

The Times of India- 29- January-2023

Territorial Army staff to guard drains polluting Yamuna, make people aware

Atul Mathur &
Priyangi Agarwal | TNN

New Delhi: National Mission for Cleaning Ganga (NMCG) has decided to provide a company of Territorial Army to Delhi Pollution Control Committee, which will ensure monitoring of all drains and sub-drains that directly fall into the Yamuna and are yet to be trapped.

The agency has also expressed its desire to develop a biodiversity park along the Yamuna floodplain and sought land from Delhi Development Authority.

According to officials, the offer to provide a company (120 personnel) of the Territorial Army was made by NMCG in the first meeting of the high-level committee constituted by the national green tribunal earlier this month to deal with the issue of pollution in the Yamuna. The committee, chaired by lieutenant governor VK Saxena, had held its first meeting on January 20 when a six-month 'plan of action' had been decided.

As per a presentation made by Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) in the meeting, of the 18 major drains falling into the Yamuna in Delhi stretch, there are seven that are left from trapping

PLAN OF ACTION

100%
treatment of sewage
generated in the city



Gap in sewage
treatment now is
238MGD



STP DEADLINES

- Okhla sewage treatment plant to be ready by June 2023
- Sonia Vihar by Sept
- Delhi Gate within 12 months

40 decentralised STPs
planned – 29 by
December, rest within 12
months of allotment of land

- Rehabilitation of Kondli phase-II and Rithala phase-I by June, and Yamuna Vihar phase-II by September
- Upgradation of 18 STPs by March 2024 and 13 common effluent treatment plants

Representative picture



MORE WORK

- Drains to be desilted by September
- Seven major drains to be trapped in 2023. All **un-intercepted sub-drains falling into Najafgarh**, supplementary and Shahdara drains to be trapped this year
- Full trapping and treatment of **242MGD wastewater by June**
- Performance audit of



completely trapped **11 major drains and all sub-drains** planned

- Extending sewerage network in all **1,799 unauthorised colonies** and **639 JJ clusters**

- Regulation of Yamuna floodplain, including removal of encroachments and **dhobi ghats**

- Utilisation of treated STP water



and a detailed timeline has been prepared by the agencies to complete the work. Similarly, there are about 70 sub-drains and many unrecorded smaller drains that fall into the Najafgarh drain, Shahdara drain and Supplementary drain, which will be closed by the agencies in 2023.

"The company of Territo-

rial Army would also enforce the Delhi Water Board Septage Management Regulations 2018, which deal with transportation and disposal of septic tank waste, apart from convincing people not to throw the waste in drains," chief secretary Naresh Kumar, who is also the convener of the committee, stated.

The high-level committee has also asked Delhi Jal Board to undertake a performance audit of completely trapped 11 major drains and all sub-drains through an independent agency by February 2023. Meanwhile, a multidisciplinary team of DJB, MCD and irrigation & flood control department will carry out an inter-

nal audit, said an official.

Officials added that the committee has asked DDA to identify and allot a piece of land in the floodplain and allot it to NMCG by February 15 for the development of a biodiversity park. They further said that a committee has also been formed under the chairmanship of divisional commissioner of revenue department with principal secretary (forest and environment), DDA vice-chairman and DJB chief executive officer as members to resolve all land-related matters.

"The committee shall ensure identification and handing over the requisite land parcels to DJB, for setting up of sewage treatment plants, and to NMCG within a fortnight," Kumar further said.

The minutes of the meeting were shared with all stakeholders.

The committee has also asked the IT department of Delhi government to operationalise e-Pragati dashboard within a fortnight and post the action plan on it for the purpose of monitoring. It also asked DJB, DPCC, I&F department and DDA to carry out an information and education campaign to involve the general public in the "initiative to restore the old glory of river Yamuna".

Hindustan Times- 29- January-2023

LG-led Yamuna panel fixes timelines for cleaning river

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NEW DELHI: The committee constituted by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in January 2022 to clean up the Yamuna River has now issued a time-bound action plan under 15 parameters to achieve its objective, officials aware of the matter said.

"We will leave no stone unturned to ensure the execution of the time-bound action plan," said Delhi lieutenant governor VK Saxena, who heads the committee. On Saturday, Saxena visited Punjabi Bagh to inspect the ongoing clean-up of Najafgarh drain, where a conveyor belt system to remove floating garbage as well as a new fountain in the water body, came into operation.

In an order dated January 27,



Delhi LG VK Saxena HT PHOTO

issued by chief secretary Naresh Kumar, who is the convenor of the high-level committee, monthly targets have been assigned to various agencies for the next six months under parameters such as desilting, expanding the capacity of sewage treatment plants, trapping drains, septage collection and floodplain management.

According to the order, 130km of desilting will be undertaken

by June 30, 2023, while the existing sewage treatment plant capacity will be increased from 632 to 727 MGD (million gallons per day) and 43 drains that discharge effluent into the river will be trapped, over the same period.

An official from the LG office said the status note and action plan were placed before the committee by all departments and authorities involved in the rejuvenation of the Yamuna. "All the crucial parameters on river health were accepted by the committee and to achieve these parameters, an action plan has been finalized under 15 parameters," the official said.

The committee has also decided that it will meet every alternate week under the chief secretary while a meeting chaired by the LG will be held every fortnight.

The Indian Express- 29- January-2023

TREATY FRAMED ON BASIS OF KNOWLEDGE THEN EXISTING, TODAY'S PRESSING ISSUES DIFFERENT, SAID COMMITTEE

In 2021, House panel urged Centre to renegotiate Indus treaty

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

CITING "PRESSING issues" such as climate change and global warming as a reason, a Parliamentary standing committee had in 2021 recommended renegotiation of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

In its report, the Departmentally Related Standing Committees on Water Resources, had noted, "The Committee observe that although Indus Water Treaty has stood the test of time, they are of the view that the Treaty was framed on the basis of knowledge and technology existing at

the time of its agreement in 1960s. The perspective of both nations at that time was confined to river management and usage of water through construction of dams, barrages, canals and hydro-power generation."

The committee, headed by BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal, stated, "Present-day pressing issues such as climate change, global warming and environmental impact assessment, etc, were not taken into account by the Treaty. In view of this, there is a need to re-negotiate the Treaty so as to establish some kind of institutional structure or legislative framework to address the impact of climate change on water

EXPLAINED
E Suggestions shared with MEA

The Ministry of Jal Shakti had shared the House committee's recommendations regarding a need for renegotiation of the Indus Water Treaty with the Ministry of External Affairs, according to the Action Taken Report presented to Lok Sabha on July 22, 2022.

availability in the Indus basin and other challenges, which are not covered under the Treaty."

Thus, the panel recommended that the Centre take "necessary diplomatic measures to renegotiate the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan," according to the report, tabled in Parliament on August 5, 2021.

The committee highlighted that although India, under IWT, has the right to create water capacity storage up to 3.6 million acre-feet (MAF) on Western rivers, "no" storage capacity has been created so far by India.

The report, titled "Flood Management in the Country including International Water Treaties in the field of Water Resource Management with particular reference to Treaty/Agreement Entered into

with China, Pakistan and Bhutan", stated: "...out of estimated power potential of about 20,000 MW, which could be harnessed from western rivers' power projects, only capacity of 3,482 MW have been constructed so far.... Besides, the Treaty provides India the right to develop Irrigated Cropped Area (ICA) of 13,43,477 acres (9,12,477 acres without creating any storage and 4,31,000 acres after creation of conservation storage and release of a specified quantum of water into the river annually) through waters of western rivers. However, as per the latest data for the crop year 2019-20, the ICA developed by India on Western rivers is 7,59,859 acres."

It stated, "Keeping in view the aforesaid position, the Committee recommend that Government of India should examine the feasibility of making maximum use of the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty, in terms of full utilization of all accessible water of the eastern rivers and maximum utilization of irrigation and hydropower potential of western rivers, including permissible water storage as per the provisions of the treaty."

The committee also expressed concerns about lack of proper maintenance of canals in Punjab and Rajasthan, and its impact on their water carrying capacity.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

The Tribune- 29- January-2023

Can't unilaterally alter Indus treaty: Pak on India's notice

SANDEEP DIKSHIT

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28

The first hearing in a dispute between Pakistan and India over the Indus Waters Treaty began at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague on Friday. The hearing began a few hours after sources here said India had issued notice to Pakistan for modification of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).

India has boycotted the Court of Arbitration (CoA) and in the notice to Pakistan, it has called for meetings to resolve the long-standing dispute within 90 days. However, Pakistan has opposed the notice with its Attorney General stating that news about New Delhi's attempt at a unilateral modification of the IWT was misleading.

"Submission of a belated request for the resolution of disputes raised by Pakistan

DELHI SKIPS HEARING

- India plans to build two hydropower projects over the Chenab and Jhelum rivers
- The World Bank has set up a Court of Arbitration (CoA) and appointed a neutral expert
- India has boycotted the CoA hearing and called for meetings to resolve the dispute

was a demonstration of India's characteristic bad faith. The two countries have been arguing over hydroelectric projects on the shared Indus river and its tributaries for several years. The treaty cannot be unilaterally modified. This is an attempt to divert attention from the ongoing proceedings at the Permanent Court of Arbitration under the Indus Waters Treaty," said his office in a statement. Both countries accuse each other of initiating parallel dispute redressal mechanisms. India says it

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The Tribune- 29- January-2023

Can't unilaterally alter Indus...

was forced to issue a notice because Pakistan took unilateral action for examining its objections to India's HEPs. In 2015, Pakistan first requested for appointment of a neutral expert to examine its technical objections to India's Kishenganga and Ratle HEPs. In 2016, it unilaterally retracted this request and proposed that a CoA adjudicate on its objections, said sources here.

Pakistan, on the other hand, said any risk of conflicting outcomes that India apprehended could be arrested through coordination and cooperation between the two fora. Therefore, Pakistan is, engaging with both fora. "It must be noted that the IWT presents two recourses for the settlement of disputes. The first is the Court of Arbitration which addresses legal,

technical, and systemic issues. The second recourse is a neutral expert that addresses only technical issues. Pakistan requested the establishment of the Court of Arbitration because of systemic questions requiring legal interpretation," said the statement by its AG.

The dispute is over Indian plans to construct the 850 MW Ratle HEP on the Chenab river and 330 MW Kishenganga hydroelectric project on the Jhelum. Pakistan admits that it initiated the parallel proceeding by requesting the establishment of the ad hoc CoA after its efforts to hold talks with India via other forums, including government-level talks, "came to nought". After six years, the World Bank created the CoA and appointed a neutral expert.

The Sunday Standard- 29- January-2023

Bio-diversity park in Yamuna floodplain soon

NEW DELHI: Decisions on the development of a bio-diversity park in the Yamuna floodplain and a public awareness campaign to restore the old glory of the river were taken at a high-level committee meeting, officials said Saturday.

The meeting was held to discuss the cleaning of the river.

The National Green Tribunal earlier this month formed a high-level committee to deal with the issue of pollution in Yamuna and requested Delhi LG V K Saxena to chair it.

During the first meeting, it was decided that an alternate weekly meeting (physical-cum-virtual) may be chaired by its chief secretary or convener.

Delhi LG will take the fortnightly meeting.

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) offered to develop a bio-diversity park in the Yamuna floodplain in case Delhi Development Authority (DDA) allots a land of appropriate area to it. *PTI*

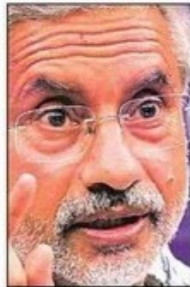
Amar Ujala- 29- January-2023

सिंधु जल संधि : आगे की कार्रवाई बातचीत पर निर्भर : जयशंकर

विदेश मंत्री ने कहा-पाकिस्तान में जो कुछ हो रहा उस पर बोलना मेरे लिए सही नहीं होगा

पुणे। विदेश मंत्री एस जयशंकर ने शनिवार को कहा कि सिंधु जल संधि एक तकनीकी मामला है और भविष्य की कार्रवाई भारत और पाकिस्तान के सिंधु आयुक्तों के बीच होने वाली बातचीत पर निर्भर करेगी।

अपनी लिखी किताब 'द इंडिया वे : स्ट्रेटेजीज फॉर एन अनसर्टेन वर्ल्ड' के मराठी संस्करण 'भारत मार्ग' के विमोचन पर उन्होंने कहा कि पाकिस्तान में जो कुछ हो रहा है, उसके बारे में सार्वजनिक रूप से बोलना मेरे लिए सही नहीं होगा। सिंधु जल संधि एक तकनीकी मामला है, दोनों देशों के सिंधु आयुक्त इस बारे में बात करेंगे। हम इसके बाद ही भविष्य में उठाए जाने वाले कदमों पर चर्चा कर सकते हैं। भारत ने सितंबर 1960 की सिंधु जल संधि में संशोधन के लिए पाकिस्तान को 25 जनवरी को नोटिस जारी किया, क्योंकि इस्लामाबाद की मनमानियों ने संधि के प्रावधानों पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव डाला है। व्यूरो



विदेश मंत्री ने कहा, चीन भविष्य में वैश्विक शक्ति या सुपर पावर बन सकता है। एक वैश्विक शक्ति के करीब रहने की अपनी चुनौतियां हैं, लेकिन इनसे निपटने के आर्थिक, राजनीतिक और तकनीकी तरीके भी हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि जैसे पांडव अपने संबंधियों का चयन नहीं कर सकते थे, वैसे ही भारत अपने भौगोलिक पड़ोसियों को नहीं चुन सकता है। यही हमारे लिए हकीकत है। स्वाभाविक रूप से, हम आशा करते हैं कि सद्बुद्धि प्रबल होगी। उन्होंने यह बात पड़ोसी और दुश्मन देश पाकिस्तान को लेकर पृष्ठे गए सवाल पर कही। इसके अलावा उन्होंने कहा, भारत का प्रभाव हिंद महासागर से आगे निकलकर प्रशांत महासागर तक पहुंच गया है। इसलिए मैं इतिहास पर बोलता हूं, बड़े देश हमेशा अपने बारे में ही सोचते हैं, यह उनके डीएनए में कमी है।

चीन बन सकता है वैश्विक शक्ति

राहुल पर निशाना, चीन ने 1962 में किया था हमारी जमीन पर कब्जा

जयशंकर ने भारत-चीन विवाद को लेकर भी कांग्रेस समेत विपक्ष पर निशाना साधा। उन्होंने कहा कि चीन ने 1962 में भारत की जमीन पर कब्जा किया था, लेकिन विपक्ष आपको यह नहीं बताता है। वे ऐसे दिखाते हैं जैसे भारत की जमीन का कब्जा आजकल में हुआ हो। कांग्रेस नेता राहुल गांधी और चीनी राजदूत की मुलाकात को लेकर उन्होंने कहा कि भारत की जमीन पर चीनी कब्जे को लेकर अगर उनकी जानकारी में कोई कमी है, तो वह सेना या फिर इंटेलिजेंस से बात करेंगे, न कि चीनी राजदूत को बुलाकर अपनी खबर के लिए पूछेंगे।

पाकिस्तान बाधा पैदा कर रहा : मंत्री

कटुआ, एजेसी। केंद्रीय मंत्री जितेंद्र सिंह ने शनिवार को कहा कि पाकिस्तान बिजली परियोजनाओं किशनगंगा (330 मेगावाट) और रातले (850 मेगावाट) में अवांछित बाधाएं पैदा कर रहा है जिन्हें केंद्र शासित प्रदेश जम्मू और कश्मीर में बनना है।

मंत्री ने कहा कि भारत पानी के प्रवाह को नहीं रोक रहा है, बल्कि इसका उपयोग केवल बिजली परियोजनाओं के लिए कर रहा है। मंत्री का बयान सिंधु जल संधि में संशोधन के लिए पाकिस्तान को जारी किए गए नोटिस के बाद आया है, क्योंकि इस्लामाबाद की कार्रवाइयों ने संधि के प्रावधानों को प्रतिकूल रूप से प्रभावित किया था।