

The Times of India- 22- September-2023

Setback for K'taka: SC refuses to interfere with Cauvery order

Protests Erupt; Crucial Cabinet Meeting Today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru/New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to interfere with the order of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) direct-

ing it to release 5,000 cusecs of water per day to Tamil Nadu until September 27. After the setback, the Karnataka government refused to divulge its next plans and held consultations with legal experts. It is expected to announce its stand — comply with the order or seek reduction in volume of water to be released — after the cabinet meeting convened by CM

CALL FOR MANDYA BANDH TOMORROW

► K'taka yet to divulge its next plans after SC refuses to interfere with CWMA order, which directed the state to release 5,000 cusecs of water daily to TN until Sept 27

► Caught in a cleft stick, the state govt may pursue 2 options: Follow order, seek reduction in daily water release to TN

► Two former CMs S Bangarappa and SM Krishna defied orders in 1991 & 2002, only to fall in line after court intervened

► Farmers urge govt not to release water, stage protests in Mysuru, Mandya, B'loru; call for Mandya dist bandh on Saturday



Activists protest in Bengaluru

► The apex court also declines to entertain an application filed by TN govt to increase its current share of Cauvery river water from 5,000 to 7,200 cusecs/day

Siddaramaiah on Friday.

Government sources said the cabinet meeting will discuss the law-and-order situation as protests have started in the Cauvery basin districts and will decide on its action after considering the pros and cons of not implementing the CWMA directive.

The state is also planning to hold a one-day emergency assembly session and discuss

the issue before passing a unanimous resolution.

"After SC refused to interfere, the riparian states must accept the decisions of expert bodies (Cauvery Water Regulatory Authority, or CWMA, and CWRC)," said senior advocate Mohan Katarki, who is appearing for Karnataka, indicating the state may eventually follow the order.

Farmers' organisations

and pro-Kannada groups staged protests in Mysuru, Mandya, Bengaluru, and other parts, expressing anger and urging the state not to release water to TN. Reacting to a Mandya district bandh call given by farmers on Saturday, home minister G Parameshwara also indicated that they may abide by the CWMA decision.

► Defying SC order, P 5

Many in Cong feel defying SC order will help party in dists

► Continued from page 1

Brushing aside Karnataka's plea that releasing any more Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu would plunge the state into a drinking water crisis, a bench comprising Justices BR Gavai, PS Narasimha and Prashant Kumar Mishra said expert bodies like CWMA and CWRC, which have experts from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), and those on agriculture and water resource management, have considered all relevant aspects like drought, deficit rainfall, and water level in the river and only then passed the order to release water.

"Therefore, the factors taken into consideration by both authorities cannot be said to be irrelevant or extra-

neous. So, we are not inclined to interfere with the orders," the bench said. The top court also declined to entertain an application filed by the Tamil

CAUVERY WATER ROW

Nadu government to increase its current share of Cauvery River water from 5,000 to 7,200 cusecs a day.

Many within the Congress feel defying the SC order will help the party in the Cauvery basin districts, where the issue is emotive. The other option is to continue demanding PM Modi's intervention. Senior BJP leaders from Karnataka have said it is wrong to ask Modi to intervene since the issue is before the top court.

If Karnataka defies the SC order, it could be hauled up

for contempt. The court can even recommend the dismissal of the Siddaramaiah government. In 2002, the then CM SM Krishna was pulled by the court when he defied its order to release water to Tamil Nadu. He apologised and later released water.

During the hearing on Wednesday, senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for Karnataka, said the upper riparian state was also facing drought-like conditions, and the release of 5,000 cusecs of water ordered by the authorities is against the "interest of the state". He insisted it should be further reduced to 3,000 cusecs per day. He said Karnataka uses Cauvery water for drinking as well as irrigation, while Tamil Nadu uses it only for irrigation.

Full report: toi.in

The Times of India- 22- September-2023

SAYS OPERATIONS ON SEPT 16-18 WERE 'SYSTEMATIC'

SSNNL says authorities mitigated flood damage

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gandhinagar: The Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd (SSNNL) said on Thursday that Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) dam authorities carried out "systematic operations during the unprecedented flash flood from September 16 to 18, thereby mitigating the damage to the downstream area, to the extent possible."

SSNNL said Gujarat did not receive significant rainfall in August and its share in the Narmada basin was just 7.72 MAF in the first week of September, against 9 MAF in a normal monsoon year. "The level of SSP in September should have been 135.64 metres, but the actual level of water on September 4 was 133.73 metres," the SSNNL statement on Thursday said.

"The live storage of Sardar Sarovar Dam is 5,760 MCM. But during the critical 60 hours from 10am on September 16 to 10pm on September 18, the total inflow in SSP was 7,829 MCM, which is equivalent to 135% of live storage capacity of the dam. Through systematic operations of



File photo

the dam gates, routing and canal management, SSP dam authority could mitigate the potential damage in the downstream area as far as possible," the statement said.

"To protect the standing crops and need for drinking and irrigation water of next ten months in Gujarat, the priority is to save to every drop of water rather than production of electricity, so RBPH (riverbed powerhouse) was closed on September 6," the statement said.

SSNNL said that rain gauge stations in upstream areas of the dam indicated very low rainfall between September 5 and 14.

"Very heavy rainfall on September 16 and 17 in catchment areas made the ISP (Indira Sagar Project) full and all additional water was rele-

ased from the project," the statement said.

"A cloudburst between ISP and SSP resulted in a flash flood at the SSP and the maximum inflow at SSP was recorded at 21.75 lakh cusecs on September 16 despite no significant forecast by the CWC (Central Water Commission)," the statement said. "SSP dam authority has routed the maximum flood of 21.75 lakh cusecs to 18.62 lakh cusecs, i.e. reducing the peak flow by 4 lacs cusecs by using the available cushion and systematic gate operation," the statement said. SSNNL said the Sardar Sarovar dam faces the 'tail end syndrome' in terms of water management as it has to absorb and adjust with release from upstream dams like the ISP and Omkareshwar.

The Times of India- 22- September-2023

TN min rules out talks with K'taka

Tamil Nadu water resources minister Duraimurugan on Thursday ruled out any scope for talks with Karnataka over sharing Cauvery water. According to sources, the government is awaiting the meeting of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee scheduled for Sept 26 for the next round of supply. TNN

The Indian Express- 22- September-2023

India and Pakistan attend crucial meet in Vienna to discuss Indus water row

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

HIGHLIGHTING THAT India is committed to support the resolution of issues in accordance with the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty, the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday said that India attended a two-day meeting of the Neutral Expert proceedings in Vienna — aimed at the resolution of a dispute between New Delhi and Islamabad on the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

The ministry said in a statement, “A delegation from India,

led by the secretary, Department of Water Resources, attended a meeting of the Neutral Expert proceedings in the Kishenganga and Ratle case at the permanent court of arbitration in Vienna on September 20 and 21. Senior advocate Harish Salve KC was present in the capacity of India’s lead counsel... Representatives of India and Pakistan were present at the meeting,” it said.

In July this year, a court of arbitration (CoA) had ruled that it has “competence” to consider matters over the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir — a construction that Pakistan has opposed strongly.

The Indian Express- 22- September-2023

CAUVERY WATER DISPUTE

SC refuses to interfere with panel's decision; Karnataka Opp calls it state govt's failure

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, BENGALURU,
SEPTEMBER 21

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday refused to interfere with the Cauvery Water Management Authority's (CWMA) direction to Karnataka to release 5,000 cusecs of water per day for 15 days to neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

Hearing a plea by Tamil Nadu, which sought more water from Karnataka, a Bench of Justices B R Gavai, P S Narasimha and P K Mishra noted that the CWMA and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) had experts as members and it did not want to interfere with their decision.

The Supreme Court also noted that the CWRC had taken into consideration the decreased inflow due to rain shortfall as well as other factors and that the two bodies were meeting and monitoring the water situation every 15 days. At the 23rd CWMA meeting held on August 29, Karnataka was asked to ensure the release of 5,000 cusecs of water every day to Tamil Nadu for the next 15 days. Tamil Nadu, however, urged the court to direct Karnataka to release 24,000 cusecs of water daily.

Appearing for Tamil Nadu, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said the CWMA had mechanically approved the CWRC decision that Karnataka should release 7,200 cusecs of water daily.

This was rounded off to 5,000, he added. "It is a distress year for everyone. I am a lower agrarian state. The calculation is based on that. In a regular year I would have been eligible for three times more," he contended.

Opposing Tamil Nadu's demand, senior advocate Shyam Divan, who appeared for Karnataka, said even the direction to release 5,000 cusecs daily was against the state's interest. The Bench said it did not want to enter into rival claims. "We are not inclined to interfere. Every 15 days, they [CWMA and CMRA] are reviewing it. It is a body comprising experts and they have given their reasons," said Justice Gavai.

Before the Court pronounced its order, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar called on Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in Delhi and informed him of the state's inability to comply with the CWMA's order.

Farmers and pro-Kannada outfits staged protests in various parts of the state. Attacking the Congress government in Karnataka for "failing to explain the ground realities" to the Court, the Opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) (JD-S) asked whether "Cauvery water was being released to Tamil Nadu to keep the INDIA alliance partners happy".

Former chief ministers B S Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai urged the Siddaramaiah

government to file a review petition before the Supreme Court, challenging the CWMA order on Cauvery water release.

Alleging that both the law and the water resources departments have failed to convey the state's concern over the Cauvery issue to the court, Yediyurappa said, "Considering the order issued by the top court today (Thursday), it is clear that the state government has failed to provide the court with required records," he said, urging the Karnataka government to file an appeal against the SC decision.

Bommai said Tamil Nadu has "utilised the water (from Cauvery) illegally", which must be brought to the notice of the Supreme Court, while explaining the situation in Cauvery basin. "The court should not just consider water levels in the dams of Karnataka, but also those in Tamil Nadu," he said.

JD(S) leader and former CM H D Kumaraswamy alleged that the "injustice was being meted to Karnataka on the Cauvery issue because Congress' political interests were linked to Tamil Nadu".

Drought caused by weak south-west monsoon this year triggered the decade-old Cauvery water dispute between the two states. While Tamil Nadu has demanded Karnataka to release water, the latter has maintained that it will not be able to do so due to lack of water in reservoirs of the Cauvery basin.

The Hindu- 22- September-2023

Cauvery water row: Karnataka may wait for next CWMA meet

State left with no choice but to release 5,000 cusecs daily to T.N. as stipulated by authority; to appeal against it in meeting on Sept. 27

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the Supreme Court's refusal to intervene in the Cauvery water sharing dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the State is now looking at the next window of opportunity to present its case. Karnataka has been left with no choice but to release 5,000 cusecs of water daily as stipulated by the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) right now, top government sources indicated.

The government is likely to wait till the next CWMA meeting proceedings to move further. "We will go by the current CWMA decision, but will appeal against it in the next auth-



Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar with Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

ority's meeting scheduled for September 27," a senior government source told *The Hindu*. The State will continue to argue against the release of quantum of water as stipulated by the authority, the source said.

Another source, who was part of the meetings in Delhi, acknowledged that the Supreme Court order came as an "unexpected

development" considering the magnitude of the distress in the Cauvery basin districts in Karnataka.

Earlier in the day, a delegation led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah met Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to impress upon him the ground realities in Karnataka, and the State's inability to release water.

The Economic Times- 22- September-2023

LOWEST RAINFALL IN 123 YEARS HAS REDUCED INFLOW OF RESERVOIRS: CM

Sidda Under Pressure to Bail K'taka Out of Cauvery Crisis

Protests erupt in parts of Old Mysuru region against orders to release water to TN

Our Political Bureau

Bengaluru: Chief minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday found himself under pressure to bail Karnataka out of the crisis arising out of Supreme Court's refusal to interfere with the CWRG orders to release 5,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu. BJP and JDS targeted the CM, accusing him of compromising on the state's interests on the Cauvery water issue to strengthen Congress party's bonding with the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu.

Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are ruled by Congress and DMK respectively that are also members of the opposition bloc INDIA, and BJP and JDS linked the state's setback in the apex court to Congress party's political compulsions.

The state government is battling a crisis as SC refused to interfere with the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's September 12 order asking Karnataka to release 5,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for 15 days.

The development sparked protests and road blockades by farmer groups and sugarcane growers in the Old Mysuru region, including Mandya, Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts of the state. Farmer organisations are also planning to call for a bandh in Mandya district on Saturday.

BJP leader BS Yediyurappa blamed the Congress government for the crisis, saying the state ended up with an adverse outcome as the government failed to furnish correct data to the court. The government clearly demonstrated a lack of preparedness, and it should take responsibility for the loss, he added.

JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy said Karnataka suffered injustice because Congress party's political interests were intertwined with that of Tamil Nadu's DMK. The Congress party has prioritised the political future of the INDIA group over the interests of Karnataka, he added. The government, the former CM said, did not take the sugges-

tions given by the opposition parties with the seriousness they deserved.

Former BJP CM Basavaraj Bommai also voiced similar concerns.

Earlier in the day, Siddaramaiah, who met Union jal shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in Delhi, said the minister's response to the state's demands were positive. "We need 106 tmc ft of water for crops, drinking water and industries. We have convinced the Union minister that there is only 51 tmc ft available at our four reservoirs. The lowest rainfall in August and September in 123 years has reduced the inflow of the reservoirs from 11,000 to 8,000 cusecs. We have convinced Shekhawat that we have no water to spare," the CM tweeted.

Business Line- 22- September-2023

Southern reservoirs storage, a cause for concern

MONSOON IMPACT. Water level in 150 major reservoirs improves but still below last 10 years' average

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

The water storage level in key reservoirs in South India continue to be a cause for concern even as the levels in major 150 ones across the country are below the average level of the last 10 years.

Data from the Central Water Commission (CWC) show that the storage in major reservoirs increased to 71 per cent of capacity at 126.463 billion cubic meters (BCM) from 113.417 BCM (63 per cent of capacity) on August 31 — thanks to the South-West monsoon turning active again this month.

But the level is lower than the last 10 years' average of 137 BCM (81 per cent). The levels are low in view of a truant south-west monsoon which has resulted in a 7 per cent rainfall deficiency. The deficiency is 20 per cent in eastern parts and 11 per cent

in the South, which reflects on the storage.

A year ago, the storage was 157.086 BCM (92 per cent), the CWC said in its weekly bulletin.

SOUTHERN BASIN

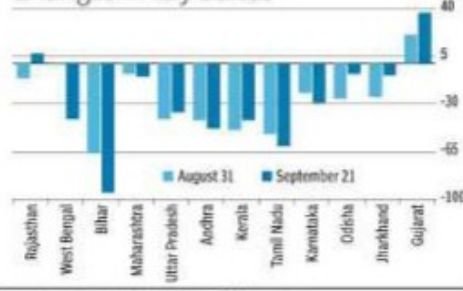
The major concern is the level in the southern river basins. The level was 57.55 per cent lower than the last 10 years' average in the Cauvery basin, while it was nearly 65 per cent in the Pennar basin.

The storage in the river basins from Tadri to Kanyakumari was down by 44.5 per cent compared to the last decade's average and it was about 30 per cent in the Krishna basin. The level in Godavari is some six per cent higher.

The water level in east flowing river basins between Mahanadi and Pennar was 50.5 per cent lower than the last 10 year's average. In all these cases, the level is lower compared with August 31, though it has improved in the



Changes in key States*



Source: Central Water Commission *Storage level in percentage

case of east-flowing rivers. State-wise, the level in Bihar's only reservoir is 95 per cent

below normal (-66 per cent on August 31), while the situation in West Bengal has

turned grim with the storage being 41 per cent lower than normal (-1 per cent).

In the South, barring Kerala, the storage situation has deteriorated since August 31.

Tamil Nadu's level has dropped to 61 per cent below normal from 52 per cent, while Karnataka's has slipped to 29 per cent from 22 per cent.

The storage in Andhra has dropped to 48 per cent below normal from 42 per cent. In the west, the water level in Gujarat has improved by 16 percentage points to 37 per cent above normal, while it has declined in Maharashtra to 10 per cent below normal from 8 per cent.

The reservoir level in South India will be the key to the fortunes of paddy and pulses during the rabi season.

However, global models forecast good rains for the region between September and December.

In the north, there has been

a prolonged dry phase this month.

This has lowered the storage in Punjab to 6 per cent below normal from 4 per cent above normal on August 31. The situation in Rajasthan and Himachal have improved during this period.

EAST INDIA GRIM

East India is emerging as another region of concern with the level declining in West Bengal, Nagaland, Tripura and Assam.

However, the situation has improved in Odisha and Jharkhand.

In Central India, though the water level has improved in Uttar Pradesh, it is still 36 per cent below normal, but the situation has improved in Madhya Pradesh, thanks to recent rains.

The situation will likely improve further as the south-west monsoon has continued to lash many parts of the country this week.

Amar Ujala- 22- September-2023

सिंधु जल विवाद : वियना बैठक में शामिल हुए भारत-पाकिस्तान

नई दिल्ली। भारत और पाकिस्तान जम्मू-कश्मीर में किशनगंगा और रतले जलविद्युत परियोजना पर विवाद को सुलझाने की कार्यवाही में वियना में हुई बैठक में शामिल हुए। यह बैठक सिंधु जल संधि के तहत भारत के अनुरोध पर नियुक्त तटस्थ विशेषज्ञ की ओर से बुलाई गई थी।

विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि इस बैठक में भारत की तरफ से वरिष्ठ वकील हरीश साल्वे मौजूद रहे। मंत्रालय ने कहा, जल संसाधन विभाग के सचिव के नेतृत्व में भारत से एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल किशनगंगा और रतले

मामले में तटस्थ विशेषज्ञ कार्यवाही की बैठक में शामिल हुआ। यह बैठक वियना में स्थायी मध्यस्थता न्यायालय में 20 और 21 सितंबर को हुई। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि बैठक सिंधु जल संधि के तहत भारत के अनुरोध पर नियुक्त तटस्थ विशेषज्ञ की ओर से बुलाई गई थी। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि भारत सिंधु जल संधि के प्रावधानों के अनुसार मुद्दों के समाधान के लिए किसी भी कार्यवाही में शामिल होने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। भारत तटस्थ विशेषज्ञ कार्यवाहियों के जरिये विवाद को सुलझाने पर जोर दे रहा है। एजेंसी

Amar Ujala- 22- September-2023

कावेरी से 5000 क्यूसेक पानी देने के निर्देश में दखल से इन्कार

नई दिल्ली। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कावेरी जल प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण के कर्नाटक को तमिलनाडु के लिए प्रतिदिन 5000 क्यूसेक पानी छोड़ने के निर्देश में हस्तक्षेप करने से इन्कार कर दिया।

मामला 2

जस्टिस बीआर गवई की तीन सदस्यीय पीठ ने बृहस्पतिवार को कहा कि वह आदेश खराब मानसून के

कारण संकट की स्थिति समेत अन्य प्रासंगिक कारकों को ध्यान में रखते हुए पारित किया गया है।

- पीठ ने तमिलनाडु की याचिका का निपटारा करते हुए कहा, सीडब्ल्यूआरसी और सीडब्ल्यूएमए दोनों ने अपने निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचने के लिए आदेश जारी करने में 48 फीसदी से अधिक कम वर्षा समेत सभी प्रासंगिक कारकों पर विचार किया था, इसलिए वह इस मामले में हस्तक्षेप करने के इच्छुक नहीं है।
- 18 सितंबर को कावेरी जल प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (सीडब्ल्यूएमए) ने कावेरी जल विनियमन समिति के फैसले को दोहराते हुए कर्नाटक को अगले 15 दिनों के लिए तमिलनाडु को 5000 क्यूबिक फीट प्रति सेकंड (क्यूसेक) पानी जारी रखने के लिए कहा था। ब्यूरो

Rajasthan Patrika- 22- September-2023

सरदार सरोवर नर्मदा निगम ने बयान जारी कर बताया

‘भारी बारिश के चलते सरदार बांध से छोड़ना पड़ा पानी’

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

गांधीनगर, भारी बारिश से बाढ़ के हालात बन गए थे जिससे सरदार सरोवर बांध (नर्मदा बांध) से पानी छोड़ना पड़ा। बाढ़ की आशंका को देखते हुए 16 से 18 सितम्बर को पानी छोड़ना पड़ा। इससे ही निचले इलाकों में होने वाले नुकसान को टाला जा सका। सरदार सरोवर परियोजना (एसएसपी) के ऊपरी इलाकों में रैन गेज स्टेशनों पर पांच से 14 सितम्बर तक बारिश के आंकड़े कम से कम दर्शाए गए हैं।

परियोजना के कैचमेंट एरिया में 15 सितम्बर को मध्यम और 16 और 17 सितम्बर को अतिभारी बारिश हुई, जिससे ऊपरी भाग का मुख्य बांध (इंदिरा सागर प्रोजेक्ट) भरा गया, जिससे सरदार सरोवर बांध की ओर से पानी छोड़ना प्रारंभ किया गया। सरदार सरोवर निगम लिमिटेड की ओर से यह बयान जारी किया गया।

निगम के मुताबिक इंदिरा सागर प्रोजेक्ट और सरदार सरोवर प्रोजेक्ट के बीच बाढ़ फटने (क्लाउड बस्ट) से सरदार सरोवर प्रोजेक्ट में अचानक बाढ़ की स्थिति बनी थी। 16 सितम्बर की रात्रि 11 बजे सरदार सरोवर प्रोजेक्ट से अधिकतम प्रवाह 21.75 लाख क्यूसेक दर्ज किया गया। हालांकि केन्द्रीय जल निगम की ओर से कोई भी पूर्वानुमान नहीं होने के बावजूद 16 सितम्बर को सुबह 10 बजे डाउन स्ट्रीम में 45,000 क्यूसेक पानी छोड़ना प्रारंभ किया गया। 17 सितम्बर को सुबह 18 लाख क्यूसेक पानी छोड़ा गया। संग्रह क्षमता और सिस्टमेटिक गेट ऑपरेशन का उपयोग कर पीक फ्लो चार लाख क्यूसेक घटाया गया। 13 और 14 सितम्बर को ज्यादा बारिश नहीं थी और इंदिरा सागर प्रोजेक्ट में कोई ज्यादा आउट-फ्लो नहीं था।



नर्मदा नदी किनारे स्थित जूना बोरभाटा मंदिर के पास का क्षतिग्रस्त इलाका।

70 सरकारी व 108 इमरजेंसी सेवा की 73 एम्बुलेंस लगाई

नर्मदा बांध से
छोड़ा जा रहा
2.5 लाख
क्यूसेक पानी



नर्मदा @ पत्रिका, नर्मदा बांध का जलस्तर गुरुवार को 138.60 मीटर रहा। बांध के 15 दरवाजों को खोलकर नर्मदा नदी में ढाई लाख क्यूसेक पानी छोड़ा जा रहा है, जिससे नदी दोनों किनारों को छूकर बह रही है। मध्यप्रदेश के ओमकारेश्वर बांध के साथ अन्य बांधों के दरवाजों को बंद कर दिए जाने से सरदार सरोवर में पानी की आवक में कमी हो रही है। बुधवार से बांध के 15 दरवाजों को 2.10 मीटर व्यास तक खोलकर नदी में ढाई लाख क्यूसेक पानी छोड़ा जा रहा है। बांध से छोड़े जाने वाले पानी की मात्रा कम कर दिए जाने से नर्मदा नदी का जलस्तर गोल्डेन ब्रिज पर कम हो रहा है।

Jansatta- 22- September-2023

पानी पर पहरा

कावेरी जल बंटवारे को लेकर वर्षों से चला आ रहा विवाद अब थम जाना चाहिए। उच्चतम न्यायालय ने कावेरी जल प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण एवं कावेरी जल नियमन समिति के उस आदेश में दखल देने से मना कर दिया है, जिसमें कर्नाटक सरकार को तमिलनाडु के लिए प्रति दिन पांच हजार घनमीटर पानी छोड़ने की बात कही गई है। तमिलनाडु ने सूखे का हवाला देते हुए बहत्तर सौ घनमीटर पानी मांगा था। समिति ने उसकी मांग को जायज तो माना, पर दूसरे राज्यों का भी खयाल रखते हुए पानी की मात्रा घटा कर पांच हजार घनमीटर कर दी। बाद में कावेरी जल प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण ने भी यही फैसला दिया। तमिलनाडु इस फैसले पर राजी है, लेकिन कर्नाटक में इसके खिलाफ असंतोष पैदा हो गया है। राज्यभर में विरोध प्रदर्शन शुरू हो गए हैं। मुख्यमंत्री सिद्धरमैया ने प्रधानमंत्री से हस्तक्षेप की मांग की है। कर्नाटक सरकार ने जिस प्रकार यह मुद्दा फिर केंद्र के समक्ष उठाया और अपने नागरिकों की नाराजगी का हवाला देकर प्रस्तावित पानी देने में असमर्थता जताई है, उससे यह विवाद खत्म होता नहीं दिख रहा। दशकों से यही हो रहा है।

दक्षिण की गंगा कही जाने वाली कावेरी के जल को चार राज्यों—कर्नाटक, तमिलनाडु, केरल और पुदुच्चेरी के बीच बंटवारे को लेकर समय-समय पर बैठकें हुईं, समितियां बनीं, उच्चतम न्यायालय द्वारा आदेश पारित हुए, पर विवादों का अंत नहीं हो पाया। तमिलनाडु और कर्नाटक के बीच कावेरी जल विवाद आजादी से पहले से चला आ रहा है। इसे लेकर केंद्र सरकार ने 1990 में कावेरी नदी जल विवाद न्यायाधिकरण का गठन किया था। इस न्यायाधिकरण ने जैसे ही तमिलनाडु को पानी देने संबंधी फैसला सुनाया तो दंगे भड़क उठे, क्योंकि कर्नाटक ने इस निर्णय को अस्वीकार कर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में इसे खारिज करने की मांग उठा दी। दोनों ही राज्यों के कई जिले सिंचाई के लिए कावेरी नदी के पानी पर निर्भर हैं। बंगलुरु शहर को पीने का पानी इसी से मिलता है। इसलिए यह मुद्दा दोनों ही राज्यों के लिए संवेदनशील बना हुआ है। वैसे, संघीय व्यवस्था वाले भारत में दो या अधिक राज्यों से होकर बहने वाली नदियों के पानी के बंटवारे को लेकर विवाद कोई नई बात नहीं है। जल संकट बड़ी समस्या है, ऐसे में हर राज्य चाहता है कि उसे अधिक से अधिक पानी मिले। यही वजह है कि कावेरी के अलावा कृष्णा, गोदावरी, नर्मदा, रावी, व्यास और यमुना जैसी नदियों के पानी को लेकर विभिन्न राज्यों के बीच खींचतान अक्सर सुर्खियों में रहती है।

महत्वाकांक्षी नदी जोड़ो परियोजना में इन विवादों से छुटकारा दिलाने की संभावना देखी गई थी, लेकिन यह परियोजना भी पिछले दो दशक में अपेक्षित गति नहीं पकड़ पाई है। पानी को लेकर हिंसा, विरोध प्रदर्शन या राजनीतिक शह-मात से कुछ भी हासिल नहीं होने वाला। समस्या का समाधान एक-दूसरे से सहयोग और समन्वय में ही निहित है। ऐसे में संबंधित राज्यों को क्षेत्रीय स्वार्थों को हर हाल में त्यागना होगा। एक-दूसरे की जरूरत को ध्यान में रखते हुए स्थायी और व्यावहारिक समाधान तलाशना होगा। उच्चतम न्यायालय जब यह कह रहा है कि कावेरी जल प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण एवं कावेरी जल नियमन समिति जैसी विशेषज्ञ संस्थाओं ने सूखे और कम बारिश जैसे सभी प्रासंगिक पहलुओं पर विचार करने के बाद ही आदेश पारित किया है और दोनों प्राधिकरणों ने जिन तथ्यों पर गौर किया है, उन्हें अप्रासंगिक या असंगत कतई नहीं कहा जा सकता, तो फिर कर्नाटक को इस फैसले पर अमल से गुरेज क्यों करना चाहिए।