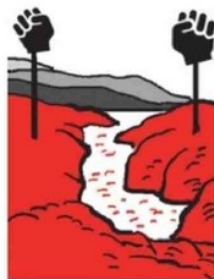


The Times of India- 29- September-2023

Warring Over Water

River fights between states need a single dispute resolution body with real enforcement powers

The Supreme Court on September 20 rightly refused to intervene in a plea by Tamil Nadu over sharing of Cauvery waters between TN and Karnataka. But Karnataka on Wednesday said it would challenge in SC the Cauvery Water Regulatory Committee's direction to it to release 3,000 cusecs of water to TN. This recurring fight between states over sharing of waters is not new and invariably flares up in years of deficient rainfall. The southern water disputes follow a pattern near-replicated in every other inter-state water dispute. GOI's Jal Shakti website records five such tribunals, all several decades old. The Cauvery dispute is for all official purposes "resolved" – but, of course, it's not.



There are lessons here on how not to tackle inter-state water conflicts. Experts have long held that tribunals for every dispute does not lead to lasting solutions. Dispute resolution operates almost on a permanent ad-hocism; in some disputes "formulas" themselves cause further dispute. While tribunals largely follow international practice and norms – equitable, reasonable water utilisation and mutual benefit – their decisions have little legal backing. When states challenge these, as is happening currently, the legal tangle only enlarges the dispute and delays resolution. Erratic and variable rainfall, rapidly depleting groundwater, land-use modifications, and water-intensive cropping patterns are intensifying river disputes.

The existing Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, depends on tribunals as its main dispute resolution body. SC adjudicates on orders by various tribunals. The Lok Sabha in 2017 passed the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill. It included a single permanent river-water disputes tribunal and a mediation committee. The implementation mechanism is still to be worked out. This is where states thwart or go to court on tribunals' orders. India is likely to become "water scarce" by 2050. The Cauvery, like most major rivers, has seen declining water volumes – drought years worsen matters. Without urgently prioritising a legislative framework that gives tribunals teeth, the bickering between states will continue, benefiting no one.

The Times of India- 29- September-2023

'Backlog' clause could render October rain relief a mirage

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Bengaluru: Water-starved Karnataka is hoping for abundant rain during the northeast monsoon to ease tension over the Cauvery water sharing dispute with Tamil Nadu, but it may be little relief, thanks to a clause in the Cauvery Water Regulatory Committee's (CWRC) latest order.

While recommending Karnataka, the upper riparian state, release 3,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for 18 days beginning Thursday, CWRC also recommended that the state release a backlog of 12.2 tmcft (12.165tmcft to be exact) in October.

This has obviously left the Karnataka government in a pickle since it says it is difficult to release even 3,000 cusecs given storage levels in the four dams in the river basin.

Water resources department officials say they will strongly challenge the recommendation before the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) when it meets on Friday. If the government cannot persuade the CWMA, it may move the Supreme Court.

"Even if we receive good rain in October, it may not help our cause since we may have

 CWRC has recommended the release of the backlog only if hydro-meteorological conditions in the state improve. Hydro-meteorological conditions include inflow into reservoirs, and normally, rain received during the northeast monsoon has nothing to do with inflows as they only ensure water in the catchment area. So, there is no question of releasing the backlog. This should be our line of argument before the CWMA

Prof MN Thimme Gowda | HEAD, AGRO-METEOROLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, GKVK

to comply with the CWRC's recommendation to make good the backlog to Tamil Nadu," said an official.

Considering the gravity of the situation, DyCM DK Shivakumar, who holds the water resources portfolio, has asked officials to attend the CWMA meeting in person. They have been pilloried for appearing online and failing to argue strongly enough.

"Our officials will convince CWMA about the prevailing drought situation. About 2,000 cusecs of water naturally flow to Tamil Nadu. We are unable to release more," he said.

The outcome of the CWMA

meeting is crucial, especially since forecasts suggest the northeast monsoon will be normal (182mm). Normal rainfall will only help Karnataka mitigate the drought situation.

The Supreme Court, in 2018, had mandated that Karnataka release a total 117tmcft between June 1 and September 25 to Tamil Nadu, but Karnataka could not comply with this stipulation due to a 53% deficit in inflows into dams.

Considering the deficit inflow, CWRC calculated Tamil Nadu's share at 54.9tmcft. Since 42.7tmcft has been recorded at the Biligundlu gauge point on the inter-state border, CWRC has calculated the backlog at 12.2tmcft and recommended Karnataka make good the shortfall "in the subsequent period when the hydro-meteorological condition improves".

CM to meet retired judges

Chief minister Siddaramaiah has called a meeting of legal luminaries on Friday to elicit their opinion on the Cauvery river water dispute. Experts on points of law, including former advocate generals and retired judges of the Supreme Court, have been invited to the meeting.

Hindustan Times- 29- September-2023

All that is wrong about Joshimath

Geological instability, rampant development and traffic-induced vibrations are among the causes cited by various government institutions that studied the subsidence phenomenon in Joshimath. A large number of buildings in this Uttarakhand town had developed cracks and ground fissures forcing residents to shift. The town's trajectory of growth is a lesson in how not to build in the Himalayas, a young mountain system prone to quakes and landslides. It has lessons for other cities and towns in the mountains.

Joshimath is an old settlement that falls on the pilgrimage route to Badrinath. The surge in pilgrim traffic in recent years — 1.3 million people have travelled to Badrinath so far this year — has resulted in a spate of constructions in the town and a sharp rise in vehicular traffic. The town is situated in a high seismic zone and falls on a geological fault line. A Central Water Commission study has said that constructions on the "spring zone" prevented the flow of spring water and resulted in overflow of groundwater. The sum of it is that Joshimath, situated in a precarious location, has outgrown its capacity and may not survive as a settlement.

There is a warning in this for the old administrative towns and hill stations in the Himalayas, serviced by poorly designed roads and threatened by unsustainable tourist traffic. There may be a need to augment infrastructure in the Himalayas for reasons of national security. However, securing the lives, livelihoods and homes of the residents is the first step in upgrading security. The gains of power projects, railway schemes and highways have to be weighed against the sensitive ecology of the region. Joshimath is a warning in a time of climate uncertainty. Do not ignore it.

Deccan Herald- 29- September-2023

Govt plans separate engineering wing to push Mekedatu project

Project estimated to cost around Rs 9,000 crore

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to give momentum for the Mekedatu balancing reservoir project, Deputy Chief Minister and Water Resources Minister D K Shivakumar has started the process of creating a separate engineering wing in his department that can begin the ground work for the project.

According to a top source in the water resources department, the minister has sought for a separate wing, exclusively dedicated to putting the project in order.

According to preliminary estimates, the project requires an extent of 5,252 hectares. Of this, 4,996 hectares will be submerged and the remaining is required for construction of the reservoir.

This submergence will include 3,181 hectares of land belonging to Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, 1,869 hectares of reserve forest and 201 hectares of revenue land.

The engineering wing is expected to start ground-level work by mapping these specifics.

Shivakumar has been optimistic about getting approvals for the project in the wake of a recent observation by the Supreme Court in this regard.

"The Supreme Court has asked Tamil Nadu why it is objecting to the project when the neighbouring state will anyway get its share of water annually," the minister told media persons recently.

The Mekedatu project aims to provide drinking water to Bengaluru and surrounding

Stage protests instead of bandh, says DKS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, on Thursday spoke out against the Karnataka Bandh call, urging activists to stage only protests instead.

"We won't come in the way of those who want to stage protests. But there's no permission for a bandh," Shivakumar told reporters and assured citizens that they will get adequate protection. Shivakumar, also the

water resources minister, maintained that the government will have to follow court orders.

"So, please, follow the law. Instead of a bandh, stage protests," he told activists.

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) is scheduled to meet on Friday, Shivakumar pointed out.

"I have asked officers to attend the meeting in

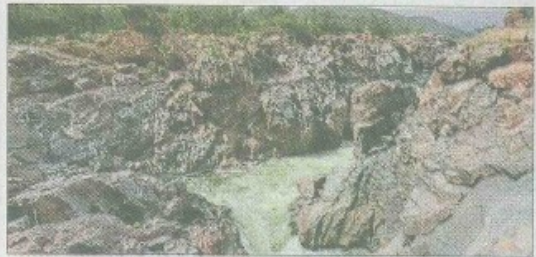
person and not online," he said.

"Tamil Nadu had sought 11,000 cusec of water. Our officers will make a case effectively. The drought situation in the state will be conveyed. Right now, 2,000 cusec of water flowing (into Tamil Nadu) naturally," he said.

Shivakumar said a separate meeting will be convened with irrigation and legal experts.

areas, apart from generating hydroelectricity. The reservoir will make use of the natural slope of the river from Shivanasamudra to the state border. As per estimates, the project is expected to cost Rs 9,000 crore.

Previously the Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government had set aside Rs 1,000 crore for the project, even as approvals are pending from the Centre.



The Mekedatu project aims to provide drinking water to Bengaluru and surrounding areas, apart from generating hydroelectricity. DH FILE PHOTO

Dainik Jagran- 29- September-2023

केन-बेतवा लिंक परियोजना के खुले आफिस, अब कार्यों में आएगी तेजी

जागरण संवाददाता, बांदा : केन-बेतवा लिंक परियोजना के कार्यों में अब तेजी आएगी। परियोजना के मंडल और डिवाजन कार्यालय स्थापित करने के साथ ही अधिकारियों की तैनाती भी कर दी गई है। अधिकारियों के मुताबिक प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी पांच अक्टूबर को परियोजना का शुभारंभ करेंगे। इसको लेकर तैयारियां शुरू हो गई हैं। परियोजना को 2030 तक पूरा किया जाना है।

करीब 45 हजार करोड़ रुपये की केन-बेतवा लिंक परियोजना से यूपी में बुंदेलखंड के चार जिलों बांदा, महोबा, झांसी और ललितपुर में ढाई लाख हेक्टेयर भूमि की भरपूर सिंचाई होगी। पांच हजार करोड़ रुपये प्रदेश के इन चार जिलों में खर्च होने हैं। मध्य प्रदेश के दोधन में बन रहे 2855 एमसीएम (मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर) पानी की क्षमता के



अतर्रा से होकर गुजरी केन नहर • जागरण

- बुंदेलखंड के चार जिलों की ढाई लाख हेक्टेयर भूमि होगी सिंचित
- प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी पांच अक्टूबर को करेंगे परियोजना का शुभारंभ

बांध से इन चारों जिलों को 1700 एमसीएम पानी मिलेगा। बांदा की 1060 किमी नहरों का 1142 करोड़ रुपये से कायाकल्प होगा। जिले में केन नदी पर बनने वाले दो बैराजों से दो हजार हेक्टेयर क्षेत्रफल की सिंचाई होगी। साथ ही 67 एमसीएम पानी से पेयजल संकट दूर होगा।

Rajasthan Patrika- 29- September-2023

समझौते के तहत राजस्थान नहीं देता मप्र को पानी ईआरसीपी पर स्टे के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट में मप्र ने लगाई याचिका

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

patrika.com

भोपाल. ईस्टर्न राजस्थान कैनाल प्रोजेक्ट (ईआरसीपी) को लेकर मप्र सरकार एक बार फिर सुप्रीम कोर्ट पहुंच गई। सरकार ने प्रोजेक्ट पर स्टे की सुनवाई जल्दी करने की मांग की है। राजस्थान सरकार ने मध्यप्रदेश की सहमति के बिना कालीसिंध नदी पर नवनेरा बैराज बनाया है।

चंबल नदी से मिलने वाले पानी को लेकर राजस्थान व मध्यप्रदेश के बीच हुए समझौते के अनुसार मप्र को 3900 क्यूसेक पानी मिलना चाहिए। मप्र के हिस्से का पूरा पानी राजस्थान ने कभी नहीं



दिया। औसत 2800-2900 क्यूसेक पानी ही मिलता है। बहुत ही कम मौकों पर 3100 से 3200 क्यूसेक तक पानी मिला है। इससे भिंड और आसपास के क्षेत्र में सिंचाई के लिए पूरा पानी नहीं पहुंच पाता। राजस्थान में मुख्यमंत्री अशोक गहलोत इस प्रोजेक्ट को लेकर लगातार केंद्र पर हमला कर रहे हैं। उनका कहना है, केंद्र ईआरसीपी को बंद करना चाहती है, लेकिन हम बंद नहीं होने देंगे।