



Editorial



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The water crisis is alarmingly deepening in India. The EnviStat, 2018 report by Central Statistical Office reveals that people in 13 out of 20 river basins of India are facing challenges related to shortage of water. The per capita water availability in these basins is less than 1,700 cubic meter per year. Except Brahmaputra, Barak, Mahanadi and Narmada, all major river basins including Ganga, Indus, Krishna and Cauvery are in deep crisis. The crisis is estimated to further increase in next 20-25 years. Overall, the per capita water availability had sharply decreased from 5,178 cubic meters per year in 1951 to 1,441 in 2015. While, there are several reasons behind the increasing water crisis of India, one cannot ignore drying water resources across the country. A latest report of NITI Aayog reveals that 30% streams in Indian Himalaya have dried up. Moreover, we have several examples of disappearance of rivers. Noted river scientist Dr. Ravi Chopra claims that *today's drain especially in urban and semi urban areas were rivers in the past*. Degradation of such rivers into drain also has significant role in today's water crisis.

The Crisis of water is a global problem and various estimates suggest that these crises will further increase across the globe. The special report of IPCC- Global Warming of 1.5°C reveals that the next 20-25 years are going to be disastrous due to sharp increase in global temperature. Agricultural economies such as India will suffer pronounced impact of water crisis in the form of floods, droughts, water scarcity and decrease in food production. A related report of the *World Bank- South Asia's Hotspot* warns that *water crisis due to increase in global temperature will drive 42 million people into poverty in India by 2030¹*. While the global increase in temperature is a serious threat, the mismanagement of water resources at local level also plays a significant role in the water crisis. Therefore, the river basin management approach has been advocated across the globe to manage water resources in efficient and sustainable manner at local level. This issue of the 'Green Watch' focuses on river basin management policies in India.

¹ World Bank. 2018. "South Asia's Hotspots - The Impact of Temperature and Precipitation Changes on Living Standards". Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/28723/9781464811555.pdf?sequence=5&isAllowed=y>





The River Basin Management Bill, 2018: A Critical Review

Jeet Singh

“India is moving towards water scare situation where per capita water availability will be less than 1000 cubic meter per year.

Unfortunately, all this is happening when we have 20 river basins all across the country with potential to provide water to almost all people in the country.”



meter per year. Unfortunately, all this is happening when we have 20 river basins all across the country with a potential to provide water to almost all people in the country. According to Central Water Commission, these river basins have potential of providing as much as 1869.37 billion cubic meter water per years. However, scarcity of per capita water availability in 10 out of twenty river basins is acute and therefore alarming.

A recent report of the Central Statistical Office (CSO) reveals that the per capita water availability in India in 2015 was 1441 cubic meter per year². According to the global standards, this is water stressed situation. It further warns that India is moving towards water scarce situation where per capita water availability will be less than 1000 cubic

The government of India has been experimenting with the river basin approach to manage water resources in the country through various institutions and schemes. The latest National Water Policy adopted in 2012 is a landmark step in this direction. The policy considers river basin as the basic hydrological unit for planning. It provides a holistic approach to manage water resources, which is consistent with broader environmental management. Apart from this, various

² EnviStats India 2018: Supplement on Environment Accounts, Central Statistical Office, MoSPI, Government of India.





environmentalists have been demanding for a comprehensive legislation for the largest river basin of the country namely the Ganga. In response, the union government has reportedly prepared a draft Bill to manage the Ganga water. Moreover, the union ministry of water resources also drafted the River Basin Management Bill, 2018 to manage 13 different river basins of India including the Ganga.

The ministry released the draft of the Bill for public comments and suggestions in October-November 2018. The river basin management is a globally recognized concept for sustainable utilization of water resources. This article is an attempt to understand the proposed Bill in the context of global standards of river basin management.

Video: How Wolves Change River



Video Description:

The video explains the “trophic cascade” that happened when wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park in the United States after being absent nearly 70 years. Calling it the most remarkable “trophic cascade”, the video tells what a trophic cascade is; and how exactly wolves changed river. For complete video, please click [here](#).





The River Basin Management Bill 2018

The River Basin Management Bill, 2018 proposed by the union government aims to attain optimum development of inter-state rivers by facilitating inter-state coordination. The stated purpose of the Bill is to ensure development of both catchment and command area. It further claims that the basin /sub-basin will be recognized as unit of planning and define water in holistic approach, which includes soil moisture, ground and surface water. Main features of the Bill are as follows:

Purpose of the Bill:

1. **Objective of the Bill:** A Legislation for better management of water resources for domestic, agricultural, industrial, environmental needs and other purposes.
2. **Vision:** the Bill draws vision from the National Water Policy, 2012. Stated governing principles of river basin management are as follows:
 - **Participation and cooperation of state governments** in development, management and regulation of water of inter-state river basin.
 - **Equitable and sustainable utilization of water** by respective state governments.
 - **Conjunctive and integrated management** of water resources by respective state governments.

Jurisdiction of the Bill:

3. **River Basins:** The Bill proposes to govern thirteen river basin all across the country, which are follows:
 - Brahamaputra, Barak and other inter –State rivers of North East
 - Brahamani-Baitarini Basin
 - Cauvery Basin
 - Ganga basin
 - Indus Basin
 - Krishna basin
 - Mahanadi basin
 - Mahi basin
 - Narmada basin
 - Pennar basin
 - Subarnrekha basin
 - Tapi basin

Governance System Proposed by the Bill:

4. **Constitution of River Basin Authorities:** The Bill proposes establishment of River Basin Authority for every river basin. Each river basin authority shall have two-tier system of management namely governing council and executive body. Chief Ministers of involved states will head the council, whereas, the chairperson of the executive board will be appointed by the central government.
5. **River Basin Master Plan:** The River Basin Authority shall prepare Master Plan for river basin development, management and regulation.
6. **Dispute Resolution:** the governing council of the River Basin Authority shall resolve inter-state dispute related to sharing of benefits, financial liabilities or implementation of recommendation of the authority.
7. It proposes to repeal the River Boards Act, 1956 and discontinue existing River Boards.





WWF Principles for River Basin Management

1. A long-term vision for the river basin, agreed to by all the major stakeholders.
2. Integration of policies, decisions and costs across sectoral interests.
3. Strategic decision-making at the river basin scale, which guides actions at sub-basin levels.
4. Effective timing, taking advantage of opportunities as they arise.
5. Active participation by all relevant stakeholders.
6. Adequate investment.
7. A solid foundation of knowledge of the river basin and the natural and socio-economic forces that influence it.

Source: https://wwf.panda.org/our_work/water/rivers/irbm/

IIT Consortium Principals for River Basin Management:

- Continuous Flow in the river
- Unpolluted Flow in the river
- Restoration of Ecology
- Safeguarding Geological Entity

Source: Report of National River Ganga Basin Management, 2013

Standards of River Basin Approach and Provisions of the Bill

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has been working on river basin approach and supporting various national governments all across the globe to promote and prepare Integrated River Basin Management Plan. In India, a consortium of seven Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) constituted by union government to prepare river basin

management plan for the Ganga river basin in 2010. The consortium submitted its detail report to the government in 2014. These two specialized instruments (WWF and IIT consortium) give us guidelines to plan and manage rivers and other water resources in more sustainable manner. The Following matrix is an attempt to compare the provisions of the River Basin Management Bill, 2018 with standards set by WWF and IIT consortium.



Facebook/HimalayanTalkies

Vishal Rathod





Indicator	WWF Standards ⁱⁱ	ITT Consortium, 2014 ⁱⁱⁱ	RBM Bill 2018
Purpose of River Basin Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The objective of IRBM is the integration of water planning and management with environmental, social and economic development concerns, in order to promote sustainable development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To maintain wholesomeness of the river by ensuring Continuous Flow, Unpolluted Flow, Geological Entity and Ecological Entity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Management of water for various purposes
Institutional Arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Institutional arrangements should allow the sharing of costs and benefits in sustainable management options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The institution responsible for management of river basin should be independent of government and specialized in river science and governance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Equal participation of state governments in the Governing Council of River Basin Authorities but Executive Board of Authority is controlled by the central government.
Policy Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Integration of policies, decisions and costs across sectoral interests such as industry, agriculture, urban development, navigation, fisheries management and conservation. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Bill propose to replace the River Board Act, 1956 ➤ There is no mechanism to coordinate with other institutions and integration of policy decision.
Financial Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adequate investment by governments, the private sector and civil society organisations in capacity for river basin planning and participation processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Central and state government through their already existing authorities and institutions should execute conservation and development activities in the river basin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Bill does not provide financial implication of the Bill. ➤ It does not provide for sharing of cost amongst involved state governments.





Analysis of the RBM Bill 2018

Purpose of the River Basin Management:

According to the WWF 'naturally functioning or river basin ecosystem' is the principal of Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM). Therefore, any such management plan must incorporate maintaining ecosystem servicing³. Following these principles, the Ganga River Basin Management Plan proposed by a committee constituted by the union government in 2010 stressed on maintaining wholesomeness of the Ganga by ensuring continuous flow, unpolluted flow, safeguarding geological entity and protecting ecological entity in its report submitted in 2013⁴. The draft of the current Bill lacks this basic principal of river basin management. It focuses on effective distribution of water for various purposes. While the Bill talks about water for environmental need and participation & cooperation of state governments in development, management and regulation of water, it also mandates any such plan to be in accordance with plans for national economic development. The section 17(5) of the Bill reads, "River basin Master Plan shall be coordinated with the plans for national economic and social development....." While the concept of IRBM is guided by the ecosystem servicing, the consumerist approach dominates the outcome of the proposed Bill.

Policy Decisions:

Integration of policies and decisions is one of the key components of river basin management as defined by the WWF. The RBA proposed under the Bill does involve state level bureaucrats from different sectors, but it is silent on range of existing central and state level policies related to water resources and environment. These policies ranges

from protection of natural resources to utilization of these resources. The proposed Bill fails to build any kind of coordination between existing policies, which defeat the purpose of integration of policies and decision. Moreover, the current government has also proposed number of policies related to water resources. Important among them are the proposed Bill on Ganga River Basin and the draft Bill on Water Framework Law. While a separate Bill for Ganga river basin is already in formulation, the incorporation of Ganga river basin in this proposed Bill is not understood.

Video: What is Integrated River Basin Management



Video Description:

Taking example of the Mississippi river, the video explains what a river basin management is. It also stresses on the adaptive approach of the people and the institutions in managing the river basins. For complete video, click [here](#).

³ https://wwf.panda.org/our_work/water/rivers/irbm/

⁴ Ganga River Basin Management Plan Interim Report September 2013, by Consortium of 7 "Indian Institute of Technology"s





Institutional Arrangement:

The proposed Bill provides for constitution of River Basin Authorities (RBA), one for each selected river basin. The RBA has responsibility to implement the law. These boards will have two tier system of management namely Governing Council headed by chief ministers of representing states and Executive Board headed by official of Central Water Commission nominated by the Union government. Other than chairperson, the executive board will consist of state level bureaucrat in-charge of agriculture, drinking water, water resources and disaster management along with six experts related to water resources and environment. The board has power to frame schemes and set standards whereas the council has power to finalize master plan and resolve dispute among involved states. One of the major problem arises in the IRBM is sharing of cost and benefits amongst various stakeholders⁵. Such problems are acute when it comes to the sharing of responsibility and rights between upstream and downstream stakeholders. The current Bill does not

propose any inbuilt system to address this prominent issue.

Adequacy of Financial Resources:

The ultimate aim of the IRBM is to use water resources in sustainable manner. It involves activities such as building infrastructure, application of technology and protection of environment. All this require huge financial resources. The scheduled 13 river basins under this Bill cover large part of this country and therefore, the expenditure it requires is also substantial. Unfortunately, the Bill does not provide its financial implication. The Bill however, assures financial resources for every river basin authority from central government. But this amount is the recurring cost of these authorities, the cost of implementing river basin master plan will be borne by state government, which is not there in the proposed Bill.



<https://steemkr.com/nature/@manoj1998/indus-river>

⁵ A WWF DISCUSSION PAPER Richard McNally and Sylvia Tognetti July 2002, Tackling poverty and promoting sustainable development: key lessons for integrated river basin management





Autonomy and Independence of Institutions:

The Bill proposes for the constitution of River Basin Authority for every scheduled river basin with two tier management system. The governing council which is supreme policy and decision making body comprises of chief ministers and ministers from involved state governments. The implementation body of the authority is the Executive Board. The central government will appoint the head of executive board. Other members of the board are ex-officio drawn from state level bureaucracy and appointed expert by the central government.

Neither the Council nor the Executive Board of the Authority is autonomous and independent. In other words, it copies institutional arrangements of 'River Boards Act, 1956' which it wants to repeal.

Conclusion:

The River Basin Management Bill, 2018 aims to serve two distinct purposes. First, it attempts to constitute River Basin Authority for every major river basin in the country. As of now only, few river basins have 'River Board' constituted under the River Board Act, 1956. Second, it offers planned management of water resources through river basin master plans. The Bill further proposes to repeal the River Board Act, 1956 and therefore replace River Board by River Basin Authority. The title of the new



Bill gives an impression that it is a radical shift in the management of natural resources especially river and water. Accordingly, the preamble of the Bill rightly promises integrated management of river basins in the country for sustainable utilization of water. However, its provisions and instruments of operations are very different from the principles of Integrated River Basin Management. Actually, the current Bill is reproduction of the River Board Act, 1956 with minor changes in its provisions and structure of the River Board. While the river basin approach for management of water resources is need of the hour, this opportunity of formulating new law should be utilized to maintain ecosystem servicing throughout river basins and unpolluted continuous flow in rivers for better future.





Groundwater Extraction Notification, 2018: Commodifying India's most Exploited Natural Resource

Jasleen Kaur

India ranks first in global groundwater extraction. More than 85 percent of India's rural domestic water requirements, 50 percent of its urban water requirements and more than 50 percent of its irrigation requirements are being met from ground water resources.⁶

The groundwater in India is regulated under 2015 Groundwater Abstraction Guidelines. However, the indiscriminate use of groundwater without adequate attention to its conservation and recharge has led to the increase in percentage of over exploited groundwater districts. (See table below).

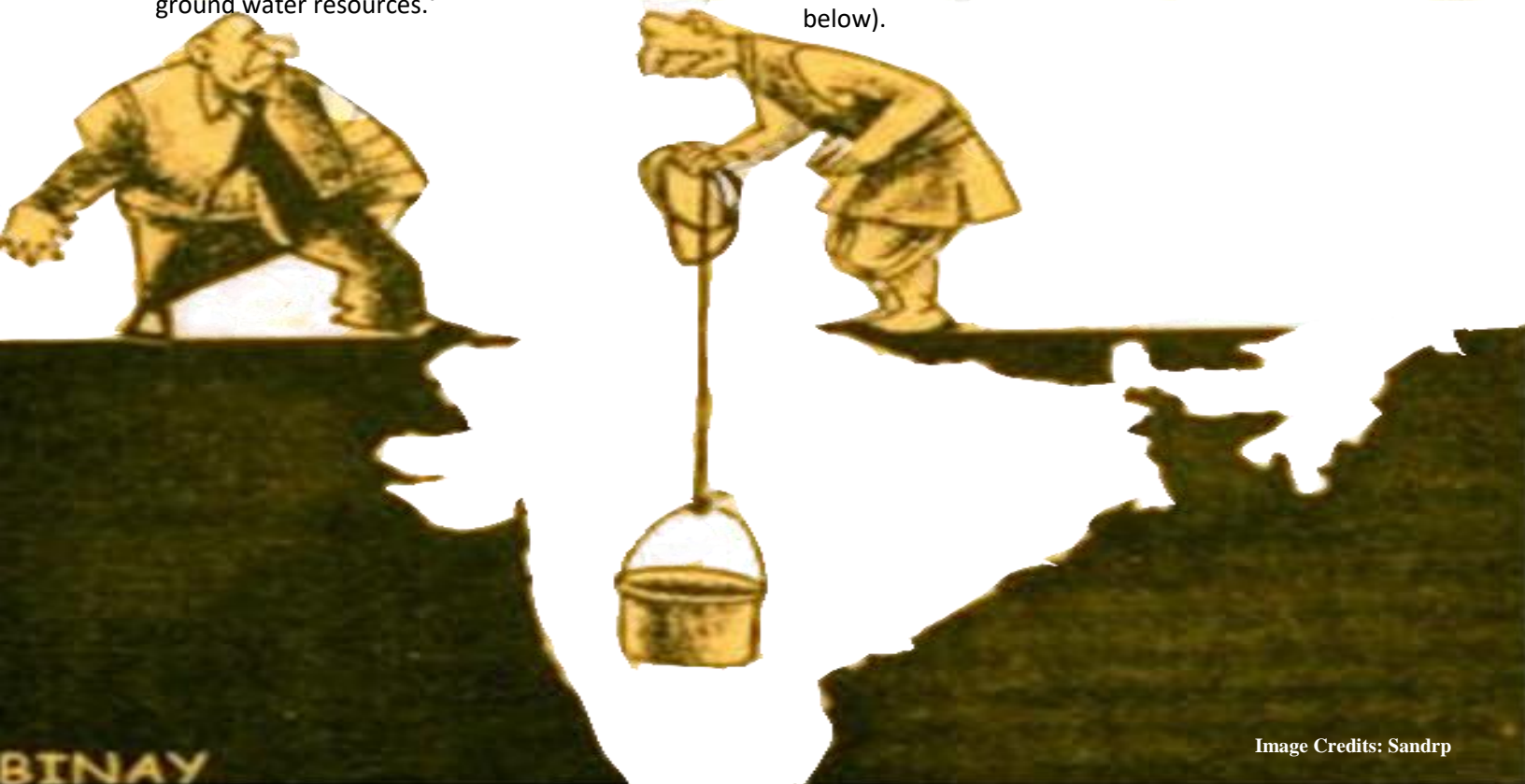


Image Credits: Sandrp

⁶B.M.Jha, Chairman & S.K.Sinha, Scientist D; "Towards Better Management of Ground Water Resources in India"; Central Ground Water Board (Web link: <http://cgwb.gov.in/documents/papers/incidpapers/paper%201-b.m.jha.pdf>)





Percentage of units under safe, semi critical, critical overexploited categories on the basis of groundwater availability

Year	Safe	Semi-Critical	Critical	Over exploited
1992	92	4	1	3
2004	73	9	4	14
2009	72	10	4	14
2011	71	10	4	15
2013	70	10	4	16

(Source: CGWB report, Down to Earth¹)

The table above shows the percentage of periodically assessed groundwater units, the most recent one relating to 2013, which was released in June 2017⁷ It is clearly evident that the whereas the percentage of semi critical, critical and over exploited areas, combined has increased to a significant 30% since 1992, the safe areas have critically declined to 70%.

Understanding the gravity of the issue, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had issued several orders in the past, from time to time directing the government to strengthen the groundwater governance in the country. In 2017 the Tribunal directed every industry to pay for extraction of ground water. In an another order in august, 2018⁸ it asked government to review the existing mechanism to ensure effective steps for conserving the ground water resources. In response to this order of the NGT, the Ministry of Water Resources

has issued a fresh guideline for management of ground water through a gazette notification⁹ dated 12th December, 2018.

“Whereas the percentage of semi critical, critical and over exploited areas, combined has increased to a significant 30% since 1992, the safe areas have critically declined to 70%.”

⁷ Dynamic Groundwater Resources of India (as of 31 March, 2013), Central Groundwater Authority, Ministry of water resources, June, 2017

⁸ orders dated the 28th August, 2018 and 29th August, 2018 in O.A. Nos. 176 of 2015 and 59 of 2012 respectively

⁹

http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/CGWA_GWExtracti on_Notification_0.pdf





The Guidelines

The Groundwater Extraction Notification, 2018 will supersede the earlier guidelines issued by Central Ground Water Authority, that had been in effect from November 2015. These will come into force, with a pan India applicability and with effect from 01.06.2019.

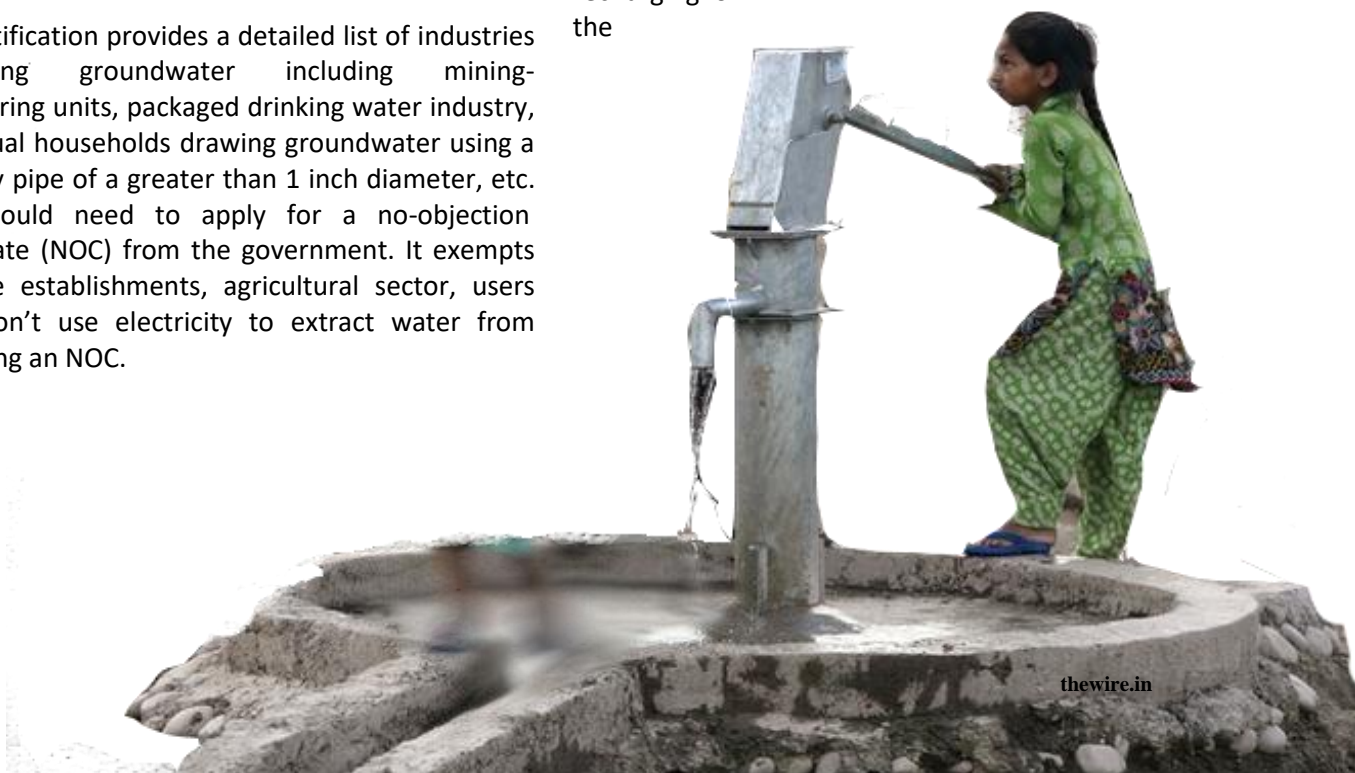
Apparently with an aim to regulate groundwater extraction, the notification however has drawn criticism from environmental experts and from the Green Tribunal itself, which declared the notification as being against the “national interest”.¹⁰ In this context, the article highlights some salient provisions of the notification and the issues that threaten the groundwater conservation framework as given in the notification.

The notification provides a detailed list of industries extracting groundwater including mining-dewatering units, packaged drinking water industry, individual households drawing groundwater using a delivery pipe of a greater than 1 inch diameter, etc. that would need to apply for a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the government. It exempts defense establishments, agricultural sector, users who don't use electricity to extract water from obtaining an NOC.

The Notification: Salient Provisions and Issues

Issues related to Water Conservation Fee (WCF)

The newly notified guidelines does away with the 2015 guidelines clause, directing all industries extracting groundwater to take up artificial recharge of aquifers by rainwater harvesting, and rather introduces a water conservation fee (WCF).¹¹ The WCF is the compensatory fee and would vary depending on the area, type of industry and quantum of water extraction. It has been arrived at by taking into account the prevalent fee structures by the state government for the surface water use by industries, along with considering the cost of recharging of the



thewire.in

¹⁰ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/ngt-raps-ministry-over-groundwater-notification/article25777703.ece>

¹¹ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/come-june-industries-must-pay-for-using-groundwater/article25736064.ece>





groundwater. This fee would go to the authorities, who would in turn, do artificial recharge. Experts have raised concerns over this, as to “who would monitor the quality of recharge being done by the government authorities?”¹²

While the water conservation fee is a welcome step, but in absence of any upper limit on the groundwater extraction, it would make groundwater a commodity that “you can exploit, as long as you pay for it.” The industries thus would keep extracting groundwater, making profits paying relatively lower price for the groundwater so extracted, in the form of conservation fee.

No Reuse and Recycle Clause

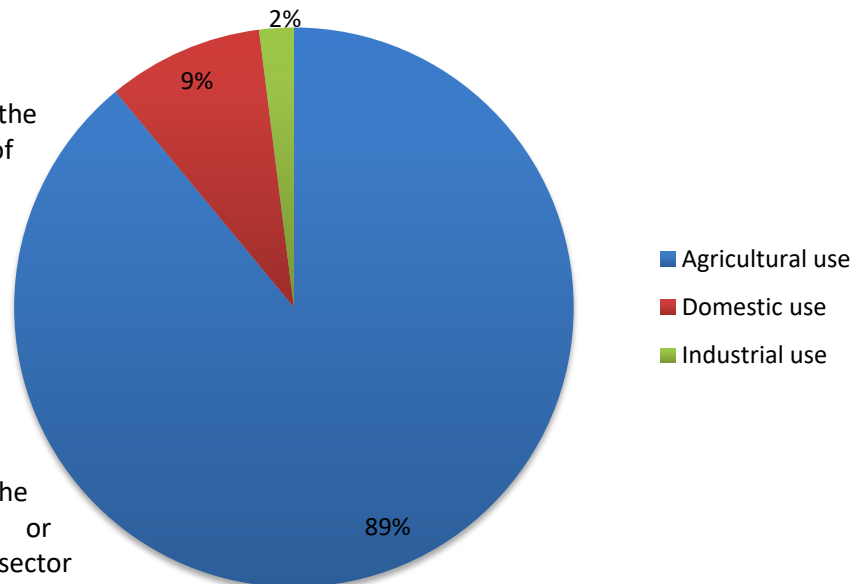
The government has also done away with the mandatory clause of reuse and recycle of extracted water. It puts no restriction in granting NOCs to industries using ground water as raw material/water intensive industries in Over-Exploited areas. Both these provisions formed an important part of the 2015 guidelines.

Exemption for the Largest Consumer

Further, the notification exempts the agricultural sector from paying any fee or obtaining an NOC. Ironically the agricultural sector accounts for the maximum extraction of groundwater which stands at around 89% of the total groundwater use in India(see pie chart.) The notification vaguely suggests certain demand side measures to reduce water consumption in agricultural activities such as; by adopting surface /underground pipeline system, promote and incentivize drip /sprinkler and other water saving

irrigation methods /practices/techniques, promote and incentivize crop diversification to less water intensive /consuming crops, and so on. Whereas the authority should have provided more detailed and effective measures, including community-governed groundwater regulation.¹³

Groundwater extraction: Sector wise



¹² <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/water/govt-notifies-groundwater-rules-fails-to-address-major-concerns-62496>

¹³ <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/in-focus/deep-trouble-on-water-front/706239.html>





Conclusion

Considering the concerns of various stakeholders and environmentalists regarding inadequacy of the groundwater extraction notification, the green panel stated that merely imposing a cost was not enough to curb groundwater extraction, and has invited suggestions and objections of the petitioners, to the guidelines issued by the government by January 2, 2019.

The seriousness of the matter lies in the fact that groundwater is an important resource, not only because it provides us with potable water but also constitutes an important part of the hydrological

cycle. A recent study ¹⁴ published by *Nature* has found that “Ganges river depletion is related to groundwater baseflow reduction caused by ongoing observed groundwater storage depletion in the adjoining Gangetic aquifers”. This establishing linkage between depleting groundwater and decreasing quantum of water in rivers and establishes the critical role of groundwater in River Basin Management

So to conserve the groundwater what we need is a holistic and strategic groundwater governance policy and not a mere price list of water extraction in the form of water conservation fee.

¹⁴ Mukherjee, Abhijit; Bhanja, Soumendra Nath; Wada, Yoshihide (2018) “Groundwater depletion causing reduction of baseflow triggering Ganges river summer drying”; *Scientific Reports* 12049 Vol - 8 IS - 1
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-30246-7>





Gomti Riverfront: A Case of Flawed Planning and Poor Implementation

Prerna Yadav

drinking water supply as well as the direct 'beneficiary' of approx. 45 major effluent and waste water discharge outlets.



Lucknow has been the biggest polluter of the river. The Gaughat pumping station situated at Balaganj of the capital city lifts approximately 200 MLD drinking supply water. The next 12 km through the capital is receptive of 26 big and several small waste water and effluents drains with total 356.03 MLD discharge.

Moreover, the river is declined its breathing space with abject disregard to its ecology. The extensive and unending land encroachment as per government reports for past 45 years has led river width pinched as small as 20m.

The situation instigated the government for cleaning and rejuvenating the river through projects such as 'Clean Gomti' or Gomti Action Plan in 1993 and 'Gomti Riverfront Development Project' in 2013. This article is an attempt to review rejuvenation of the Gomti River in the context of these two projects.

Gomti River is one of the 23 tributaries of the river Ganga flowing in the state of Uttar Pradesh. It originates from the Gomattaal in district Pilibhit of U.P with an average discharge of 234m³/s; with total length of the river from the head to its outfall is 940 km with entire flow in U.P.¹⁵.

As it transcends through cities such as Shahjehanpur, Kheri, Lucknow, Barabanki, Sultanpur, it becomes the source of their

¹⁵

<http://nihroorkee.gov.in/rbis/basin%20maps/Ganga/Gomati.htm>

“The extensive and unending land encroachment as per government reports for past 45 years has led river width pinched as small as 20m. “





Gomti Action Plan (GAP)

The Gomti Action Plan (GAP) launched in 1993 by the state government with financial assistance from Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom. The main purpose of the GAP was to intercept, divert and treat 7 MLD sewage in Sultanpur, 14 MLD in Jaunpur and 42 MLD sewage discharge at Lucknow by setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP). These projects delayed and dragged due to lack of funds and official approvals. This delay further led to increase in the cost of the project. However, according to the information available on the website of Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam STP for only 1.7 MLD sewage discharge has been constructed.

In Lucknow, as against 440 MLD swage discharge per year the GAP created STP for treatment of 42 MLD discharge. In 2003 the government of India approved construction of two new STP in Lucknow under Gomti Action Plan Phase-II. Central and state government jointly finances this phase of the project, where center government agreed to invest 70% of the total cost.



Nishadganj-open drain inlet into river (as on 7.4.2018)

Gomti Riverfront Development Project (GRDP)

GRDP elaborates as Gomti Riverfront Development Project. It is landmark river rejuvenation and restoration project taken up by the state government of Uttar Pradesh started in January 2015. The project has necessarily been a 'Poster Project' an urban infrastructure project portrayed as river restoration project with prima facie acquired NOCs.

The Gomti Riverfront Development Project (GRDP) launched in January 2013 with aims to develop riverfront to rejuvenate the river. Major features of the GRDP are as follows:

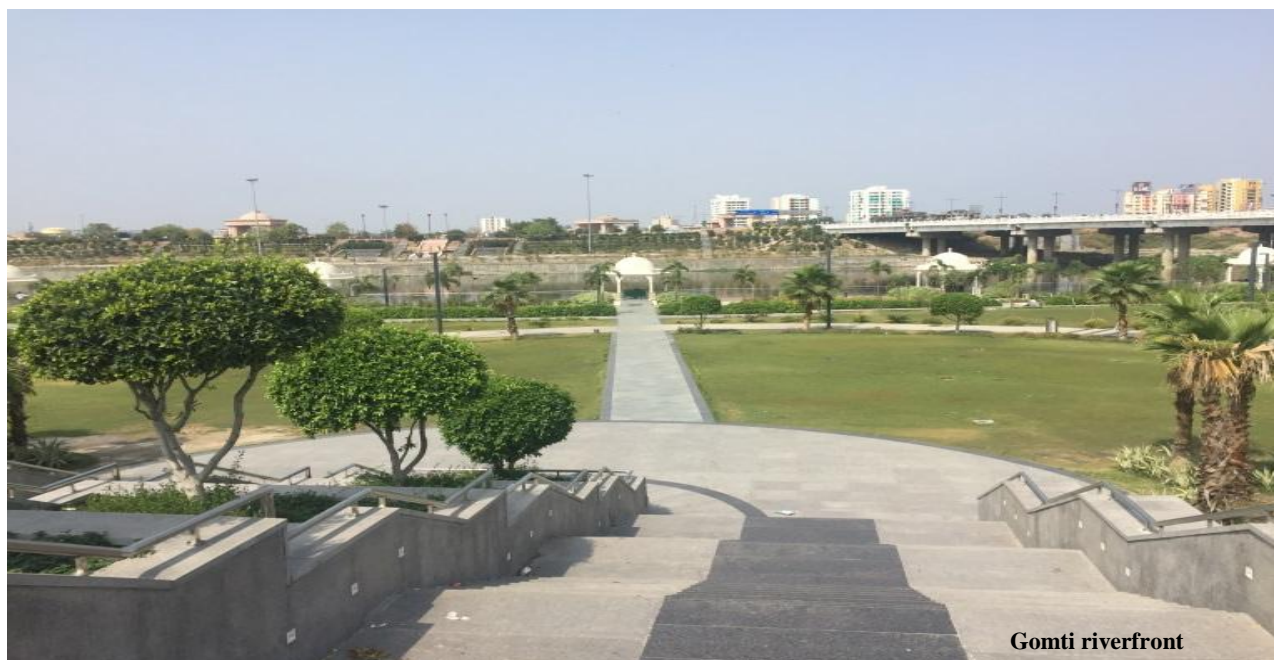
- Sand from the edges and bottom of the river to be dredged
- Concretized embankments and retaining walls, walkways to be constructed
- Landscaping of the riverbanks with native and exotic ornamental plants
- Construction of gazebos, promenades, riverfront restaurants, a place for street vendors, Street cafes, cycling tracts, underwater restaurants
- Proposed water sport facilities including water scooters, jet-skiing, water transportation.





The status of the GRDP is as follows¹⁶:

Completed work	Ongoing Work	Not started
1. Lightning on bridge	1. Sludge removal	1. Foot path between Gandhi bridge and river
2. Left and right high mast light	2. Intercepting drain	2. Security
3. Sharda system canal water discharge into Gomti River at Gaughat	3. Box pushing on left and right side of barrage	3. Footpath downstream Nishadganj pull
4. Gandhi bridge fountain	4. Rubber dam construction	
5. Floating fountain	5. Water show	
6. Luxury passenger boat- 1 bought	6. Beautification	
7. Electricity connection	7. Land reclamation	
8. Diaphragm wall design		
9. Diaphragm wall		



¹⁶ This was prior to the present state government stay order on the project because of over spending the approved fund amount





The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) proposed this dream project of the state government but it was formulated by the Irrigation Department of the government with major role played by Lucknow Development Authority, State Pollution Control Board and Municipal Corporation. Unfortunately, such economic gain centric infrastructure projects are mostly riddled with scams and this is what

The channelization of the river and several other civil work along the river bank have been done by concretizing the banks and destroying the free flow of river which is essential for its ecology. The intercepting drains are yet to be constructed and await fund sanction. Apart from economic implications of such projects the ecological services of river are also hampered with devastating effect on riparian flora and fauna such as the migrating routes are hindered, competition from exotic varieties.



opposite kukrail drain (as on 7.4.2018)

Inference:

Both the projects centered on river conservation failed to produce expected outcomes. They have taken a substantive

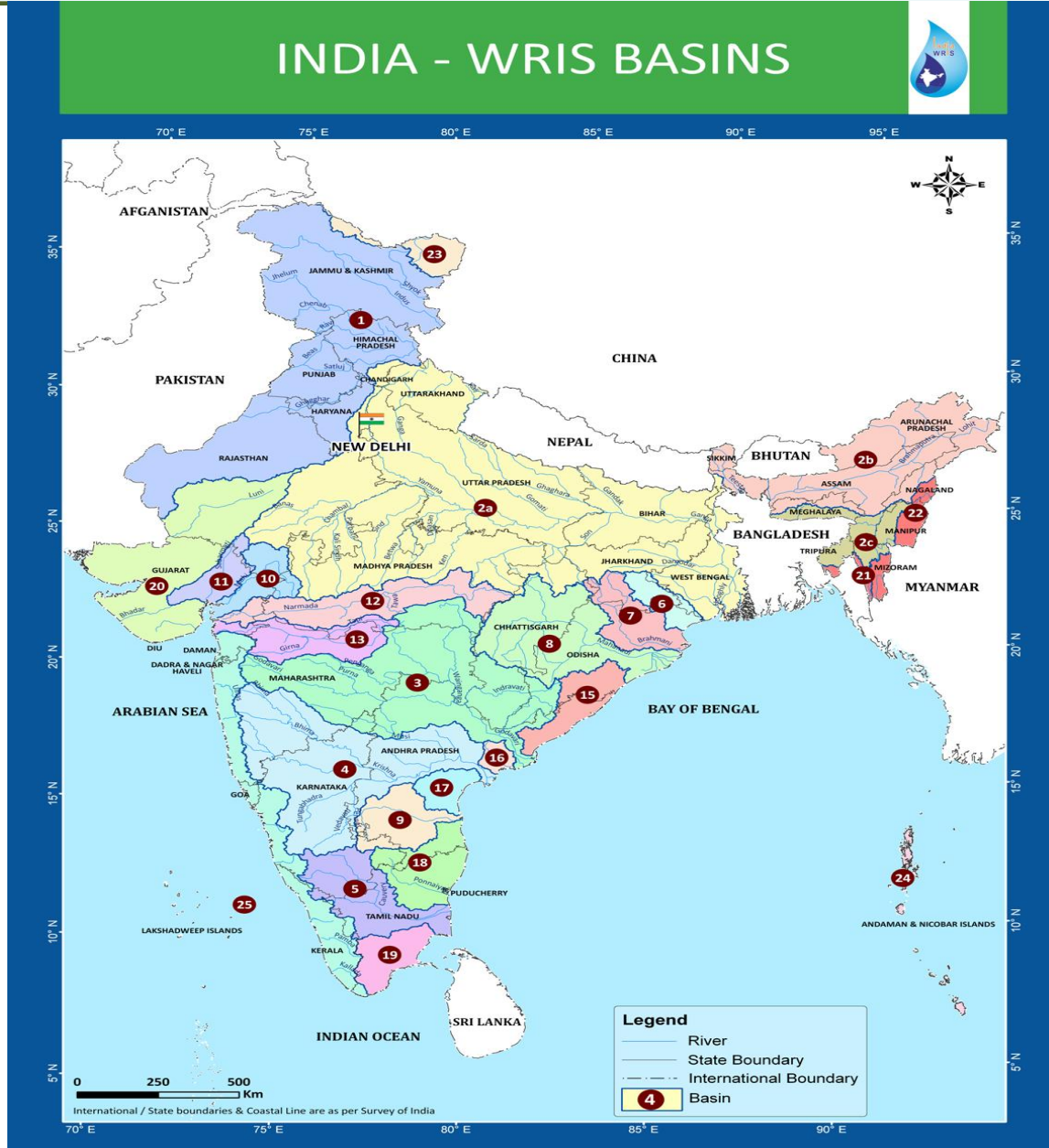
chunk of government funds with mediocre results. The end result of GRDP and GAP are the transitions in the interwoven ecological, social and economic paradigms of Gomti river which inadvertently have negative overtures as the focal of almost all government initiatives are on 'Growth & Development' rather than 'Inclusive & Sustainable Development'.

happen with GRDP as well. This urban infrastructure project portrayed as river restoration project to by pass several environmental clearances and safeguards. There are acquisitions that a black listed company namely Gammon India received the tender for the Gomti riverfront Diaphragm Wall without following procedures. Not only this but the company changed the project blueprints and increased the proposed budget from Rs. 4,330 million to Rs. 5,974.2 million¹⁷.

¹⁷ These are in reference to the articles published regarding GRDP based confidential report of GRDP ass withnessment judiciary committee in

Lucknow NBT by journalist Mr.Rohit Mishra.





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