river and how it is essential for river restoration."

He added that another important aspect of the order was to bring the management of sewage, stormwater and industrial waste under one roof. "Stormwater drains are erstwhile tributaries of the river which have now been converted into sewage and toxic drains. Their basic purpose, which was to carry stormwater to the river, was defeated," he said.

Under the first phase of the NGT's 'Mallya Se Nirmal Yamuna Revitalisation Project, 2017', the DJB has been ordered to begin work on 15 STPs that it has to install to deal with the sewage load of Delhi. Presently, only four are operational and one is under

"As long as Haryana doesn't release more water into the Yamuna, this problem will continue. The river needs to have enough water to cleanse itself"

B SENGUPTA,
FORMER GPCB
MEMBER SECRETARY

construction. An official admitted, "The modalities of the plan are still being worked out. This week we are coming up with an action plan to submit before the NGT."

But DJB vice-chairman Kapil Mishra, who is the AAP MLA from Karawal Nagar, said that he was confident of the agency's ability to execute the plan, while reiterating that in the past the only challenge was that of resources. "In the previous Yamuna Action Plans, there was

serious mismanagement of resources. There was no political will. Right now, the NGT has asked the Delhi government and the central government to finance the project. We are in talks with multiple agencies and once we overcome the hurdle of getting resources, the order can be implemented," he said.

In order to provide the required funds, the NGT has ordered every household generate sewage in the capital to "pay environmental compensation" for cleaning the river. It has also asked Union ministries such as the Ministry of Urban Development to release funds for the project after noting that the DDA has "nearly 281 unauthorised colonies" that contribute heavily to the "generation of sewage" in the capital.

According to Balwinder Kumar, DDA vice-chairman, work on the NGT order has already begun. "The ministry has

an urban development fund and the NGT has asked the ministry to release this fund. Meanwhile, we began the process of demarcation of the river and delineating the boundary of the river and the extent of encroachment. We will submit this to the Tribunal soon," he said.

While the NGT's order looks to implement the cleaning of drains through coordinated work by all involved agencies, it was this very multiplicity of agencies that was the greatest problem in cleaning the river in Delhi, explained former CM Sheila Dikshit. "The greatest challenge in Delhi was to clean the many drains that empty into the river of its sludge. As the population increased, so did the pollution in these drains and ultimately the river got very polluted. We tried to do what we could but the greatest problem lay in the fact that different agencies were working on the same

thing," she said.

According to Dikshit, who was also the chairperson of DJB, the problem was compounded by lack of coordination between different state governments. "It's not just a question of one state, Delhi had to work alongside the needs and requirements of other states like UP and Haryana," she said.

Former GPCB member secretary B Sengupta said, "As long as Haryana doesn't release more water into the Yamuna, this problem will continue. The river needs to have enough water to cleanse itself."

According to Anumita Roychowdhury of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), "The Delhi Government needs to keep in mind the urgency of the issue. Delhi's groundwater is shrinking rapidly while at the same time the river is becoming increasingly polluted. The situation needs to be solved immediately."

'The water is black, it burns the skin'

A little past noon on Sunday, a group of boys plunged into the Yamuna near Wazirabad for a swim. But despite the seeming nonchalance, they take care to not swim downstream of the river, where its waters turn black. Ajay, a 16-year-old resident of Usmanpur, explained, "The water there is black. The water from the drain flows there and if I swim there, my skin burns."

The teenager isn't exaggerating. Sludge from the Najafgarh and supplementary drains ooze out into the river, barely a kilometer downstream of the Wazirabad barrage, turning its waters black and poisonous. "When the drains are fully operational, it becomes impossible to even stand here. Till about 10 years ago, you could fish here. Birds would come in the winters and small animals would come and drink water," said Rajesh Bindhwani, a resident of Timarpur.

According to the Delhi Jal Board, 63 per cent of the river's pollution originates from the Najafgarh drain, the supplementary drain and the Delhi Gate drain. Cleaning these two drains up, as priority, is the DJB's immediate challenge as the first phase of the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) plan to revitalise the river by 2017.

The NGT order on May 8 talked about restoring the river to its "original pristine and glory". But standing by the river's banks, makes it almost impossible to conceive. The acid smell emanating from the river leaves a metallic taste in the mouth. The water is only 1.5 banks are lined with plastic and other debris. There are barely and birds, no animals.

According to a report filed by GPCB in the NGT, water samples collected from river Yamuna show "flagrant violation" of prescribed standards. Where "the maximum permissible limit of BOD is 3 mg/l, there at the Nizamuddin Bridge, it is 37 mg/l" and "total coliform permissible is 5000 MPN/100 ml, there it is 17,00,00,00,000".

quoting the NGT in its order earlier in January, BOD is commonly used to measure the toxicity of a water body while the presence of coliform bacteria is indicative of the extent of human or animal fecal material present in the water, linked to spread of diseases through faecal transmission.

The presence of coliform bacteria is indicative of the extent of human or animal fecal material present in the water. The total coliform permissible is 5,000 MPN/100 ml, but at the Nizamuddin Bridge, it is 17,00,00,00,000

The reason for the critical pollution levels of the 22-km stretch of Yamuna passing through Delhi is linked to the fact that rarely is any fresh water released into the river from upstream of the Wazirabad barrage. "It's only possible to clean the Yamuna, when there is hundred per cent cleaning of sewage and when the minimum flow of the river is maintained. Presently, all the fresh water is taken before the Wazirabad barrage for drinking purposes. But even if treated sewage comes back into the river, there needs to be a factor of dilution by ten times before the water can clean itself," said B Sengupta, former member secretary, GPCB.

He added that the only water being added to the river at Delhi were through the 17 drains that dump copious amounts of waste water into the river. Largest among these is the Najafgarh drain with sewerage catchment area of 374 sq kilometre and almost 70 tributary drains that join it, as per GPCB. A total of 17,288 industries from across the capital were recorded by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, in a study, as industrial units "whose waste waters reaching the Najafgarh drain".

The other drain that authorities, including the DJB, have been asked to take up as priority as a part of the first phase of the Yamuna revitalisation plan is the Delhi Gate drain. According to Manoj Mishra, of Yamuna Jyoti Abhiyan, the petitioner in the case, "This is one of the 22 drains, right next to the Delhi secretariat and flows into the river from there. It's highly polluted due to a mix cocktail of sewage, unauthorised industrial waste and it also has storm water flow from its vicinity."

Central Water Commission
Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

725(A), North, Sewa Bhawan,
R.K. Puram, New Delhi – 66.

Dated

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 have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

[Signature]
12/5/15
Assistant Director (publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Editor Bhagirath (English) & Publicity

[Signature]
12.5.15

Director (T.D.)

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
uploaded at www.cwc.nic.in