

Hindustan Times- 20- September-2023

Learning from Himachal floods

This monsoon season has been disastrous for Himachal Pradesh. The relentless rain and subsequent floods coupled with landslides have destroyed public infrastructure on an unprecedented scale. The losses are estimated to be over ₹12,000 crore. Already under financial stress, the state is now searching for funds to undertake the humongous task on its hands — rehabilitation of 3,000 families whose dwellings were washed out and rebuilding of battered roads, bridges, drinking water and irrigation projects and hydel power plants. So far, the state has got only ₹600 crore from the national disaster fund corpus. That explains chief minister (CM) Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's desperate plea to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declare the Himachal floods a national disaster, on the lines of the 2013 Kedarnath calamity, to help the state receive a bigger tranche of central assistance. Towards this end, he has also demanded that the criteria for aid in the disaster relief manual should be changed.

While the Centre is yet to take a call on Himachal's case, CM Sukhu, in an interview with this newspaper on Monday, touched upon a larger, and more significant, point: The man-made factors that accentuated a rain-induced calamity, and the lessons the state should learn. Complete disregard for structural engineering and load-bearing capacity of soil strata while building houses on hilly terrain and construction in the bed of *nullahs* and rivers ensured that the cost of floods would be enormous. Himachal has now banned construction on 45-degree inclines and slicing of hills for private development. The real test, however, will be if the authorities can ensure compliance. The challenge before the administration is also to adapt developmental aspirations to the specific ecology of the region.

The Times of India- 20- September-2023

K'taka won't release Cauvery water to TN, plans to approach SC

Bengaluru: With no relief from the relentless dry spell, the Karnataka government on Tuesday decided to not abide by the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)'s directive to release water to Tamil Nadu, and instead consult legal experts and state MPs to chart out the next course of action — moving the Supreme Court. On Wednesday, CM Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar will hold separate meetings in New Delhi with the state government's legal team on the Cauvery river water-sharing row.

On Monday, CWMA had endorsed the recommendation of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee and ordered release of 5,000 cusecs of water to TN for 15 days. This order came out of an emergency meeting of CWMA presided over by its chairman Saumitra Kumar Haldar. The meeting was held against the backdrop of Karnataka's refusal to comply with the CWRC's September 12 directive.

Karnataka has cited severe drought in parts of the state to not release water to Tamil Nadu. It is expected to argue the same in the SC and before the CWMA at its next meeting on September 26. TNN

The Times of India- 20- September-2023

Cauvery dispute: MP delegation meets Union min

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: All party MPs led by water resources minister Duraimurugan on Tuesday met Union jal shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and presented a memorandum, seeking the Centre's intervention in securing the state's share in Cauvery water.

The Cauvery water management authority (CWMA) on Monday endorsed the decision taken at its technical committee, Cauvery water regulation committee (CWRC), and ordered Karnataka to ensure realisation of flows at 5,000 cusecs (cubic feet per second) at Billigundlu, the interstate border, for 15 days beginning September 13. The order was issued after Tamil Nadu demanded a rate of inflow of 12,500 cusecs on a pro-rata basis, while Karnataka wanted it to be 3,000 cusecs.

The delegation that met Shekhawat on Tuesday included T R Baalu (DMK), M Thambidurai (AIADMK), Anbumani Ramadoss (PMK), G K Vasan (TMC) and Thol Thirumavalavan (VCK). Duraimurugan said the delegation complained to the minister that Karnataka had not been releasing water as per the instructions of the CWMA/CWRC. "Distress is common to all. Supreme Court has ordered

water release on a pro-rata basis, and we want water based on that. CWMA has directed release at the rate of 5,000 cusecs daily but we have received 3,500 cusecs today," the minister said. The delegation complained that the majority of the state relied on Cauvery for its drinking water needs.

CWMA chairperson S K Haldar told **TOI** that the combined storage in the four Karnataka reservoirs was 53 tmcft against the total capacity of 114 tmcft. "Karnataka is mainly dependent on the southwest monsoon. They have got a requirement of 33 tmcft for drinking water, 3 tmcft for industries, and 70 tmcft for irrigation. Karnataka has reduced irrigated area to one third. Looking at these, their future requirement will be in the order of 106 tmcft," the chairman said. Karnataka was expecting to get 110 tmcft in the balancing period of SW monsoon and NE monsoon together with the current storage. While Tamil Nadu demanded 12,500 cusecs, Haldar justified the authority's decision to release 5,000 cusecs, based on condition such as rainfall deficiency and the average shortfall in inflows in the four reservoirs of Karnataka in the Cauvery basin this year was 54% vis-a-vis the average inflows in the last 30 years.

Telangana Today- 20- September-2023

TS water-surplus, other States struggle

Records 68.3% surplus due to effective resource development

STATE BUREAU

HYDERABAD

While a majority of the States in the country are scrambling for water with their reservoirs fast dipping, Telangana turned out to be the only State better placed in terms of water availability supported by adequate storage levels in its sources.

The September comfort enjoyed by Telangana State in water availability, despite all the major projects in the Krishna basin drawing a blank receiving zero inflows, owed to nine years of focus on the water resource development and effective management.

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme was the major source that helped in filling many of drying reservoirs to the brim even before the onset of monsoon. It helped in insulating a major part of the State barring a few pockets under the Krishna river projects like Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar from the vagaries of the monsoon.

Among the 21 States for which the Central Water Commission (CWC) publishes reservoir data, all but five States have deficits. Of the five States that are in advantage, Telangana is on the top with a surplus of 68.3 per cent. It stands way ahead



Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme was the major source that helped in filling many drying reservoirs to the brim.

Where other States stand

(AS PER CENTRAL WATER COMMISSION'S RESERVOIR DATA)

Uttarakhand
12.1%

Water surplus
Telangana way ahead
of other States

Gujarat
registered
marginal
surplus of
14.6%

6.0%

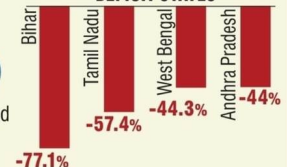
Himachal Pradesh

2.7%

Nagaland

16 of 21 States face
water deficits

DEFICIT STATES



compared to Gujarat and Uttarakhand which registered a marginal surplus of 14.6 per cent and 12.1 per cent respectively.

The States of Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland have a surplus of 6.0 per cent and

2.7 per cent. Bihar is topping the list of deficit States with -77.1% followed by Tamil Nadu and West Bengal with -57.4 per cent and -44.3 per cent respectively. Andhra Pradesh has its reservoir levels declined by -44 per

cent compared to its 10 years of normal average by September 14. Almost all the important States are likely to end up with a dry monsoon having a bearing on the Kharif crops as well as the Rabi.

Telangana Today- 20- September-2023

Monsoon set to retreat soon

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

The southwest monsoon arrived later than it was expected this year and it is also likely to set out on its retreat journey earlier than expected.

According to sources in the IMD, the monsoon withdrawal process is likely to commence from the northwest region of the country in less than three weeks' time.

The monsoon started withdrawing from the northwest sometime towards the end of September last year.

The country as a whole received a total of 729.5 mm of rainfall from June 1 to September 16 which left a deficit of 124.2 mm compared to the normal average. Water stock in 150 important reservoirs across the country as on September 6, stood at 111.7 billion cubic metres (BCM) as against 113.4 BCM recorded till August 31, and 150.9 billion cubic metres recorded in the corresponding period last year.

The current year's storage is 74 per cent of what it was last year and 86 per cent of the average storage in the last ten years, according to the sources.

Water storage

Region-wise analysis of the water storage in reservoirs indicates that Southern region has a water storage level of 48 per cent, signifi-

Storage levels in over 150 reservoirs across the country may improve only if surplus rains are recorded

cantly lower than the previous year's level of 99 per cent.

The Krishna basin reservoirs right from Almatti in the upper reaches to Nagarjunasagar, joint project of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the situation is deteriorating. Nagarjunasagar had received only what that was let out from Srisailem project for power generation.

CWC analysis

So far as the northern region is concerned it has the lowest storage as per its capacity. In its eight reservoirs under CWC monitoring, the total live storage available was 4.09 BCM, which is 21 per cent of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs.

Storage in the reservoirs in the eastern, western and central regions was 31 per cent, 30 per cent and 31 per cent respectively. The storage levels stand a chance to be improved only in the event of surplus rainfall in the next two weeks of September. Rainfall in the range of 222 mm in the current month may help fix the deficit.

The Indian Express- 20- September-2023

Lost in transit, leaked or pilfered: Tracking Capital's unaccounted for water supply

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 19

STARTING FROM a treatment plant to underground reservoirs and then a Delhiite's home, water makes its way through a city pipeline network that is over 15,000 km long. Some of it, however, goes missing — it may be lost in transit, the pipeline may have sprung a leak, or it is being pilfered — even before it reaches the final stages of supply to consumers.

According to data from the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), on some days and from some water treatment plants, this water that is 'unaccounted' for is a significant amount.

From the Chandrawal water treatment plant, for instance, on the last two days of August, the 'unaccounted' flow was as high as over 60 MGD (million gallons per day) — over 60% of 99 MGD of water that the plant produced on these days. It was zero on only six days of the month. This plant supplies water to parts of Central and North Delhi.

From August 1 to 31, the average 'unaccounted flow' from Chandrawal was 20.9 MGD. The Economic Survey of Delhi pegs 60 gallons per person per day as the norm for water supply.

This data is being drawn via a network of 2,691 flowmeters, devices that measure flow of water. A control room at the DJB headquarters, set up in 2019, monitors this data. These meters calculate water supplied and distributed from water treatment plants to underground reservoirs only.

Unaccounted water from the Wazirabad and Nangloi water treatment plants are also significant.

Where does Delhi's water go?

870 MGD

Delhi's daily water production at nine treatment plants

94.28 MGD

Water unaccounted for by the time it reaches secondary reservoirs



15.71 lakh

people can avail this water

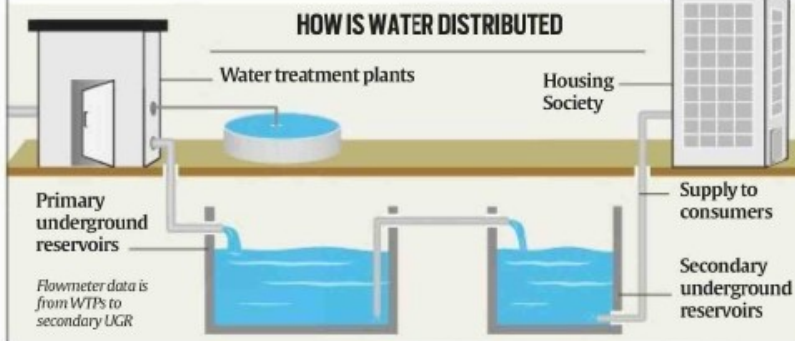
DATA IN AUGUST (AVG PER DAY)

Water Treatment plant	Average production (MGD)	Average unaccounted flow (MGD)	Percentage unaccounted (approximate)
1. Chandrawal	99.55	20.9	21%
2. Wazirabad	132.58	18.86	14%
3. Haiderpur	240.95	23.74	10%
4. Bhagirathi	114.17	11.98	10%
5. Sonia Vihar	143.66	9.6	7%
6. Okhla	21	0	0%
7. Nangloi	46.16	6.89	15%
8. Dwarka	52.31	0.75	1%
9. Bawana	19.96	1.56	8%

*Considering this as the norm, as per Economic Survey of Delhi 2022-23



HOW IS WATER DISTRIBUTED



icant. (See box)

"Production and distribution from 9 WTPs (water treatment plants) are being monitored in real-time from the control room. Close to 870 MGD of water is produced from these plants. A

total of 2,715 flowmeters were to be installed in the first phase, of which 2,691 were in place. Another 1,537 are to be placed in phase 2. The Chief Minister has given a deadline of December to install all flow meters and to be

able to have every drop of water audited," said DJB Vice-Chairman Somnath Bharti.

He added that 180 meters are yet to be installed on lines taking water to the inlets of the primary UGRs.

What does the DJB learn from the data and how is it used?

According to Bharti, pilferage and leakages can be identified through flow meters.

"If we succeed in plugging all such points, we will have enough water for every Delhiite. Water from the WTP goes to a primary UGR (underground reservoir) and then a secondary UGR. Major (instances of) pilferage are found between the primary and secondary UGR. We get a daily report on the data, and the information (from the control room) goes to the additional chief engineer (maintenance) to look into," he said.

"We can also figure out the deficit for a particular area and learn how much additional water we need to supply," Bharti added.

All flowmeters would have to be placed for a clearer picture.

A DJB official associated with the functioning of the control room explained further: "If we are producing 'x' amount and 'y' amount is being utilised, the balance amount is not traced. That could be in the form of transmission losses, water theft, leakages, or we may not have measured in a particular area. This is unaccounted flow... After the secondary UGR, there are so many branches that measuring becomes difficult... If the flowmeter is not working, it stops blinking in the control room, so then we know there's a fault."

In a communication issued in June, the CMO had said the DJB's assessment points to a "lack of proper records regarding available water".

The Hindu- 20- September-2023

The Cauvery Water Management Authority should act

With the pace and output of the southwest monsoon this year casting a shadow over the catchment areas of the Cauvery river in Karnataka and Kerala, the elusive distress-sharing formula is back in focus. Recent submissions by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka as well as the deposition of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) before the Supreme Court of India only reinforce the need for an early formulation that is acceptable to all.

The notion of a distress-sharing formula has been in the air ever since the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) gave its interim order in June 1991. A serious attempt to have one was made in 2002-03 when the southwest monsoon yielded scant rain (compared to long-term data) over a three-year block, between 2001-02 and 2003-04, with poor inflows to four reservoirs – Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS), Kabini, Hemavathy and Harangi, all in upper-riparian Karnataka. The state of Mettur dam in Tamil Nadu, the lower riparian State, needed no elaboration.

There is nothing much in the final order of the Tribunal in 2007 and the judgment of the Supreme Court in 2018, which the players concerned could look to for distress sharing. The judicial bodies had referred to the principle of pro-rata sharing in times of distress. The Tribunal had suggested that in the event of there being two consecutive bad years of rain, the monthly schedule of water release be relaxed and all the reservoirs in the entire basin operated in an integrated manner “to minimise any harsh effect”. But, in the discourse now, neither of the parties to the dispute nor the Authority has expressed anything against the concept of distress sharing. The divergence appears to be over what the elements of the proposed formula should be. Tamil Nadu takes into account the deficit in inflows to the four Karnataka reservoirs vis-à-vis the average flows in the last 30 years, and the rainfall pattern in three groups of the Cauvery catchment (the catchment of the KRS and Kabini, the catchment upstream of Biligundulu on the



T. Ramakrishnan

The positions taken by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu should not deter the Authority from finding a formula

inter-State border, and the catchment downstream of Biligundulu).

Stands by the States

Karnataka, which is not for considering only the deficit in inflows into its reservoirs, has been maintaining that the overall distress situation cannot be calculated till the end of January. It has said that the outcome of the northeast monsoon (October-December) should also be taken into account with that of the southwest monsoon (June-September). As an upper riparian State that is dependent on the southwest monsoon for irrigation, drinking water and more, Karnataka is well within its rights to be concerned about meeting its requirements for the next eight-odd months, even though it has the propensity to fix the “rules of the game” for water release unilaterally. It had even informed the Court of its difficulties in releasing water in view of a “severe drought situation” in the Cauvery and Krishna basins.

The CWMA, in its meeting on August 29, deliberated on many factors that included the shortfall in inflows and rainfall, the monsoon forecast over the next fortnight (till September 12), and inflows and outflows of four other reservoirs in the Cauvery basin. – an approach that has not been to the satisfaction of both States. While directing Karnataka to ensure the realisation of 5,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) for 15 days from August 29, the CWMA recorded that during June 1 to August 27, the four Karnataka reservoirs had suffered a shortfall of 51.22% in their inflows, with the upper catchment of the Cauvery basin having had a more negative deficit in rainfall. The CWMA pointed out that the shortfall for Biligundulu, as compared to the stipulated flows in a normal year, was 62.4%. The Authority, which held an emergency meeting on September 18, endorsed the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC)’s direction given on September 12 to Karnataka to continue providing 5,000 cusecs for another 15 days

(September 13 to 27).

Tamil Nadu, which has worked out what is due to it this year, is waiting for the Supreme Court’s intervention to get back “its quota” of water for the one-and-a-half months (half of August and the whole of September), even as the case is likely to be heard by the Court on September 21. Regardless of the outcome, the State should pursue the idea of judicious use of water.

Ensure transparency

The positions taken by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu may appear to be difficult to reconcile but this should not deter the Authority – or, if required, the Union government – from trying to find a formula. Such an approach could and should have been used by the Authority after its inception in June 2018. Unfortunately, nothing much was done in these five years. The opportunity now should not be lost.

The history of the Cauvery dispute shows that it is people at the helm of affairs who have not risen to the occasion to resolve the problem. Instead of giant steps being taken to solve the issue, settling for status quo has been the norm. Of course, political considerations have been a factor. A silver lining when it comes to the composition of the Authority is that the body is populated with officials and technical experts, who should not have any problem in coming to a distress-sharing formula in a rational and objective manner. The CWMA may not have shown its mettle so far, but it should now try and make a fresh beginning. To begin with, the Authority along with its assisting body, the CWRC, should make the proceedings of all its meetings held so far available to the public on a website. Putting out all the facts in the public domain will help the CWMA dispel misconceptions in both States about this issue given that the Cauvery has always been an emotive subject.

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Deccan Herald- 20- September-2023

Ask Karnataka to release water, TN team urges Jal Shakti minister

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

An all-party delegation of MPs from Tamil Nadu met Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi on Tuesday and asked him to direct Karnataka to release Cauvery water due for the state.

The delegation, consisting of members from DMK, AIADMK Congress and other parties and led by Water Resources Minister Durai Murugan, accused Karnataka of not following the pro-rata basis formula devised by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal during the deficit period.

The meeting comes two days after Chief Minister M K Stalin

said Karnataka should release water from River Cauvery as per the 2018 Supreme Court verdict, while rejecting allegations levelled by the neighbouring state that it had increased the ayacut area.

“Karnataka dams have water, but the state is refusing to release it as per the directions of the Cauvery Water Management Authority. The total storage in Karnataka dams in 54 tmc ft of water. But they have constructed check dams to impound water in KRS dam,” the minister said.

He accused Karnataka of releasing only 4,000 cusecs of water on Tuesday. “We are only asking for our share of water,” Murugan said.

Tamil Nadu says it should have received 103.5 tmc ft of water from Karnataka till September 14, but the state received just 38.4 tmc ft of water, leading to a shortfall of 65.1 tmc ft.

The state government decided to open the sluices of the Stanley reservoir in Mettur on June 12 as scheduled, keeping in mind the storage (69.25 tmc ft), the normal monsoon forecast by the India Meteorological Department and the monthly water release schedule, Stalin had said on Saturday.

While Tamil Nadu wants the monthly schedule to be adhered to without fail, Karnataka says it can release water only after catering to the needs of its people and farmers.

Dainik Bhaskar- 20- September-2023

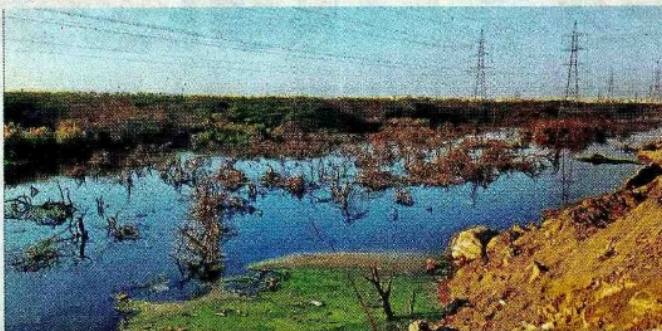
खजूरी चौक से यूपी बॉर्डर तक 20 लाख लोगों को होगा फायदा

2 महीने में 8 करोड़ से बनेगा अंडरग्राउंड रिलीफ वाटर ड्रेन

शेखर घोष | नई दिल्ली

उत्तर-पूर्वी दिल्ली के खजूरी चौक से यूपी बॉर्डर तक 8 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से 4 किलोमीटर लंबा अंडरग्राउंड रिलीफ वाटर ड्रेन बनेगा। साथ ही वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट के जरिए दूषित पानी को साफ कर यमुना नदी में छोड़ा जाएगा। एनएचएआई ने इस परियोजना पर काम शुरू कर दिया है और 2 महीने में काम पूरा हो जाएगा। करावल नगर विधानसभा की 6 से अधिक कॉलोनियां के 5 लाख से अधिक परिवारों के लगभग 20 लाख लोगों को इसका फायदा मिलेगा।

उत्तर प्रदेश के लोनी बॉर्डर की चमन विहार कॉलोनी से यह ड्रेन दिल्ली के सभापुर डलान में प्रवेश करता है। अभी यह दिल्ली पुलिस अकादमी, सीआरपीएफ कैंप, चमन विहार, सभापुर गांव, चौहान पट्टी गांव, सोनिया विहार, श्रीराम कॉलोनी होते हुए ड्रेन सिग्नेचर ब्रिज के पास यमुना में गिर कर यमुना नदी को भी प्रदूषित कर रहा है। जल बोर्ड के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि यूपी के ट्रोनिक् सिटी में चल रहे उद्योगों का भी इस नाले में पानी आता है। इसके अलावा अवैध कॉलोनियां काटी गई। क्षमता से अधिक पानी के दबाव के कारण कई जगह पर यह ड्रेन ओवरफ्लो होता है। इससे इन इलाकों में पीने योग्य पानी नहीं रह गया है।



दूषित जल से कई लोगों की हो चुकी है मौत, कैंसर तक हो रहा

सभापुर गांव के लोगों के अनुसार, साल 1984 में बना यह नाला साल 2000 तक तो ठीक रहा, पर जैसे-जैसे कृषि भूमि पर प्लांट काट कर लोग बसते गए तो साल 2000 में यह ड्रेन पहले बरसात के दिनों में और बाद में कई जगहों पर बिना बरसात के भी ओवर फ्लो होने लगा। नाले का गंदा पानी भूजल को दूषित करने लगा। दूषित जल के कारण अब तक दर्जनों लोग बीमार होकर जान गंवा चुके हैं। सभापुर गांव की देवी पत्नी हरेंद्र, कुलदीप पुत्र सुरेंद्र, रिछपाल पुत्र भागवत, सुनील पुत्र वेद प्रकाश ने बताया कि दूषित जल के कारण उनके पेट में कैंसर हो गया है, जिसका इलाज चल रहा है। सांसद प्रतिनिधि आनंद त्रिवेदी ने बताया कि 2022 में सांसद मनोज तिवारी ने इस मामले को लोकसभा में उठाया था। इसके बाद शहरी विकास मंत्री हरदीप पुरी ने एनएचएआई को इस ड्रेन को अंडरग्राउंड करने का आदेश दिया था। केंद्र सरकार के सहयोग से अब यह काम शुरू हो गया है।

■ ड्रेन को अंडरग्राउंड करने का कार्य शुरू कर दिया गया है। 2 महीने में काम को तय समय में पूरा कर लिया जाएगा। सोनिया विहार वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट में इस ड्रेन के गंदे पानी को पहले ट्रीट किया जाएगा और सिग्नेचर ब्रिज के पास साफ पानी को यमुना नदी में छोड़ दिया जाएगा।

- पुनीत खन्ना, प्रोजेक्ट मैनेजर, एनएचएआई