

Central Water Commission  
WSE Dte.,

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West Block 11, Wing No-4  
R. K. Puram, New Delhi – 66.

Dated 25-2-2019.

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.

Encl: As stated above.

~~Deputy Director, WSE Dte.~~

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25/2/2019

~~Director, WSE Dte.~~

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25.2.2019  
SPA (Publicity)

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O/C

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 25/2/2019 in the

Hindustan Times  
Statesman  
The Time of India (New Delhi)  
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Hindustan (Hindi)  
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Deccan Chronicle  
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The Times of India (A)  
Business standard  
The Economic Times

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

✓ Financial Express, Delhi  
Monday, 25th February 2019; Page: 7

**T**HE EQUATOR PRINCIPLES is a risk-management framework, adopted by financial institutions, for determining, assessing and managing environmental and social risk in project financing, and is intended to provide a minimum standard for due diligence and monitoring to support responsible risk decision-making prior to lending for projects. The Equator Principles were formally launched in Washington, DC, on June 4, 2003.

They were formed as a guideline to financial institutions before lending to infrastructure projects. Since the inception of the Equator Principles in 2003, the energy and extractives industry has been a major focus of the environmental and social risk reviews conducted by nearly 80 member banks. For example, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, a leader in project finance, put 225 projects through its Equator Principles review process between 2006 and 2012. Of these, 60% were in the mining, oil, gas and energy sectors.

Financial institutions are accountable to screening when lending to projects that are hazardous environmentally and socially. Their investment decisions increasingly include an assessment of E&S risks and impacts. This rule is not only applicable to MDBs (multilateral development banks) and international financial institutions, but also to commercial banks and private equity funds. In many developing countries, international players require compliance with both national laws and international E&S standards developed by MDBs, which are sometimes more stringent than those inscribed in national legislation.

## Equator Principles in project financing

Implementing the Equator Principles has enhanced the role of project financing; sustainable development has become key

VIDYA  
HATTANGADI

The author is a management thinker and blogger



In the 1980s, the Sardar Sarovar project, which involved construction of a dam on the Narmada river in Gujarat, got harshly criticised worldwide for its adverse environmental and social impacts. It was built to provide electricity and irrigation water to downstream regions, and the construction of this dam resulted in forced dislocation of more than 2 lakh native people living along upstream districts, without provisions of sufficient compensation or means of livelihood reinstatement. To ensure justice to the people displaced, international NGOs undertook Narmada relief campaign, due to which the financial assistance to the project, provided by the World Bank and official development assistance (ODA) of the Japanese government, got terminated.

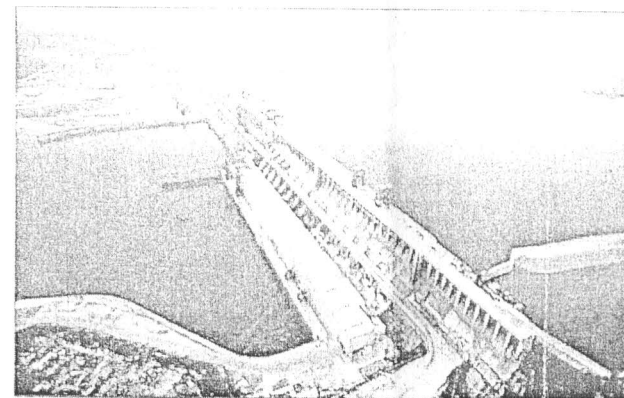
In the late 1990s, when the world

started seriously thinking about safeguarding environment and social welfare above all, multilateral development financial organisations such as the World Bank and export credit agencies of OECD member countries came up with environmental and social guidelines to properly manage environmental and social risks associated with large-scale projects. But only a handful of private financial institutions in the world were implementing environmental and social reviews before lending for projects. Therefore, environmental NGOs started demanding that private financial institutions must be held responsible for neglecting environmental and social risks; attention must be given to CSR in terms of environmental issues.

To address these demands and concerns, in October 2002, ABN AMRO and

the International Finance Corporation (the IFC is in charge of private projects for the World Bank Group) invited major global financial institutions engaged in project finance activities to assemble in London with the intention to come up with environmental and social risks management guidelines for private financial institutions. As a result of this meeting, Citigroup, ABN AMRO, Barclays and WestLB, in collaboration with the IFC, created a framework for managing environmental and social risks. The Equator Principles were thus formulated in June 2003.

The founders of the Equator Principles wanted their adoption to be a globally applicable to financial institutions in the northern and southern hemispheres, and the equator seemed to represent that balance perfectly, hence were named thus.



developed markets.

Pursuant to the finalisation of principles of EPFIs (Equator Principles Financial Institutions), the lender needs to categorise a new project according to its level of probable environmental and social risks based on the screening criteria of the IFC. The three categories are as follows:

**Category A:** Projects with potential significant adverse social and environmental impacts those are diverse, permanent and exceptional;

**Category B:** Projects with potential limited adverse social or environmental impacts, largely reversible and addressable through mitigation measures;

**Category C:** Projects with minimal or no social or environmental impacts. The standards have consequently been periodically updated into what is commonly known as the IFC Performance Standards on social and environmental sustainability and on the World Bank Group Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines.

**Benefits of the Equator Principles:** Borrowers don't like banks telling them how to behave; they want their loans to be sanctioned and that's about it. With so many monetary scams and money laundering taking place, the credibility of the global financial institutions is under heavy scrutiny today, especially in markets where social and environmental standards for business are less stringent. Another fact is that companies with little or no experience in applying mitigation measures often require additional support and advice from their lenders. Implementing the Equator Principles has enhanced the role of project financing; sustainable development has become key issue.

The Equator Principles were first revised in July 2006, to align it with the IFC Performance Standards. Further revision of the IFC Performance Standards took place in 2012 and the need to strengthen environmental and social risks management resulted in the launch of the third version of the Equator Principles in June 2013. The fourth round of revision is under review and will be finalised by August 2019.

The key thematic areas of this round include social impact and human rights, climate change, designated countries and applicable standards and scope of applicability of each principle. So far, 94 financial institutions from 37 countries have officially adopted the Equator Principles, which covers the majority of international project finance debt in emerging and

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Business standard

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# 'Drying up of Indo-Gangetic basin may trigger tremors'

Bappa Majumdar  
@timesgroup.com

15.12.2019  
24

**Hyderabad:** An NGRI report on the largest groundwater depletion in northern India comes close on the heels of a Niti Aayog report last year that predicted that Delhi, along with several other metros, could run out of groundwater by 2020. According to NGRI estimates, Delhi requires 1 cubic km of water every year for drinking, industrial and domestic purposes.

The top NGRI scientist al-

**Drying up of groundwater by using bigger pumps from deeper borewells is causing large-scale contamination of water, says a report**

so feared that drying up of the Indo-Gangetic basin, comprising some 2,000 km of land from Pakistan to Bangladesh, may also trigger moderate earthquakes. Drying up of

groundwater by using bigger pumps from deeper borewells is also causing large-scale contamination of water.

While 10 years ago, arsenic-contaminated water was largely seen in some parts of West Bengal and Bihar, it's now being seen moving in a northwest direction. The Ganga basin region has two big aquifers. But people have started to overexploit both, leading to more cross contamination, scientists say.

Multiple studies by research agencies have shown

how paddy is getting infected with arsenic, and there are fears that it will affect other crops and have a disastrous impact on health.

Worried over the state of groundwater in India, the government has entrusted NGRI to look for new aquifers in the country. Scientists here have used helicopter-borne electromagnetic tools to find new fractures zones beneath the earth, containing untapped water in cities like Surat and Nagpur among other areas.

Full report on [www.toi.in](http://www.toi.in)

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# Ask Haryana to give more water, CM writes to Modi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is also the Delhi Jal Board chairman, has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention in convincing Haryana to increase the amount of water being released for the Wazirabad treatment plant to avert a crisis in NDMC areas and central Delhi next month.

The letter sent on Friday states that even though the matter is being pursued legally, intervention at the "highest level" is necessary to avert an "imminent water availability crisis" in NDMC areas from the second week of March. Kejriwal pointed out that while Haryana's population is the same as Delhi's, it gets about twice the water share.

"We are trying to resolve the long-term issues with Haryana before Delhi high court. This request letter is to bring to your kind attention the water crisis that may hit



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NDMC in the middle of March during which Holi will be celebrated and children will be facing board exams," the letter reads.

According to the current estimate, about one-third of water production intended for NDMC and central Delhi is likely to be impacted. "This will lead to curtailment of supply to the most important areas of

Delhi due to sub-optimal operations of water treatment plants at Chandrawal and Wazirabad," Kejriwal said.

"Going by last year's experience, water in the Yamuna is likely to deplete or dry up in the middle of March. In this period, Haryana is required to send water from Tajewala to Delhi via alternative routes of CLC and DSB canals. This additional 120 cusecs water is just 5% of 2,400 cusecs available at Tajewala," the letter added.

The letter cites a 1996 judgment of Supreme Court to argue in its favour. Para 10 of the judgment states: "We order and direct that Delhi shall continue to get as much water for domestic use from Haryana through Yamuna, which can be consumed and filled in the two water reservoirs and treatment plants at Wazirabad and Haiderpur. This order is not dependent on the MoU or any other proceeding that may be initiated under any other law between the parties."

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# Activists call for a clean Ganga, sit on dharna

KRIKA SEHGAL  
NEW DELHI, 23 FEBRUARY

**C**lean Ganga activists marched from India Gate to Jantar Mantar here on Saturday in support of their demands. They were spearheading the cause of Aatmabodhanand, a 26-year-old computer science graduate-turned-activist who has been on a fast-unto-death for a clean Ganga for 123 days in Haridwar.

"He has been fasting since 24 October 2018, seeking the cancellation of the ongoing hydro projects, however the concerned Union minister has not talked to him," claimed a protester.

The activists claimed the authorities had turned a deaf ear to their demands. "It has



Medha Patkar at the dharna

been years since we have been agitating over this, trying everything to get our concerns heard but there has been no dialogue with the government. People have died fasting for this but no official has got back to us," said an activist.

He said they have been continuously writing to the government and the ministry, but no conversation has been initiated by them. "Our demand is to allow free flow of Ganga, no new dam should be constructed on the river and

the ones under construction should be removed," said the protesters.

Swaraj India leader Yogendra Yadav and Narmada Bachao Andolan leader Medha Patkar also joined the protest. "I stand here with all my friends who are protesting hard to get their demands acknowledged. I support each and every person who is standing for the cause and I will keep doing the same. We will fight till we can because the cause is right to fight for," said Yadav.

Students of different colleges and social workers also joined in the dharna. "We appreciate the decision of the government of not setting up any new hydro power projects on the Ganga, but the issue here is that there are

threats to the survival of the Ganga. The belt near Sarangpur has been converted into a cancer belt as the water is highly polluted. The flow of Ganga is decreasing every year and it is eventually going to affect the human chain as well," said Vikrant, an activist.

He added, "Despite hundreds of letters and requests to the government, we haven't received any reply from them."

He said Aatmabodhanand has been fasting for the cause in Haridwar and is surviving on honey and water. Previously too activists have sacrificed themselves for this campaign, he pointed out.

Swami Sanand fasted for 111 days until he succumbed, but his protest was continued by Gopal Das for 146 days, before he went missing.

ST-29



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## सम्मान 21RP ललितपुर को राष्ट्रीय जल पुरस्कार

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क  
patrika.com

ललितपुर, जनपद को दो राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कारों से नवाजा जाएगा। ललितपुर को राष्ट्रीय जल पुरस्कार से पुरस्कृत किया गया है, वहीं प्रधानमंत्री पुरस्कार सघन मिशन इन्द्रधनुष टीकाकरण कार्यरत में हेतु भी जनपद को नामित किया गया है। ललितपुर को राष्ट्रीय जल पुरस्कार बेस्ट डिस्ट्रिक्ट (नार्थ) श्रेणी की उपश्रेणी जलश्रोतों के पुनर्जीवन एवं निर्माण में द्वितीय स्थान प्राप्त होने पर दिया गया है। जनपद ललितपुर के जिलाधिकारी मानवेन्द्र सिंह को यह पुरस्कार आगामी 25 फरवरी को केन्द्रीय मंत्री जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षक नितिन गडकरी द्वारा मावलंकर ऑडिटोरियम नई दिल्ली में प्रदान किया जाएगा।

जिलाधिकारी मानवेन्द्र सिंह के नेतृत्व में विकासखण्ड मड़ावरा के मदनपुर क्षेत्र में बहने वाली ओडी नदी के पुनर्जीवन हेतु तथा जनपद

ललितपुर में खाली पड़ी खदानों को वाटरबॉडीज के रूप में सफलतापूर्वक परिवर्तित किया गया। पूर्व में ओडी नदी सदानीरा थी, परन्तु कालान्तर में यह सूख कर मृतप्राय हो गई। नदी में सिल्ट जम चुकी थी तथा इसके छिद्र भी बंद हो चुके थे, जिससे नदी का जल सूख चुका था। जिलाधिकारी के निर्देशन में मनरेगा की धनराशि का सदुपयोग कर पूरी नदी की धारा की ड्रेजिंग अथवा खुदाई करवाई गई। इस खुदाई के उपरान्त इसके छिद्र खुल गए, जिससे नदी की विलुप्त धारा पुनर्जीवित हो गई। वर्षाऋतु के उपरान्त नदी के पूरे प्रवाह क्षेत्र में पर्याप्त जलप्रवाह बना रहा और वर्तमान समय में भी यह नदी अपने पूरे प्रवाह क्षेत्र में पर्याप्त जल के साथ सतत रूप से प्रवाहित हो रही है। मिशन इन्द्रधनुष के तहत प्रधानमंत्री पुरस्कारों के लिए ललितपुर के जिलाधिकारी मानवेन्द्र सिंह ने उत्तर प्रदेश का प्रतिनिधित्व किया।

Hindustan Times  
Statesman  
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Tribune ✓

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# Govt's plan to stop water flow to Pak

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

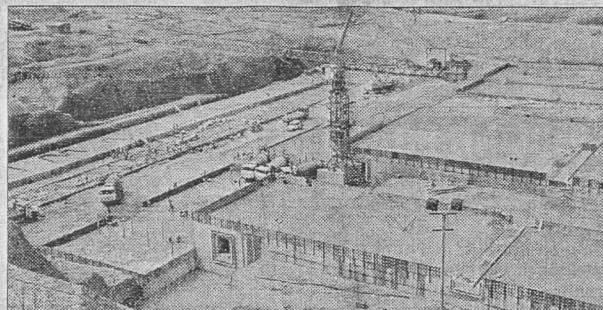
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

Setting the record straight, the Centre today said India has been utilising 95 per cent of waters of eastern rivers allocated to India for "exclusive use" under the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan on account of which about 2 million acre feet (MAF) of unutilised water from the Ravi annually flowed into Pakistan.

To utilise the water of the rivers, India has constructed Bhakra Dam on Sutlej, Pong and Pandoh Dam on Beas and Thein (Ranjitsagar) on Ravi. These storage works, together with other works like Beas-Sutlej link, Madhopura-Beas link, Indira Gandhi Nahar project, etc had helped to utilise country's share of waters.

However, about 2 MAF of water from the Ravi annually is reported to be still flowing unutilised to Pakistan below Madhopur, the government said. Hence, three major projects, including construction of Shahpur Kandi on which work has resumed, have been planned to rectify the anomaly.

"The three projects will help India utilise its entire share of water given under



The work on Shahpur Kandi Dam has resumed. FILE PHOTO

## PROJECTS BEING WORKED ON...

- **SHAHPUR KANDI:** To help utilise waters coming out from powerhouse of Thein dam to irrigate 37,000 hectares in J&K and Punjab, and generate 206 MW power
- **UJH:** To create storage of 781 million cubic metre of water on the Ujh, a tributary of Ravi, for irrigation and power generation
- **2ND RAVI-BEAS LINK BELOW UJH:** To tap excess water flowing down to Pakistan through Ravi by constructing a barrage to divert water through a tunnel link to Beas basin

the Indus Waters Treaty," the government added.

The Shahpur Kandi project will help in utilising the waters coming out from powerhouse of Thein dam to irrigate 37,000 hectares in J&K and Punjab and generate 206 MW power. It was scheduled to be completed by September 2016, but work had been suspended since August 30, 2014, following a dispute between J&K and Punjab. Consequent to agreement

reached between the two states on September 8, 2018, work has resumed.

The other is the proposed Ujh national multipurpose project, which will create storage of about 781 million cu m of water on the Ujh — a tributary of Ravi — for irrigation and power generation, and provide a total irrigation benefit of 31,380 hectare in Kathua, Hiranagar and Samba district of J&K, besides providing water for Kathua.

The DPR of the national project, which is scheduled to be completed in six years, has been technically approved for the total cost of ₹5,850 crore.

The third project is the second Ravi Beas link below Ujh (national project) which aims to tap excess water flowing down to Pakistan through Ravi by constructing a barrage across the river for diverting water through a tunnel link to Beas basin.

Under the Treaty, all water of the three eastern rivers averaging around 33 MAF were allocated to India for exclusive use. "The water of western rivers — Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab — averaging to around 135 MAF was allocated to Pakistan except specified domestic, non-consumptive and agricultural use permitted to India as provided in the Treaty."

"India had also been given the right to generate electricity through run of river projects on the western rivers which, subject to specific criteria for design and operation, is unrestricted," the government added. The Indus system comprises main Indus river, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. The basin is mainly shared by India and Pakistan with a small share for China and Afghanistan.



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# Turning the tap off

India can wriggle out of the Indus Waters Treaty, there is a precedent



LT GEN PK GROVER (RETD)

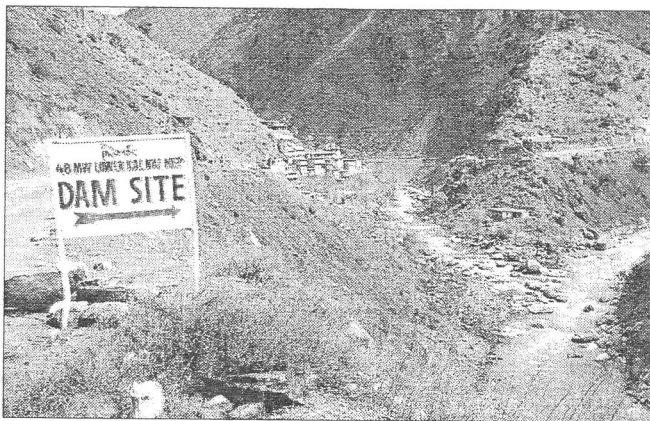
FORMER STATE INFORMATION  
COMMISSIONER, PUNJAB

MUTUAL trust and cooperation are fundamental to international relations. The attack in Pulwama has again challenged just this. Indo-Pakistan relations are at an all-time low. Upholding the supremacy of our national interests and the close connect between India's foreign affairs and its fundamental security and development priorities, India's resolve to punish Pakistan for its continuous proxy war in J&K is an inevitable imperative. This is no time for benevolence when we stand challenged!

One of the measures that should be considered is to revisit the Indus Waters Treaty under which Pakistan has been receiving about 80 per cent of the water from the Indus Basin System for the past 58 years. Pakistan is a water-stressed country, with each citizen getting about one-sixth of the share of water when compared to the situation at the time of Independence. The Indus provides water to over 80 per cent of Pakistan's 54 million acre of irrigated land. Farming activities generate 21 per cent of the country's GDP and any depletion in the discharge will derail its agrarian economy.

That the Kashmir dispute and the water disputes are interwoven is an inescapable truth. J&K, even though an upper riparian state, is the worst affected due to restrictions imposed by this treaty. Pakistan has also adopted an obstructionist strategy since 1977 by raising issues regarding run-of-river projects under construction on the western rivers by India.

After the Uri attack in 2016, while discussing punitive measures to be



**DAMN RIGHT:** The ICJ has upheld that a treaty may be dissolved by reason of a fundamental change of circumstances. India is within its rights to explore it.

**Farming activities generate 21 per cent of Pakistan's GDP. Any depletion in the water discharge is sure to derail its agrarian economy.**

adopted against Pakistan, the PM had stated that 'blood and water cannot flow together'. Steps were initiated to prevent waters of the eastern rivers authorised to India from flowing into Pakistan. India decided to fast-track the Shahpur Kandi Project, Ujh Hydro Electricity Project (198 MW) and Sutlej-Beas link. Further, a Ravi-Beas link was also proposed. The main beneficiaries being Punjab and J&K. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari recently confirmed this resolve of the government.

It was also desired to maximise, within the ambit of Article III of the treaty, the potential of India's use of waters on the three western rivers, namely Indus, Chenab and Jhelum, in the areas of hydro-power, irrigation and storage.

The recent sequence of events, especially in view of the proposed US withdrawal from Afghanistan, indicates no change in Pakistan's attitude. Thus, there is a need to consider gradually diluting the provisions of the treaty as it is against our national interests to not do so and to simultaneously make Pak-

istan pay for its misadventures. We have sufficient grounds to justify our stance in all forums.

Firstly, the treaty was signed with undivided Pakistan to provide the requisite food security. Thus, ipso facto, the interest of former East Pakistan was also part of this agreement. Now that Bangladesh is an independent nation and India has a separate treaty with it, there is a need to review/cancel our agreement with Pakistan by invoking Article 62 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. In the past, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has upheld the principle that a treaty may be dissolved by reason of a fundamental change of circumstances.

Secondly, Pakistan has been drawing the benefit of our benevolence without any responsibility. The treaty does not explicitly provide for an exit option, but we should justify India's right to withdraw from the treaty citing Pakistan's non-compliance with the UN Security Council's Resolution 1373, a counter-terrorism measure binding on all member states.

Thirdly, it is important to highlight that national interests are supreme. A large number of international treaties have been abrogated or reviewed. The US had abrogated the ABM treaty signed in 1970s as it no longer conformed to the existing security compulsions. Hungary dishonoured the treaty of 1977 vintage regarding the construction of a project on the Danube, in which the ICJ gave a ruling based on the customary international laws of sharing of water resources in terms of 'equitable utilisation' rather than the treaty. Dispute between the US and Mexico over the waters of Rio Grande was resolved based on the ruling that 'the fundamental principle of international law is the absolute sovereignty of every nation against all others, within its own territory'. More recently, the decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration on the South China Sea has been rejected by China. In fact, China has strengthened its presence in the region. Similarly, the US has recently announced it will withdraw from an ageing N-treaty with Russia.

Hence, it is a feasible proposition. But we should, at the earliest, finalise our plans to control and divert the western river flows. A technically feasible option is to divert the waters to the eastern rivers. Also, there is a need to construct large storage dams on the Jhelum and Chenab at strategic locations for power generation and to control additional discharge. Water in raised reservoirs can fulfil requirements in times of drought. This will also assist in charging aquifers to improve the ground water. Storage facilities will also safeguard against any inundation threat in North Kashmir.

Our ultimate aim should be to follow the UN International Water Convention, which permits a nation sovereignty over the waters flowing through it. This will also give a major fillip to the economy of J&K. Infrastructural costs may be enormous, but it cannot be denied that water is an economic resource and recovery of the costs will only be a matter of time.

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

Hindustan (Hindi)  
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

## YAMUNA WATER SHARING

# Lutyens' may go dry if Haryana doesn't release water: Kejriwal to PM

HT Correspondent

hlreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting him to ask Haryana to release the amount of water required to keep the Wazirabad pond filled so as to prevent a water crisis in New Delhi neighbourhoods in the middle of March.

In his letter, Kejriwal said supply of about one-third of the total amount of water needed in the areas that fall under the jurisdiction of the New Delhi Municipal Council and the Central Delhi command was likely to get affected due Haryana's "reluctance" to keep the Wazirabad pond full.

NDMC officials said they supply 125 million litres per day (MLD) of water in the area. Of the total amount, 120MLD is provided by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB).

The letter by Kejriwal, who also heads the DJB, read: "This will result in curtailment of (water) supply to the most important areas of Delhi due to suboptimal operation of water treatment plants at Chandrawal and Wazirabad. Water in the river Yamuna will likely deplete or dry up in the middle of March. In this period, Haryana is required to convey water from Tajewala to Delhi via the alternative route of carrier-line channel (CLC) and Delhi sub-branch canal (DSB). The additional 120 cusecs of water is only about 5% of 2,400 cusec water or more which is available at Tajewala."

The NDMC, which spreads across 42.74 square kilometres, houses residences of VIPs, including the President and the Prime Minister. The entire diplomatic area, ministries, residential colonies of government officials, luxury hotels, impor-



Delhi and Haryana have been fighting over sharing of Yamuna water for decades.

HT FILE

## THE CONTENTIOUS ISSUE

- Seven states — Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, and Madhya Pradesh — are part of the Yamuna basin
- Yamuna water sharing between Delhi and Haryana has been a contentious issue for decades
- The Supreme Court had ordered Haryana to release 450 cusecs of water daily to Delhi in February 1996
- The Delhi Jal Board claims that Haryana was supplying only 330 cusecs of water daily
- In January this year, the Delhi HC had asked the Haryana government to reply to the allegations by Delhi that bunds/obstacles have been created at the entry point of the river water into Delhi
- Of the daily 125 MLD needed by NDMC, 120 is supplied by DJB

➤ This will result in curtailment of supply to the most important areas of Delhi due to suboptimal operation of water treatment plants at Chandrawal, Wazirabad.

CM KEJRIWAL'S LETTER TO MODI

tant hospitals and institutions also fall under the jurisdiction of the NDMC. In the NDMC area, there are 20,000 domestic water connections, 4,000 non-domestic

connections, 4,000 bulk connections (mainly given to hotels, institutes, and hospitals) and 15 dhobi ghats.

The CM said that his government would make best efforts for water tanker supplies to the NDMC as may be required during that period as rationalisation and diversion from other acute crisis areas of Delhi is not always possible. "It is requested that efforts may kindly be made from your (PM) office for keeping the Wazirabad pond full by Haryana so that the imminent water crisis in the NDMC area can be averted," the letter maintained.



News item/letter/article/editorial Published on ... 23/21/2019 ... in the

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

✓ Hindustan (Hindi)  
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

## साधु-संतों की मदद से होगा यमुना का उद्धार

नई दिल्ली | प्रभात कुमार H-23

दिल्ली सरकार यमुना को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने के लिए अब स्कूली बच्चों और धर्म गुरुओं की मदद लेगी। नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (एनजीटी) के समक्ष यमुना की साफ-सफाई के लिए गठित निगरानी समिति ने अपनी अंतरिम रिपोर्ट में इस बारे में जानकारी दी है।

एनजीटी अध्यक्ष जस्टिस एके गोयल की अगुवाई वाली पीठ के समक्ष समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि उप मुख्यमंत्री मनीष सिसोदिया ने यह सुझाव दिया था। समिति ने कहा कि उप मुख्यमंत्री ने पर्यावरण व वन विभाग



और शिक्षा निदेशालय को यमुना और दिल्ली के सभी तलाबों को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने के लिए जागरूकता अभियान की रूपरेखा तय करने को कहा है। इसके तहत धर्म गुरु आवासीय कॉलोनियों में जाएंगे और लोगों से ऐसा कोई कार्य नहीं करने की अपील करेंगे जिससे

यमुना और तलाबों में गंदगी फैले।

पीठ ने पिछले साल जुलाई में यमुना की साफ-सफाई की निगरानी के लिए दिल्ली के पूर्व मुख्य सचिव शैलजा चंद्रा और एनजीटी के पूर्व विशेषज्ञ सदस्य बीएस साजवान की समिति का गठन किया था।

### पूजा सामग्री का संग्रह होगा

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, सरकार वाजीराबाद, सिग्नेचर ब्रिज, आईएसबीटी व निजामुद्दीन पुल पर पूजा सामग्री का संग्रह करने के लिए केंद्र बनाने पर विचार कर रही है। इसके लिए गैर सरकारी संगठनों की मदद ली जाएगी।

### यमुना किनारे पेंटिंग प्रतियोगिता :

समिति ने एनजीटी को बताया है कि स्कूली बच्चों के लिए यमुना के किनारे पेंटिंग प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया जाएगा। इसमें बच्चे पेंटिंग्स के जरिए यमुना और स्वच्छ जल के महत्व के बारे में बताएंगे।

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

Hindustan (Hindi)  
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

## Ganga basin States stare at three-fold rise in crop failures by 2040

As flows decline and pollution worsens, there will be less irrigation and drinking water available in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

JACOB KOESHY  
NEW DELHI

The Ganga river basin could see crop failures rise three-fold and drinking water shortage go up by as much as 39% in some States between now and 2040, says an assessment commissioned by the World Bank and submitted to the Central Water Commission.

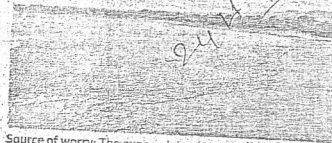
If there is no intervention, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are likely to see a deficit in irrigation water of 28%, 10%, 10% and 15% res-

pectively in 2040 as compared to the current levels. Madhya Pradesh would see a 39%, Delhi 22% and Uttar Pradesh a 25% deficit in drinking water during the same period, the assessment released earlier this week noted.

### Nation's lifeline

The basin provides over a third of India's available surface water and contributes more than half the national water use, of which 90% is for irrigation.

"The volume of extracted



Source of worry: The exposed riverbed of the Ganga in Haridwar in December 2018. \*AKHILESH KUMAR

groundwater is expected to more than double, leading to an increase in the critical blocks. Low flow levels in

the rivers are predicted to decline compared to present levels. Water quality and environmental flow

### SUNDAY SPECIAL

conditions already critical will deteriorate further," the report has warned.

The report is based on a modelling study that simulates river flow, water quality and groundwater levels in the different States and regions within the Ganga river basin.

To extrapolate, the model considered land use, infrastructure, population, industry and agriculture settings as well as the precipitation

and temperature settings.

The aim of the report was to strengthen the 'capacity for strategic basin planning, develop a set of scenarios for the development of the Ganga basin and build a strong and accessible knowledge base.'

### Declining river health

The report on the future of the Ganga basin comes at a time when experts have raised concerns over the lack of adequate safeguards to ensure the river's health. The government has com-

mitted to reduce pollution in the Ganga by 70% by March 2019.

There aren't any easy solutions, the report cautioned, pointing out that there is no 'silver bullet' intervention that can solve all problems. Combinations of different interventions such as increasing water use efficiency and implementing a 'more job per drop' rather than striving for wholesale crop production are needed, it said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## Ganga basin States stare at rising crop failures

"The intervention that will result in the most beneficial impact is improvement of municipal waste water treatment. Whether central or de-central, whether high or low tech, reduction in pollution loads provides a positive return on investment both in availability of clean water for downstream uses, including ecosystem services, as well as a drastic reduction in water-related illnesses and deaths," the report added.

Environmentalists say reducing pollution in the Ganga hinges on setting up sewage plants rather than ensuring that the natural flow of the river is not blocked, as that would hobble its propensity to clean itself.

Ecologists and river activists have embarked on a new agitation, as of Saturday in Delhi, to highlight the government's apathy towards addressing 'ecologi-

cal flow,' which refers to the minimum amount of water that must be maintained at all times through the year to ensure the river's health.

### River law

The government was to have operationalised the Ganga law to address the issue of the river's ecology. The lack of such a law has triggered hunger strikes, mainly by activists in Haridwar, to give effect to the law.

One of them, 26-year-old Astmabodhanand, from Matri Sadan (Haridwar) is on a 'fast unto death' since October 24, 2018. He took up the cause after the death of Swami Sahand (Prof. G.D. Agrawal) who died after 111 days of continuous fast.

The Centre however maintains that it has set in motion most of the projects to clean the river and that this will eventually ensure that necessary ecological flow.

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 24/7/2019 in the

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

Hindustan (Hindi)  
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Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
The Hindu (New Delhi)  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

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## Pulwama and Indus Waters Treaty: does India hold all the cards?

The pact has survived wars, but Nitin Gadkari has now asked officials to see if there are 'technical ways' to stop the flow of water

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

Is the announcement by Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari that India would use up its share of waters in the rivers flowing to Pakistan a new one?

■ That India would use the entire share of water allotted to it under the Indus Waters Treaty, has been the government's traditional position. Then, in the aftermath of the Uri attack that claimed the lives of at least 20 Indian soldiers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared that "blood and water" couldn't flow together and suspended India's participation in the Permanent Indus Commission, where India and Pakistan regularly meet to discuss sharing of waters in the Indus river basin system.

Among the decisions taken at the time was one to "fully utilise" India's share of water. Work has progressed towards this end, according to the government. (The Indus commission talks too have resumed). In the aftermath of Mr. Gadkari's tweets of February 21, to "stop India's share of water" into Pakistan, Neeta Prasad, a spokesperson in the Union Water Resources ministry, told presspersons that "this is not a new decision... Mantriji [Minister] is simply reiterating what he has always said."

How many dams is India planning to build to ensure that it uses up all of its share of the water?

■ India already utilises 95% of the 33 MAF (million acre feet) allotted to it under the

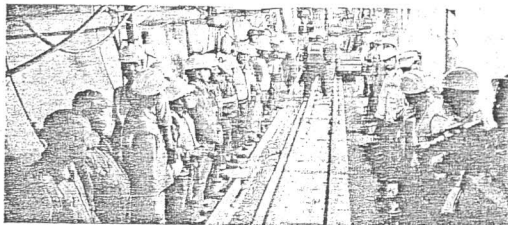
norms of the Indus Waters Treaty. To consume the entire share, the government has undertaken steps to stop the flow of almost 2 MAF from the Ravi river, from Madhopur. These include completing the Shahpurkandi project, constructing the Ujh multipurpose project - to create 751 million cubic metre storage on the Ujh, a tributary of the Ravi - and developing the second Ravi-Beas link below Ujh. The last project alone will utilise 0.58 MAF of surplus water below the Ujh dam by diverting the same to Beas basin. All three are 'national projects.'

Is the Minister's statement intended to pile up the rhetoric on Pakistan?

■ Yes. While it has been India's stated position to fully

### BACKGROUND

utilise its eastern rivers, Mr. Gadkari said on Friday that he had asked officials in the Water Resources Ministry to see if there were "technical ways" to stop the flow of Indus water that rightfully belong to Pakistan. One way - again an option that India has already exercised - is its construction of the Kishenganga Project, on the Jhelum and the Ratle project on the Chenab. Both of these are projects on the western rivers and under provisions of the Indus treaty, may be exploited by Pakistan. However, the treaty also allows India to use the water from these rivers in a "non-consumptive way" - that is, in a way that does not impede the flow of these rivers into Pakistan. Pakistan has ob-



Against the flow: The headrace tunnel of the Kishenganga project. The project taps the Jhelum, a western river, and under the treaty, Pakistan may exploit its waters. **FILE PHOTO**

jected to both these projects on the grounds that they do impede the flow. In theory, it is possible for India to violate the treaty and impede the flow of these waters in such a way that it makes hydropower projects by Pakistan on the Jhelum and Chenab unviable (as Pakistan

already claims it does). However, the IWT has survived wars between India and Pakistan and it's still speculative if the Pulwama incident rankles India enough to consider violating the treaty.

India and Pakistan's water sharing is governed by the

Indus Waters Treaty, which was brokered by the World Bank. Can India abrogate this treaty?

■ Neither India nor Pakistan can unilaterally abrogate the treaty. Article 12 of the treaty says: "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 two countries signed it in 1960 under the leadership of the then Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Pakistan President, Ayub Khan, and was brokered by the World Bank after nine years of negotiations.

Under the treaty, India has control over water flowing in the eastern rivers - Beas, Ravi and Sutlej, while Pakistan has control over the western rivers of Indus, Chenab and Jhelum.