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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.

J. Mohan
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Deputy Director (Publication)

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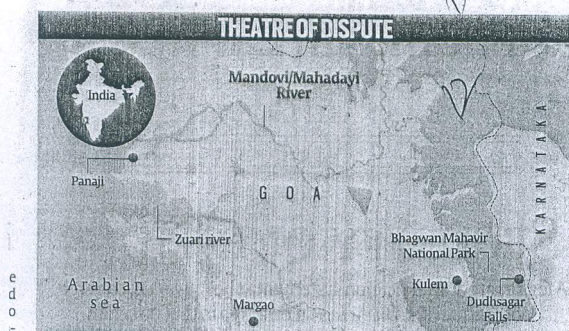
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Hindustan Times
Statesman
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Tribune
Hindustan (Hindi)

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The Hindu
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In unquiet waters of the Mahadai, a new political churn

SMITA NAIR recalls an old Karnataka-Goa dispute, which is hotting again as a key state election nears

GOA CHIEF Minister Manohar Parrikar this week accused the media of "creating (the) Mahadai issue", and declared that "the fight over distribution of the Mahadai river water is before the Tribunal and we will fight it there". Parrikar had appeared to take a more political approach last month, writing to Karnataka BJP president B S Yeddyurappa, offering talks on sharing the river's water for drinking purposes — a letter that triggered outrage in both states. What is the longstanding "Mahadai issue"? Why has the controversy resurfaced?

The River

The river rises in the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary in the Western Ghats, in Khanapur taluk of Karnataka's Belagavi district, and flows in a general westerly direction, entering Goa in the Sattari taluk of North Goa district. It is joined by a number of streams along the way, growing in volume to become the Mandovi, one of Goa's two major rivers, before emptying itself into the Arabian Sea at Panaji.

About two-thirds (76 km) of the Mahadai's (also spelt Mahadevi or Mhadei, and called Mandovi in Goa) 111-km length is in Goa; the initial 35 km is in Karnataka. As most of Goa's 11 rivers hold salt water, the sweet-water Mandovi is crucial to the state's water security, ecology, and as an important source of its staple diet of fish. The larger Mahadai/Mandovi river basin, with its web of tributaries and distributaries, nourishes, besides Goa, parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka.

The Dispute

The dispute is one of the many over the sharing of river waters across India. It started in the 80s — and tensions between Goa and Karnataka escalated through the early 90s, as Karnataka designed a chain of dams and canals to channel the Mahadai's water to the basin of the Malaprabha, a 304-km tributary of the Krishna, citing the endemic water scarcity in the northern districts of Belagavi, Dharwad, Gadag and Bagalkot. In 2002, Goa sought the setting up of a Tribunal to adjudicate the dispute. In 2006, it moved the Supreme Court to press its demand. After attempts at negotiation failed, the Mahadai Water Disputes Tribunal was set up on November 16, 2010.

Goa argues for the needs of the population along the river's natural path, which, it says, was decided by tectonic events. Ingress of saltwater in an otherwise monsoon dependent river will kill the state's green belt and mangroves, alter the relationship between the population and the land, and disturb its ecological and environmental balance. Karnataka, on the other hand, insists that it needs water for drinking, irrigation and power generation, and "since the water goes wasted into the sea, the Mahadai's surplus should be diverted to Malaprabha's deficit basin". But Goa says it is water-deficient itself, which has affected its agriculture.

Acting on Goa's challenge, the Supreme Court has stopped the construction of Karnataka's canals and dams. In recent years, Karnataka has pegged its demand for Mahadai water at 756 thousand million cubic feet

(tmcf) to meet the "drinking requirement" of farmers in North Karnataka. But Goa has raised concerns that Karnataka would stockpile water in its reservoirs and channel it to the Malaprabha basin, to be used for irrigation.

The Ecology

While North Karnataka's water crisis is real, a diversion of the Mahadai/Mandovi presents a threat to Goa as well. The non saline, tidally insulated basin is home to the extremely fragile, ancient tropical freshwater Myristica swamps, considered to be the most primitive flowering plants on Earth. Draining the swamps could lead to floods and erosion, with catastrophic consequences for the ecology of the Western Ghats, say ecologists.

"If Karnataka does go ahead with eight dams, the majestic Dudhsagar waterfall in Goa will disappear. Once the Ghats go dry, many species, including some critically endangered ones, will die out," said Rajendra Kerkar, an environmental activist who has been mapping the biodiversity of the Mahadai basin since 1995. On the health of the Mahadai also depends that of at least three protected habitats — the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahadai Wildlife Sanctuary, and the Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary.

The Politics

It has not been lost on anyone that Goa and Maharashtra are BJP-ruled, and that Congress-ruled Karnataka is one of the big political prizes up for grabs over the next few months. In Karnataka, the districts worst hit by the scarcity of water are considered to be strongholds of the BJP, which is keen to be seen as the saviour of farmers.

On December 20, 2017, Yeddyurappa wrote to Parrikar asking for 756 tmcf "for the drinking water needs of drought prone areas of North Karnataka". Read: about 50 seats in the 225-seat Legislative Assembly.

Parrikar responded the very next day, BJP-to-BJP, even as repeated letters of request from the constitutional chair and his colleagues in Bengaluru, Siddaramaiah, continued to be "scrutinised by the Goa State Irrigation Department". The letters carried no legal weight, and were widely seen as political posturing. Indeed, Parrikar himself was cautious: qualifying drinking water needs "as human needs", to be met on humanitarian grounds.

Interestingly, it was the NDA government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee that cleared the Kalasa-Banduri project aimed at diverting 756 tmcf of water from the Mahadai to the Malaprabha through a canal across the Mahadai's tributaries, Kalasa and Banduri. And it was Parrikar as Chief Minister of Goa who sought the setting up of the disputes Tribunal. BSY, meanwhile, is remembered as the man who, as Deputy CM in H D Kumaraswamy's government, laid the foundation stone of the Kalasa canal in 2006. In Goa, the Opposition Congress, treading a delicate ground, has been largely silent as the current controversy plays out.

Meanwhile, the Tribunal, which has had 100 interim hearings so far, will take up the issue again on February 6, in New Delhi.

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SC asks for panels on Mullaperiyar dam

Prepare disaster management strategies: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Despite the Centre's assurance that the Mullaperiyar dam is "safe," the Supreme Court on Thursday directed it to constitute a special committee to prepare for disaster management for the 122-year-old dam.

A three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, also directed Tamil Nadu, which owns the dam, and Kerala, where it is located, to set up special committees to prepare disaster management plans.

'Work in harmony'

It ordered that the three committees work in harmony. The step was taken to allay the fears of thousands who live downstream or in the vicinity of the dam, it said.

The court clarified that these committees had nothing to do with the dam's lifespan or safety. Their brief would be restricted to preventing a disaster or containing the loss of life and damage to property in case a tragedy hit the dam.

It noted that a committee had already been formed, as ordered by a Constitution Bench in May 2014, to cover the dam's safety and lifespan.

The order came on a petition to direct the government to appoint an international agency to study the longevity of the dam, a perennial source of water and



Leaving nothing to chance:

The step is meant to allay fears of residents downstream or in the vicinity of the dam. —H. VIBHU

controversy between Tamil Nadu and Kerala, built in 1895.

The petition was filed by advocate Russell Joy, representing three million people living downstream, in the direct line of a catastrophe that may arise from a dam burst.

It said the dam was constructed "as a composite gravity structure" across the Periyar, with "crude lime surki mortar, at a time when dam engineering was in its infancy..." It was built for 50 years and had already survived 122 years.

"People live in fear. Do we require the Bhopal gas disaster or an Ockhi [cyclone] to understand what a disaster is? Kindly have ready an emergency plan. Please don't wait for the structure to be broken to act. We have a right to life," said advocate Manoj George, for the petitioner.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 12.01.2018 in the

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हरियाणा में साठ किलोमीटर अंदर तक पानी बेहद खराब, कई जगहों पर अमोनिया का स्तर 25 पीपीएम

आधी दिल्ली हफ्तेभर जल संकट झेलेगी

दि- 12-1-18

दिवकत

नई दिल्ली | प्रमुख संवाददाता

आधी दिल्ली को अभी सप्ताह भर तक पानी का संकट झेलना पड़ सकता है। दिल्ली जलबोर्ड ने हरियाणा में यमुना के पानी के सैपल लेकर अमोनिया की जांच कराई। दिल्ली के बॉर्डर से हरियाणा में करीब साठ किलोमीटर अंदर तक पानी बेहद खराब है। कई जगहों पर अमोनिया का स्तर 25 पीपीएम पाया गया है। इस वजह से वजीराबाद और चंद्रावल प्लांट में पानी की सफाई पूरी क्षमता से नहीं हो पा रही।

वजीराबाद और चंद्रावल प्लांट में यमुना से आने वाले पानी को साफ किया जाता है। अमोनिया की मात्रा 1 पीपीएम से अधिक होने पर प्लांट में पानी की सफाई बाधित होती है। यमुना में 1 जनवरी से अमोनिया की मात्रा ज्यादा है। इसकी वजह से विभिन्न इलाकों में पानी की आपूर्ति प्रभावित हो रही है।

दिल्ली जलबोर्ड के उपाध्यक्ष दिनेश मोहनिया ने बताया कि हरियाणा में हमने यमुना के पानी की सैपलिंग कराई है। अभी हरियाणा में यमुना में अमोनिया का स्तर

प्लांट आधी क्षमता पर चल रहे

वजीराबाद और चंद्रावल प्लांट आधी क्षमता पर चल रहे हैं। यमुना और मुनक नहर से यहां पानी लिया जाता है। यमुना के पानी में 1 जनवरी से अमोनिया का स्तर खतरनाक है। इसके चलते यमुना से पानी नहीं लिया जा रहा है। वजीराबाद प्लांट की क्षमता करीब 120 एमएलडी और चंद्रावल की क्षमता 90 है। प्लांट पर मौजूद अधिकारियों का कहना है कि गंदे पानी के चलते प्लांट को आधी क्षमता पर चलाया जा रहा है।

पानीपत-सोनीपत से प्रदूषण बढ़ा

दिल्ली जलबोर्ड के मुताबिक, हरियाणा के सोनीपत और पानीपत यमुना में बढ़ते प्रदूषण के बड़े कारक हैं। इन दोनों शहरों से बड़ी संख्या में औद्योगिक कचरा ड्रेन के जरिए यमुना नदी में डाला जा रहा है। इसके बाद में यही गंदा पानी वजीराबाद पहुंचता है। वजीराबाद और चंद्रावल के प्लांट में यमुना का गंदा पानी साफ होता है और इसकी आपूर्ति दिल्ली के विभिन्न इलाकों में होती है।

सही नहीं है। ऐसे में अभी सप्ताह भर तक पानी का संकट हो सकता है।

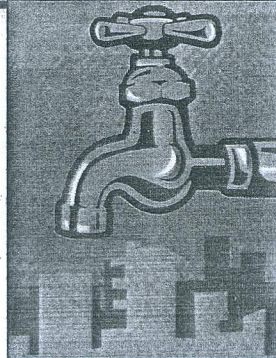
अतिरिक्त पानी मांगा गया : दिनेश मोहनिया ने बताया कि पानी की समस्या

कई दिनों से बनी हुई है। प्लांट पूरी क्षमता से नहीं चल रहे हैं। दिल्ली में 100 क्यूसेक पानी की कमी है। मुख्य सचिव स्तर पर हरियाणा से बात चल रही है।

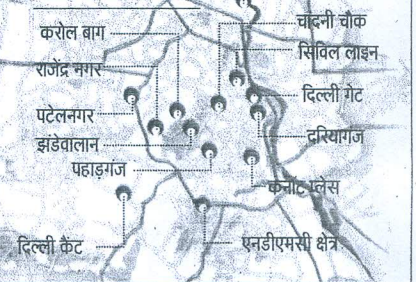
हरियाणा सरकार को मंगलवार को पत्र लिखा गया था।

यमुना के पानी में अमोनिया कम करने के लिए अतिरिक्त पानी की जरूरत

है। हरियाणा से बात हो रही है कि यमुना में ज्यादा पानी छोड़ा जाए। इससे पानी में अमोनिया कम होगी और दिल्ली में आपूर्ति सुचारू हो सकेगी।



इन इलाकों में पानी की किल्लत



खतरे का स्तर बढ़ा

पानी में अमोनिया का स्तर 1 पीपीएम से ज्यादा होने पर प्लांट बंद करना पड़ता है। इससे पानी की आपूर्ति बाधित होती है। हरियाणा में यमुना में कई जगहों पर अमोनिया का स्तर 25 पीपीएम पाया गया है।



मामले में सरकार गंभीर

दिल्ली सरकार इस मामले को लेकर काफी गंभीर है। हरियाणा से मुख्य सचिव स्तर से लगातार बात चल रही है। पानी में अमोनिया का स्तर सुधर नहीं रहा है। इससे आपूर्ति प्रभावित है। अगर जरूरत पड़ी तो मुख्यमंत्री स्तर से भी वार्ता कराई जाएगी। हरियाणा से पानी की आपूर्ति बढ़ने पर ही दिल्ली में पानी साफ हो सकता है।

- दिनेश मोहनिया, उपाध्यक्ष, दिल्ली जलबोर्ड