

The Times of India- 13-September-2023

DKS on Cauvery order: Not enough for us, dams drying

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka on Tuesday flatly refused to comply with the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's latest recommendation for the state to release 5,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu daily for the next 15 days, starting Wednesday.

Citing severity of the drought in the Cauvery basin, putting even the availability of drinking water into question, deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar said: "I'm making it clear that we don't have water. The chief minister (Siddaramaiah) and I have discussed the matter and we have told our officials that we will not be able

to release any more water."

"We need to save water for drinking purposes, apart from addressing the farmers' plight," he added.

► **Final call in 2 days, P 3**

Cauvery water management panel to take final call in 2 days

► **Continued from page 1**

Justifying Karnataka's stance, DKS said: "Tonight and tomorrow morning, we will discuss this with our legal experts in Delhi... We will inform Cauvery Water Management Authority that it will be difficult for us (to comply with the directive)."

He said: "Tomorrow, the matter will be placed before the higher committee – the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) – where our secretary will be present as one of its members."

Karnataka reiterated that unless inflows into its reservoirs improved, it would not be able to release any more water to Tamil Nadu. The CWMA will take a final call on the CWRC's latest recommendation during its next meet-



WATER CONUNDRUM

ing, which is likely to happen in a day or two.

Tamil Nadu has already approached the Supreme Court with a plea to direct Karnataka to release Cauvery water for standing crops. According to sources, the case may come up for hearing before the apex court next week.

The CWRC, which met on Monday, made its recommendation after listening to arguments from both sides.

During Tuesday's CWRC meeting, Tamil Nadu report-

edly insisted on 12,500 cusecs of water daily for 15 days, including a backlog of 6,500 cusecs. On August 28, CWRC had made a similar recommendation to Karnataka to release 5,000 cusecs of water daily, following which, CWMA directed Karnataka to release the recommended volume until September 2. Karnataka's compliance with the directive saw a series of farmer protests in Mandya and Mysuru.

Earlier on Monday, CM Siddaramaiah claimed that the Central government had not given its consent to the Mekedatu Project and that Tamil Nadu was creating disputes unnecessarily.

BJP has asked the government not to release water and said the party will stand by the government in its legal battle on the issue.

Hindustan Times- 13-September-2023

Centre forms panel to study Yamuna flood management

Pawan Sharma

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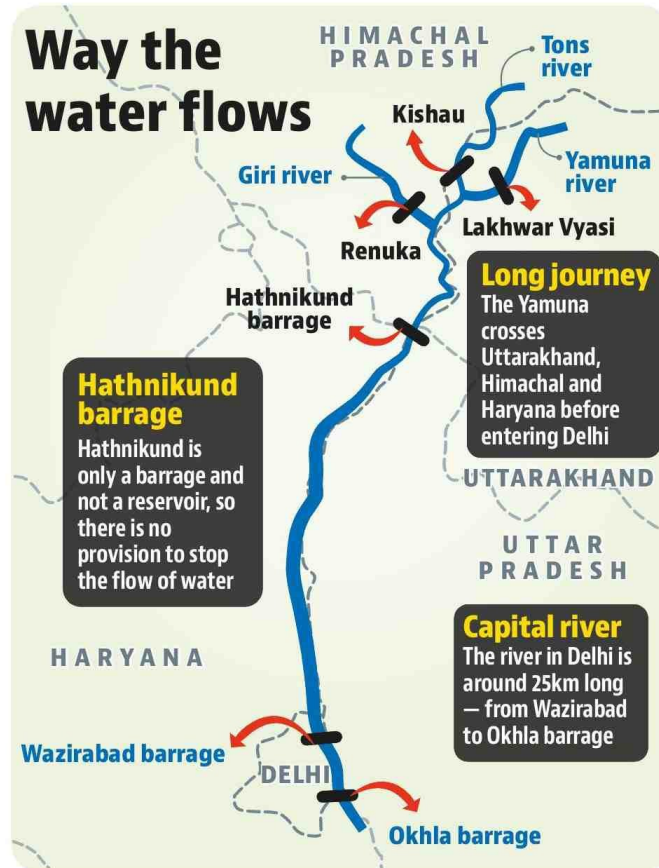
CHANDIGARH: The Union government has constituted a committee to conduct a flood management study of the Yamuna from the Hathnikund barrage in Haryana to the Okhla barrage in Delhi, officials aware of the development said. The committee held its first meeting on September 4, they said, adding that it will submit its report within six months.

The development comes after incessant rain in Delhi and states upstream led to the Yamuna swelling to a record 208.33m in July, inundating large parts of the Capital in some of the worst flooding the city had seen in decades.

The flood management wing of the ministry of Jal Shakti, in a letter to the governments of Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, said that the committee has been tasked with identifying possible drainage congestion in the Capital in case the Yamuna is in spate.

"The extensive flooding in river Yamuna during July 2023 necessitated giving a fresh look for flood management of the river in its reach between Hathnikund and Okhla barrage," the August 6 communique said.

The 14-member panel will be headed by the Central Water Commission (CWC) chairman, and will include representatives of the National Remote Sensing Centre in Hyderabad, the



director of the Central Water and Power Research Station in Pune, and senior officers from the Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh governments.

The committee will also review the utility and functional requirement of the ITO barrage in Delhi — a bone of contention between the Aam Aadmi Party-led government in the Capital,

and the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Haryana government, which controls it.

The decision to "review the utility of ITO barrage in present context" is significant in the backdrop of Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal accusing the Haryana government of being responsible for waterlogging in the Capital since five gates of

the barrage could not be opened at the time.

The panel will also examine the feasibility of some innovative measures, such as creating underground reservoirs for flood moderation like in Tokyo.

The Yamuna originates at the Yamunotri glacier on the south-western slope of the Bandarpunch peaks of the lower Himalayas in Uttarakhand. There are six barrages on the main course of the Yamuna — Dakpathar, Hathnikund, Wazirabad, ITO, Okhla, and Mathura.

Before its confluence with the Ganga at in Prayagraj district of Uttar Pradesh, important tributaries such as Hindon, Tons, Pabbar, Chambal, Sindh, Betwa and Ken join the river.

The panel will also develop a 2-D mathematical model for the reach of the river from 10km upstream of the Wazirabad barrage and up to 10km downstream from the Okhla barrage for an estimation of the submergence area. The panel will also prepare digital terrain models up to 200m on either side of the river from its banks, using a combination of drone and hydrographic survey. The Centre has also proposed the study of 10 points between the Hathnikund and Okhla barrages, including a detailed catchment representative rainfall analysis to compare the floods of 1978 and 2023, the carrying capacity of river between the two barrages, and the maximum water level at salient locations.

The Hindu- 13-September-2023

Cauvery panel directs Karnataka to continue release of 5K cusecs

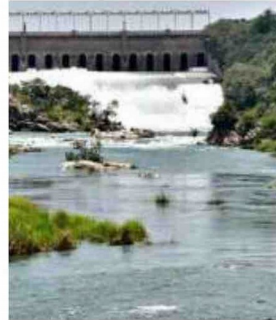
T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on Tuesday “directed” Karnataka to continue with the release of 5,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) to Tamil Nadu for another spell of 15 days.

The first 15-day spell of water release, as fixed by the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), came to an end on Tuesday.

Clarifying that it was a “direction” and not a “recommendation,” Vineet Gupta, Chairman of the CWRC, told *The Hindu* over the phone from New Delhi in the evening that the committee had the power to do so. When pointed out that Karnataka told the Supreme Court last week that it might not be feasible to release any water from its reservoirs after September 12, citing a “severe drought situation” in the Cauvery and Krishna basins, Mr. Gupta replied, “let us see what Karnataka is going to do.”

At its meeting that lasted nearly two hours, the committee took into account deficit in inflows to four Karnataka reservoirs, weather forecast for the next fortnight, the position of storage in all the reservoirs of the Cauvery basin and requirements for drinking water and irrigation of Karnataka, before deciding on the quantum



Water gushes out of KRS dam built across Cauvery in Mandya district. FILE PHOTO

of water release for Tamil Nadu, the CWRC chief added.

To another query, Mr. Gupta said it had not yet been decided about the next meeting of the CWMA. On the previous occasion, the authority met (on August 29) the day after the committee’s deliberations. This was because of the court’s order to the authority to submit a report on the status of discharge of the river water by Karnataka to Tamil Nadu before September 1, he added.

As far as Tamil Nadu was concerned, the State urged the CWRC to ensure that Karnataka made good the shortfall of about 9 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft), which was due to it for the period from June 1 to August 27. Besides, it wanted around 2.5 tmc ft to be given over and above the quantum decided by the committee, which would be equivalent to 6.48 tmc ft.

The Tribune- 13-September-2023

Jal Shakti Dept to examine Balh valley flooding

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 12

The state Tourism and Civil Aviation Department will get the issue of flooding of the Balh valley in Mandi, where an international airport is proposed to be set up, examined by the Jal Shakti Department to ensure that it does not become a major hurdle in the mega project.

The Balh valley was flooded following heavy rain in July and August. Pictures of the Balh valley submerged under water had gone viral, raising questions on the feasibility of the airport project. It is against this backdrop that the Tourism and Civil Aviation Department decided to get the issue examined.

In fact, the government is yet to approve the Rs 700 crore project for channelling the Suketi khud in Mandi, which could have addressed the flooding problem. With no funds available, the Balh valley remains vulnerable to floods. Hence, more such incidents may force the government to rethink on the project site.

The setting up of an international airport at Nagchala in Balh valley of Mandi district was a dream project of former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. Locals had

Govt may decide to shift airport project to Hamirpur dist

opposed the project for which their fertile agricultural land was being acquired but the previous BJP government chose to go ahead with it.

A detailed project report (DPR) of Rs 5,248.48 crore was prepared for the project. The state government had in August 2022 sought Rs 1,000 crore for the project but its efforts did not materialise.

The Congress government can have a rethink on the site for the airport. A site near Jahu in Hamirpur district has been under its consideration. Now as the Chief Minister hails from Hamirpur, the government may think of shifting the project to Jahu.

At present, Himachal has three airports at Bhuntar in Kullu, Gaggal near Dharamsala and Jubbarhatti near Shimla. However, due to short runways, only small 42-seater aircraft can land at the three airports, leading to exorbitant fares. The fares of the one-way Shimla-Delhi and Dharamsala-Delhi flights at times cross Rs 20,000 during the peak summer season.

CWMA MEET TODAY

Karnataka has no water to release to TN: Shivakumar

Bengaluru, Sept. 12: Karnataka deputy chief minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday said that the state is in no position to release Cauvery river water to neighbouring Tamil Nadu, as it does not have enough water storage, due to lack of adequate rainfall in the river basin region.

The statement from Mr Shivakumar, who is also the water resources minister, came after Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on Tuesday recommended that Karnataka release 5,000 cusecs of water every day for the next 15 days to Tamil Nadu.

"I'm making it clear that we don't have water. They (CWRC) have given the order (recommendation),



tomorrow the matter is going before the higher committee — Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), where our secretary will be there, he is a member of it. The Chief Minister (Siddaramaiah) and I discussed the matter in the morning and we have told our officials that we will not be able to release water," Mr Shivakumar told reporters here.

Reacting to CWRC rec-

ommendation, he said Tamil Nadu is said to have demanded 12,500 cusecs, and the CWRC recommendation is for 5,000 cusecs, "but as of now there is no water." "Tonight and tomorrow morning we will discuss with our Delhi legal experts...we have to save the water for drinking. Farmer's situation comes next, drinking water is the priority now. So, we will inform the Authority that it will be very difficult for us," he added.

Noting that the Supreme Court has already told both the states that it will not interfere in the matter and let the technical committees decide, the deputy chief minister in response to a question said that, "I can only say, it is very difficult to release water." ■ P7

KARNATAKA HAS NO WATER TO RELEASE TO TN: SHIVAKUMAR

FROM PG 1

Asked as to whether the twin Cauvery bodies are unable to understand the ground situation, he said, "We have stated our position with facts today, and will do it tomorrow also...they can come to the state and see the situation on the ground for themselves." To a question whether the situation will lead to legal battle, Mr Shivakumar sought the cooperation of the people and opposition parties to protect the interest of the state.

Asked if he suspect politics behind the orders to release water, he said, "No, I cannot accuse

those committees of politics, being in a responsible position. They are sitting in the judge's position. Central government officials, representatives of both states and other states are part of it." The CWMA had earlier directed Karnataka to release 5,000 cusecs water daily to Tamil Nadu for the next 15 days from August 29, based on the recommendation of the CWRC.

Earlier in the day, Mr Shivakumar had said that currently Cauvery water is not flowing to Tamil Nadu from the state, and Karnataka officials at the CWMA will make a plea to at least to save water for drinking.

Deccan Chronicle- 13-September-2023

Water expert for making CWMA independent body; Present authority 'toothless', he says

G. SRINIVASAN | DC
THANJAVUR, SEPT. 12

Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) should be made an independent body with power of opening, releasing and closing dams and sharing water as per the water-sharing formula, said Dr.P.M. Natarajan, former director of Centre for Climate Change, Periyar Maniammai Institute of Science and Technology (PMIST) and a water expert, here on Tuesday.

He told Deccan Chronicle that the present CWMA is "powerless" and "toothless".

It never serves the purpose for which it was formed after long years of litigation, he said.

Even today, to get water, the Tamil Nadu government has to rush to the Supreme Court. Recently, TN approached SC for getting 36.76 tmc ft of water for September as per the Supreme Court order. The SC has posted the hearing to

September 21.

Citing examples of river water sharing in the world like the Nile, Colorado basin in USA, Tigris-Euphrates river basin, Danube river basin, Natarajan called for fairness by CWMA like other river pacts in the world, and said it should not take sides.

In another development, P.R. Pandian, co-ordinator of Tamil Nadu Anaithu Vivasaya Sangangalin Orunginaippu Kuzhu, condemned the statement of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddharamaiah that his state will not release water and that it will construct a dam at Mekedatu.

He is speaking against federalism in the country and in a way spoiling relations with the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu, said Pandian.

He said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister should issue a statement condemning the statement of the Karnataka Chief Minister.

केंद्र ने कहा-जलाशयों को अतिक्रमण मुक्त करें राज्य

मनीष तिवारी • नई दिल्ली

शहरों में जलभराव और भूजल स्तर में गिरावट की एक बड़ी वजह जलाशयों पर अतिक्रमण को गंभीर समस्या बताते हुए केंद्र सरकार ने राज्यों से इस पर तत्काल कदम उठाने के लिए कहा है। देश में पहली बार हुई जलाशयों की गणना रिपोर्ट को साझा करते हुए जलशक्ति मंत्रालय ने राज्यों से यह अपेक्षा की है कि वे जलाशयों के अतिक्रमण को हटाने की प्रक्रिया तेज करें ताकि अगली गणना में स्थिति बेहतर हो।

जलशक्ति मंत्रालय के सचिव पंकज कुमार के अनुसार जलाशयों पर बढ़ता अतिक्रमण चिंता की बात है। पहली गणना रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक लगभग 35 हजार जलाशय 25 से सौ प्रतिशत तक अतिक्रमण के शिकार हैं। इन्हें अवैध कब्जों से मुक्त कराना राज्यों का काम है। जो पहली रिपोर्ट इस साल जारी की गई है वह 2017-18 के सर्वेक्षण पर आधारित है। इससे देश में जलाशयों के अतिक्रमण की तस्वीर साफ हुई है। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार जिन तीन राज्यों में सबसे अधिक जलाशयों पर अतिक्रमण किया गया है, उनमें उत्तर प्रदेश (15,301), तमिलनाडु (8,366), आंध्र प्रदेश (3,920) शामिल हैं। पंकज कुमार ने बताया कि मंत्रालय की ओर से राज्यों को जो चिट्ठी लिखी गई है, उसमें इस

- जलशक्ति मंत्रालय ने राज्यों से साझा की जलाशय गणना रिपोर्ट
- राज्यों से ठोस कदम उठाने को कहा, दूसरी गणना की तैयारी शुरू

विषय की गंभीरता को उठाया गया है। इस मामले में राज्यों की सक्रियता इसलिए जरूरी है, क्योंकि पिछले दिनों एक वर्कशाप के साथ ही दूसरी जलाशय गणना की तैयारियां शुरू हो गई हैं। मंत्रालय की कोशिश यह है कि इस गणना की रिपोर्ट जल्दी आए। 2024 में इस गणना की प्रक्रिया पूरी तरह शुरू हो जाएगी। इसके अगले साल रिपोर्ट आ जाएगी।

जल उपयोग की दक्षता बढ़ाने के लिए ब्यूरो आफ वाटर यूज एफिसिएंसी (बीओडब्ल्यूई) की ओर से गठित किए गए विशेषज्ञों के समूह ने अपनी रिपोर्ट जलशक्ति मंत्रालय को सौंप दी है। इंटरनेशनल वाटर मैनेजमेंट इंस्टीट्यूट के भारतीय प्रतिनिधि आलोक सिक्का की अध्यक्षता में गठित इस समूह में चुनिंदा राज्यों के प्रतिनिधियों के अलावा केंद्रीय भूजल बोर्ड, आवासन एवं शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय, कृषि मंत्रालय, इस्पात मंत्रालय, भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो, केंद्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण, केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, दिल्ली जल बोर्ड, जल तकनीक केंद्र, फिक्की-एसोचैम के प्रतिनिधि शामिल हैं।

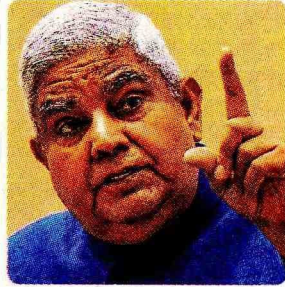
उपराष्ट्रपति धनखड़ करेंगे उद्घाटन, पंद्रह देशों के पेशेवर एक्सपर्ट करेंगे शिरकत

दुनिया भर के विशेषज्ञ कल से जयपुर में करेंगे बांध सुरक्षा पर मंथन

पत्रिका ब्यूरो
patrika.com

नई दिल्ली. दुनिया भर के विशेषज्ञ 14 व 15 सितम्बर को जयपुर में बांध सुरक्षा पर मंथन करेंगे। इसमें देश के विभिन्न संस्थानों के विशेषज्ञों के अलावा पंद्रह देशों के पेशेवर बांध सुरक्षा व प्रबंधन पर चल रहे प्रयासों व इन्हें आगे बढ़ाने पर चर्चा करेंगे। उप राष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ जयपुर के राजस्थान अंतरराष्ट्रीय केंद्र (आरआईसी) में आयोजित बांध सुरक्षा पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन करेंगे।

सम्मेलन केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्रालय के जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग की मेजबानी में राजस्थान जल संसाधन विभाग, केंद्रीय जल आयोग, राष्ट्रीय बांध सुरक्षा प्राधिकरण,



एमएनआईटी जयपुर, डब्ल्यूएपीसीओएस लिमिटेड, विश्व बैंक और एशियन इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर इन्वेस्टमेंट बैंक के सहयोग से किया जा रहा है। इसमें आ रहे विशेषज्ञ 16 सितम्बर को तेंदुआ सफारी व बीसलपुर बांध का अवलोकन भी करेंगे। सम्मेलन में बांध पुनर्वास व सुधार परियोजना (डीआरआईपी) के दूसरे व तीसरे चरण के उद्देश्यों

व इसका बांध सुरक्षा सुधार में योगदान पर विशेष रूप से चर्चा होगी। साल 2012 में शुरू हुई परियोजना के पहले चरण में 2100 करोड़ रुपए की लागत से सात राज्यों के 223 बांधों का पुनर्वास किया गया है। विश्व बैंक व एआईआईबी से वित्त पोषित दूसरे व तीसरे चरण में 10,211 करोड़ की लागत से 19 राज्यों में 736 बांधों का पुनर्वास किया जा रहा है।

'पानी की रेल' से जलसंरक्षण का संदेश

उद्घाटन सत्र में विनाइल-आवरण वाली 'पानी की रेल' के रूप में दो ट्रेनों हिमसागर एक्सप्रेस व कामाख्या एक्सप्रेस रवाना की जाएंगी। ये जल संरक्षण व प्रबंधन, नदी पुनर्जीवन,

भारत में 6000 से ज्यादा बांध

भारत बड़े बांधों के मामले में विश्व स्तर में तीसरे स्थान पर है। देश के छह हजार से अधिक बांधों में से लगभग 80 प्रतिशत 25 वर्ष से ज्यादा और 234 बांध 100 वर्षों से ज्यादा पुराने हैं। देश का सबसे पुराना बांध कल्लनई बांध माना जाता है। इसका निर्माण राजा कारिकलन चोल ने दूसरी शताब्दी ईस्वी में बनवाया था।

पेयजल और बेहतर स्वच्छता का संदेश देने के लिए चलते-फिरते बिलबोर्ड के रूप में काम करेंगी। रेल मंत्रालय के सहयोग से 'पानी की रेल' देश के कोने-कोने तक पहुंच कर जल संरक्षण का संदेश देगी।