

Hindustan Times- 26- September-2023

Record dry, wet spells define 2023 monsoon

By Abhishek Jha

The official monsoon season runs from June 1 to September 30. This leaves just five days of India's rainiest season after September 25. What were the key features of the 2023 monsoon? An HT analysis of the gridded data of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) shows that India is likely to end with an overall deficit this season. Irrespective of whether this deficit decreases from its current level, around a third of the country is likely to retain big deficits. Moreover, the overall performance of the season hides the fact that individual months and days were generally marked by one of the two extremes: much wetter or much drier than they usually are. The season is also ending with some of the longest continuous spells of dry and wet weather. Here are four charts that show these trends.

1 With a week to go, this is the 34th driest monsoon since 1901

India has received 799mm of rainfall this monsoon season up to September 25, according to IMD's gridded data. This is 4.1% less than the 1961-2010 average for the June 1-September 25 period, a benchmark for rain, and the 36th lowest since 1901. The 1961-2010 average for the entire season is 853.7mm. This means that India needs 10.9mm rain daily on average in the last five days of September to end with no deficit when the daily average so far this month is 6.7mm. This appears to be a difficult task unless floods, such as those in Nagpur over the weekend, continue, because the monsoon started withdrawing from Rajasthan on September 25, according to IMD.

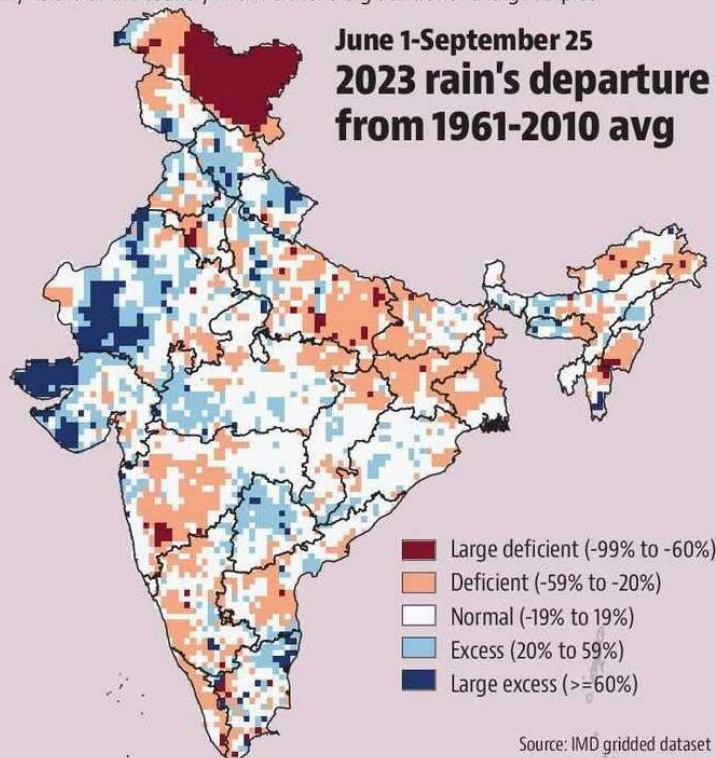
Average monsoon rain over India (in mm)



Source: IMD gridded dataset

2 Large parts of India will remain outside the 'normal' range

Like all averages, India's average deficit does not show how the season behaved in particular regions. A disaggregated analysis shows that 27.6% of India has received rain that is 20-60% less than the 1961-2010 average or "deficient" and 4.8% of India has a deficit of 60% or more, classified as "large deficient". Such dry pockets still make up at least 50% of the area in Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal. To be sure, the dry conditions of the northern states in this list are in keeping with the long-term trend of these states becoming drier during the monsoon season, as HT has explained before. Apart from such dry pockets, parts of the country — particularly Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand — also experienced devastating floods due to rains. Therefore, 21.7% of the country is also ending the season with a surplus of 20% or more, classified as "excess" or "large excess", leaving only 45.9% of the country with neither a big deficit nor a large surplus.



3 Individual months were either too dry or too wet

India's overall performance in the season also hides the fact that it alternated between very dry and very wet months. For example, June this year was the 49th driest since 1901 and had a 5.5% deficit, July was the 22nd wettest this year and had a 13.3% surplus, August was the driest ever and had a 34.5% deficit, and September (up to September 25) is the 36th wettest and has a 17% surplus.

India's monthly rain

(in mm)

2023 1961-2010 average

JUNE



JULY



AUGUST



SEP 1 - 25



Source: IMD gridded dataset

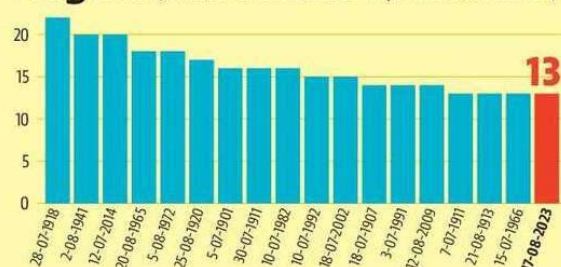
4 2023 had some of the longest dry and wet spells for the monsoon season

If continuous days of more than 20% deficit are counted as one dry spell and continuous days of more than 20% surplus are counted as one wet spell, the 2023 monsoon also had some of the longest dry and wet spells for the monsoon season up to September 23.

There have been 1,303 such dry spells since 1901 of which 692 have been in July or August, the two wettest months of the season. Among these dry spells, the 13-day dry spell ending on August 17 is ranked the 35th highest or in the top 3% and 15th or in the top 2% if one is only looking at such dry spells in July and August. Similarly, the ten-day wet spell that ended on September 24 is the 30th longest such spell among 1,425 such spells during the monsoon season up to September 25, also in the top 3%.

Longest dry spells in July and August

(Number of continuous days with 20% deficit)



Source: IMD gridded dataset

The latest wet spell has not improved reservoir conditions much

The wet spell towards the end of the season is good news. Things would be much worse if the dry conditions of August had persisted this month. This is reflected to some extent in the water storage in reservoirs, according to data from the Central Water Commission (CWC) for 21 states. The departure in storage from the last 10 years' average has improved in 11 of those states compared to the previous week. However, it has also worsened in 10 states, with the net result that 13 states have a deficit currently, only a small improvement from 16 states with a deficit last week.

The Times of India- 26- September-2023

1,000 cusecs of surplus water let out from Poondi reservoir

Oppili.P@timesgroup.com

Chennai: Following increase in inflow after good rains in Andhra Pradesh, water resources department (WRD) on Monday started releasing surplus water from Poondi reservoir, around 1,000 cubic feet of water per second.

A WRD senior engineer said this is the fourth consecutive year the storage levels has touched their maximum and surplus water is being released. In 2021, flooding damaged two sluice gates of the reservoir. Subsequently, it was rebuilt and the maximum storage level was maintained last year. This year too the storage level has touched its maximum and 1,000 cusecs of water is being released, said the engineer.

The released water will flow into Thamaraipakkam Anaicut, where it will be stored. Subsequently, water from Thamaraipakkam will be pumped into Sholavaram reservoir, which is one of the reservoirs supplying water to the city. Storage level at the Sholavaram reservoir had already touched the maximum level, he said.



FOR STORAGE: The released water will flow into Thamaraipakkam Anaicut from where it will be pumped into Sholavaram reservoir

The Veeranam tank in Cuddalore district also does not have good storage of water. As of Monday, the water level stood at 43% (630.50 million cubic feet) as against its full capacity of 1,465 mcft. Apart from pumping water to distribute it to the city, the stored water in Veeranam tank is being released for irrigation purposes too, said a Metrowater engineer.

Normally, during southwest monsoon, water from Karnataka flows into the Cauvery river, which fills the

Mettur dam. This year, with the Karnataka government refusing to release water, the Mettur dam is not full. The storage level is dropping day by day. With the reduction in the quantity of water being released from Mettur, the realisation at Veeranam is much less. Hence, the storage at the Veeranam tank is fast depleting. However, the Metrowater continued to draw 172 million litres of water a day from Veeranam to supply to its consumers, the official said.

Telangana Today- 26- September-2023

Palamuru: State focuses on CWC appraisal for project report

DPR approval, clearances due from CWC no longer 'sub judice'

D CHANDRA BHASKAR RAO
Hyderabad

Six clearances are on hand and one is in the offing. All that the Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS) needs is the appraisal of its detailed project report (DPR) by the Central Water Commission (CWC).

The DPR approval and clearances due from the CWC are no longer 'sub judice' as the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II has pronounced its stand on the Interlocutory Application (IA) filed by Andhra Pradesh opposing the utilisation of 90 tmc of Krishna water from the 75 per cent dependable flows into the Srisaillam project.

As the KWDT-II has rejected the IA stating that it had no jurisdiction to entertain the application, Telangana is now pursuing the issue of the PRLIS DPR appraisal vigorously with the CWC. The Engineer-in-Chief (General) Irrigation and Command Area Development, C Muralidhar, wrote to the CWC Chair-

STATUS REPORT

SIX CLEARANCES ON HAND FOR PRLIS

Forest clearance and wildlife clearance already obtained

- Environment clearance in consideration of MoEF
- PRLIS issues not before any court, no longer sub judice
- TS seeks final approval of PRLIS DPR by the CWC

man requesting to complete the appraisal of the DPR.

He sought necessary clearances to be accorded as there was no issue of 'sub judice' in respect of the PRLIS in any court of law. He stated that the Expert Appraisal Committee of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, in its 49th meeting held on July 24, 2023, recommended to the Minister to issue environmental clearance for the PRLIS.

The issue of environmental clearance was being processed in the Ministry

concerned. The forest clearance for Stage I and Stage II of the project was already accorded on January 25, 2019. The Wild Life Board Clearance was issued on September 3, 2021. Other approvals that are mandatory, such as the CEA clearance, Central Soils and Materials Research Station (CSMRS) clearance, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MOTA) clearance and Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) clearance, were already issued for the project.

He stated that the erst-

while government of AP had earmarked 45 tmc of Krishna water to a Telangana project — the Srisaillam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) — and to meet the drinking water needs of the Krishna basin areas in lieu of Godavari water diverted from Polavaram to Krishna river basin by AP. The State-level Technical Advisory Committee (SLTAC) recommended utilising 45 TMC within the Krishna basin in 2013.

The proposed utilisation of 45 tmc can be considered under the projects above the Nagarjuna Sagar project in the Krishna basin. After bifurcation, AP was left with no project that serves the in-basin areas above the NSP. All in-basin projects above the NSP, in fact, belonged to Telangana and the PRLIS is one of them. As a result, the State earmarked 45 TMC of water to the PRLIS, thus fulfilling the requirement of an assured water source for the project. This is in addition to an equal quantity of water saved from what has been earmarked for the minor irrigation sources in the State.

Telangana Today- 26- September-2023

B'luru bandh today over Cauvery row

Statewide shutdown on Friday to protest release of water to TN

PTI
BENGALURU

Amid ongoing protests across Karnataka against releasing Cauvery river water to neighbouring Tamil Nadu, two bandhs have been called this week — in Bengaluru tomorrow, and statewide on Friday.

The announcement for the Karnataka bandh on September 29 was made on Monday, under the banner 'Kannada Okkuta' — led by Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj, days after the 'Karnataka Jala Samrakshana Samiti', an umbrella outfit of farmers' associations and other organisations led by farmer leader Kuruburu Shanthakumar gave the call for Tuesday's Bengaluru shutdown.

The two bandhs reflect the divide among the farmers and pro-Kannada organisations, and has also now led to a confusion about who is supporting the bandh on which day, and whether services will be available on Tuesday.

While Shanthakumar has said that they will go ahead with the Bengaluru bandh on Tuesday, Vatal Nagaraj, who has called for a State bandh on Friday, made it clear that Kannada Okkuta is not supporting tomorrow's bandh.

Shanthakumar said they have received support from a number of organisations for their bandh call on Tuesday and will go ahead with it.

"We will come in a protest to Bengaluru's Freedom Park and stage a demonstration there with our demands. The State government, the Chief Minister, will have to receive our memorandum. If there is no



Former PM and JD(S) supremo HD Deve Gowda, along with HD Kumaraswamy, addressing a press conference, in Bengaluru.

Deve Gowda for PM's intervention

BENGALURU: Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda on Monday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to direct the Jal Shakti Ministry to appoint an external agency, independent of the states that are party to the dispute and the union government, to conduct studies of all reservoirs in the Cauvery basin.

He also stressed the need to have an appropriate distress formula applicable to all the states con-

cerned, in such distress conditions.

Noting that due to the failure of the Southwest monsoon (from June to September) this year, there is insufficient storage in the identified/designated four reservoirs of Cauvery basin in Karnataka, he said the state is facing such a grave situation that it is finding it extremely difficult even to cater to the drinking water requirements, let alone for irrigation. PTI

proper response to our protest from the government, we will decide on our further course of action," he said.

Meanwhile, with protests intensifying over the release of Cauvery river water to Tamil Nadu and bandh being called on the issue, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said his government will not curtail them, but underlined the importance of maintenance of peace.

The Chief Minister also said the State government will place its argument more forcefully before the Supreme Court on the issue, when it next comes up for hearing, and is committed to protecting the interest of the State.

While some farmers' outfits have called for 'Bengaluru bandh' on Tuesday on the Cauvery issue, several Kannada outfits, under the banner 'Kannada Okkuta' led by Kannada ac-

TN farmers seek ban on Bengaluru protest

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu Cauvery Farmers' Association on Monday urged the State government to take appropriate measures through the Centre to ban Tuesday's protests in Karnataka against the release of Cauvery water to TN.

The association general secretary P R Pandian, accompanied by few a supporters, staged a sudden protest here on Monday condemning the neighbouring State for not releasing the water. Holding the national flag, Pandian said the Karnataka government's stance and the proposed bandh tomorrow against releasing Cauvery water to TN, is 'reprehensible.'

Pandian, who staged a sudden protest at the Labour Statue at the Marina Beach here, was removed by the police and later detained. As he was being carried away from the Labour Statue, Pandian raised slogans condemning the Karnataka government. PTI

tivists Vatal Nagaraj have called for state-wide bandh on September 29.

"We had filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the orders of the Cauvery Water Management Authority, and Regulation Committee. The court rejected our petition, also Tamil Nadu's. They (TN) initially sought 24,000 cusecs, then 7,200 cusecs, we said we can't even give 5,000 cusecs, as there is no water," Siddaramaiah said.

Telangana Today- 26- September-2023

Monsoon starts withdrawing, eight days after normal date

NEW DELHI

Monsoon started withdrawing from India on Monday, eight days behind the normal date of September 17, the India Meteorological Department said.

“The southwest monsoon has withdrawn from parts of southwest Rajasthan on Monday against its normal date of withdrawal from southwest Rajasthan of September 17,” it said in a statement. This year is the 13th consecutive delayed monsoon retreat. The withdrawal of monsoon from northwest

Withdrawal of monsoon from northwest India marks the beginning of its retreat from subcontinent

India marks the beginning of its retreat from the Indian subcontinent. Any delay in the monsoon’s retreat means a longer rainy season, which can significantly impact agricultural production, particularly in northwest India where monsoon rainfall plays a crucial role in the Rabi crop production.

Typically, the southwest monsoon makes its onset over Kerala by June 1 and covers the entire country by July 8. It started retreating from northwest India around September 17, withdrawing entirely by October 15.

According to the IMD, the withdrawal of monsoon from extreme northwestern parts of the country is announced based on three major synoptic features after September 1: no rainfall activity over the region for five days on the trot, the establishment of anticyclone in the lower troposphere and a considerable reduction in moisture content. PTI

The Hindu- 26- September-2023

The Cauvery water conundrum

What did the Supreme Court rule with respect to the water sharing agreement between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu? Why are Karnataka's farmers organisations and groups protesting against the directive and the government? What has been Tamil Nadu's stance?

EXPLAINER

T. Ramakrishnan

The story so far:

On September 21, the Supreme Court asked Karnataka to continue releasing 5,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) of water from the Cauvery river to Tamil Nadu for 15 days, in line with decisions of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) and the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA). This has evoked a strong reaction from certain sections of Karnataka, an upper riparian State.

How has the public reacted?

On September 22, the police arrested activists of the Federation of Karnataka Farmers' Associations in Mysuru as they tried to barge into the Mysuru Zilla Panchayat premises to gherao Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh. The next day, several shops and business establishments remained closed in Mandya. A coalition of farmers and Kannada organisations have called for a bandh in Bengaluru on September 26, where the CWRC is scheduled to meet and review the situation of water availability and release.

How is the Cauvery water being shared?

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT)'s final award of 2007 and the Supreme Court's judgment of February 2018 spell out the system for sharing the river water and the institutional mechanisms for ensuring implementation of the judicial verdicts. Pointing out that 740 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) of water would be available in the Cauvery basin in a normal year, the Court, which broadly adhered to the CWDT's award, made the allocation for constituents of the basin as follows: Karnataka (284.75 tmc ft); Tamil Nadu (404.25 tmc ft); Kerala (30 tmc ft) and Puducherry (7 tmc ft). Ten



At crossroads: Farmers stage a protest by standing in the Cauvery water over the Cauvery water release issue, in Trichy, Tamil Nadu on September 24. *ANI*

tmc ft and four tmc ft have been set apart for environmental protection and inevitable escapages into the sea.

Of Tamil Nadu's overall allocated quantity, Karnataka is to ensure 177.25 tmc ft, as per a monthly schedule, at Biligundulu, located on the inter-State border. Of this quantity, 123.14 tmc ft is to be given during the period from June to September, also marking the season of the southwest monsoon. Invariably, it is during this period that the Cauvery issue gets flared up, as the monsoon sometimes yields lower rainfall than anticipated.

The CWMA and its assisting body, CWRC, are in existence since June 2018 to oversee the implementation of the verdicts of the Tribunal and the Court.

Why are Karnataka's farmers upset? This year's southwest monsoon has

played truant, especially in south interior Karnataka, the region where the Cauvery river originates. Between June 1 and September 23, the region suffered a deficit rainfall of 27%, according to the India Meteorological Department. Kodagu of Karnataka and Wayanad of Kerala, which form part of the catchment of the Cauvery and its tributary, Kabini, registered a deficit rainfall of 43% and 56% respectively. Karnataka, in its application before Court, had stated that "...at the reservoir level, which covers a part of the catchment, the shortfall is 53.42%," given the fact that the State has four reservoirs in the Cauvery basin.

Last week, Karnataka told the Supreme Court that the daily flow of 5,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu was "against [its] interest." The State, especially in urban areas like Bengaluru, was on "the brink of

a drinking water crisis" whereas Tamil Nadu was in need of water for irrigation. It also added that the distress in Karnataka had increased in the past 15 days.

How serious is the situation in T.N.?

Being the lower-riparian State in the Cauvery basin, Tamil Nadu is mainly dependent on releases by Karnataka, particularly during the southwest monsoon, as it falls under the rain shadow region in the season. As per the data of the Central Water Commission available up to September 21, the State received 40.76 tmc ft, whereas it should have got 112.11 tmc ft in a normal year. Even after giving allowance for the failure of the monsoon and the quantum of shortfall as quoted by Karnataka, Tamil Nadu contends that it should have got at least 7.8 tmc ft more (as on September 12). It is in need of water for at least three lakh acres over which a short-term crop (*kuruvai*) has been raised. Already, there are reports of the crop being at risk of withering in many places.

However, the State will require, in the coming weeks, much more water for its long-term crop of 125-135 days (*samba*), which is normally raised over 15 lakh acres, providing livelihood opportunities to lakhs of landless labour. A substantial portion of the farming activity under the *samba* crop takes place during the northeast monsoon (October-December), which is much more unpredictable than the southwest.

In addition to serving irrigation, the Cauvery is the main source of drinking water for several districts in the State.

What is the way forward?

It is time that the CWMA along with the constituents finalised a distress-sharing formula. There have been differences over the choice of parameters that determine such a formula.

Making use of the present crisis, the Authority should take the initiative in convincing all the stakeholders in evolving the proposed formula.

THE GIST

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The Hindu- 26- September-2023

Expertise over politics

Litigation over water can be avoided only with fixed distress sharing norms

In declining to interfere with the order of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), directing Karnataka to release 5,000 cubic feet of water per second (cusecs) to Tamil Nadu until September 27, the Supreme Court has rightly chosen to defer to the wisdom of an expert body that is better placed to apportion the available water in a rainfall deficit year. Karnataka had approached the apex court against the order, contending that it was suffering from a shortfall of over 53% in inflows to its reservoirs this year, following a weak south-west monsoon, and was not in a position to release 5,000 cusecs for 15 more days. To its credit, the upper riparian State has been complying with the CWMA's order amid pressure and protests from some political parties and organisations. Earlier, Tamil Nadu had approached the Court in mid-August to seek directions for water release from Karnataka's reservoirs so that the quantum stipulated for it for the second half of August and whole of September could be realised. The Court had then sought a report from the CWMA, which has spelt out the extent of the distress this year. The 15-day period for which the current CWMA order is applicable ends on September 27, and the Authority's assisting body, the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) is scheduled to meet on September 26 to consider the situation afresh. The dispute has surfaced after a few years, once again highlighting the fact that the parties need a regular formula to share the shortfall and distress in years when the monsoon fails.

In years of abundance, there is little difficulty in Karnataka releasing the water in compliance with the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, as modified by the Supreme Court in 2018. It is well-known that much of this release is the natural downstream flow of water during heavy rainfall from brimming reservoirs. It is only during deficit years that the States involved feel that the Court will pass favourable orders even if the CWMA does not. This kind of yearly adjudication and seasonal litigation should not become the norm. The CWMA should utilise the opportunity to come up with a permanent formula on how to assess deficit in a given year. Even on the manner of assessment of deficit, the two States have divergent views. It is now up to the CWMA and the CWRC in gathering data on rainfall, inflows and storage, to evolve an acceptable formula to apportion the shortfall in an equitable way. It is inevitable that neither State will be satisfied with the quantum of release ordered by the CWMA, but it is at this point that politics should yield to domain expertise.

Deccan Herald- 26- September-2023

Gowda writes to PM seeking his intervention in Cauvery row

Proposes panel of 5 independent experts for site visit

BENGALURU, DHNS

JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention to resolve the Cauvery river water-sharing dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

In a letter to the prime minister dated September 23, released during a news conference in the city on Monday, Gowda requested the Union government to send a five-member team, without anyone from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, to understand the situation of the states and also

demand the Jal Shakti ministry to submit an application before the Supreme Court.

Requesting the prime minister to direct the Jalshakti Ministry to address the Cauvery dispute as a top priority, Gowda said, "I had proposed to constitute a committee of five experts independent of the party states and the Union government, for undertaking an immediate site visit to assess more accurately the prevailing ground realities in both the states. In my opinion, I think this is the only possible interim measure that may be taken by the Union government to avoid further escalation of the



Former prime minister and JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda and former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy address a press conference on Cauvery row, in Bengaluru on Monday. Party leader GT Devegowda is also seen. PTI PHOTO

raging conflict."

Releasing a picture of a dried-up KRS reservoir he urged the Centre to file a review petition in the Supreme Court.

"The prime minister should

understand the ground realities and direct the Jal Shakti Ministry to file a review petition in the Supreme Court informing it of deputing an expert panel to study the situation in the Cauvery basin,"

said the former PM.

The report should be placed before the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and Cauvery Water Regulatory Committee (CWRC) for consideration ahead of any decision on the release of water, Gowda said. "I hope the prime minister initiates action so that further injustice won't take place as far as Karnataka is concerned," Gowda added.

In the letter, Gowda mentioned the availability of water levels at reservoirs of the Cauvery basin in Karnataka as on September 23.

As mentioned in his letter, the water storage is only 51.10 tmcft as against the 112 tmcft required for crops and drinking purposes.

He even pointed out that Karnataka received the lowest rainfall in the last 123 years this year in the months of August and September.

'Joke': Narmada flood victims call out govt relief package

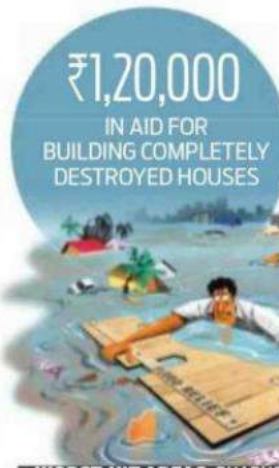
DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

AMID a debate over the recent Narmada floods in Gujarat, a new controversy has cropped up over the government's relief assistance. The state government has allocated ₹2,500 each per family for clothing and as much for household goods, besides ₹2,000 extra.

The flood-affected families have called the government announcement of ₹7,000 per family a joke. Moreover, the government has announced only ₹1,20,000 in aid for the construction of houses that have been completely destroyed by the floods, while the government has announced ₹10,000 for entirely destroyed or partially damaged shacks.

According to a notification released on September 22, the state government has announced a relief package for Bharuch, Narmada, Vadodara, Panchmahal, and Dahod.

According to the notification, the state government has decided to pay ₹2,500 as clothing assistance and ₹2,500 as household assistance, for a total of ₹5,000 per family as per State Disaster



GUJARAT AID INADEQUATE

Last week, a flood-like situation due to the overflowing Narmada led to the evacuation of over 12,000 residents in 126 talukas of Gujarat. Here's what the state govt has offered to the affected:

Each flood-hit family to get
**₹7,000-
₹2,500**
for clothing
and as much
for household
goods



₹10K
FOR
PARTIALLY
DAMAGED
SHACKS

WORST-HIT AREAS: BHARUCH, NARMADA, VADODARA, PANCHMAHAL AND DAHOD

Response Fund (SDRF) norms in these five districts, and another ₹2,000 from the state government budget to pay a total assistance of ₹7,000 per family.

Suresh Patel of Juna Borbhata village in south Gujarat's Bharuch district, where the Narmada water has caused the most damage, asks, "In today's inflationary times, tell me what kind of household goods can be purchased for ₹2,500 for the entire family, what kind of clothing can be purchased for 2,500 if there are 10 people

in a family?"

"How many people will be able to dress? How many pairs of chappals would you need to buy for 10 individuals if each pair costs ₹100, and would you be able to buy clothing for the remaining family members?" he asked.

According to the notification, from SDRF, the government would pay ₹20,000 for residential kutcha/pucca dwellings that have been completely demolished or have sustained serious damage.

Business Standard- 26- September-2023

Staggered monsoon withdrawal may lift rabi sowing prospects

But excess rainfall could now be detrimental to early sown kharif crops

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE

New Delhi, 25 September

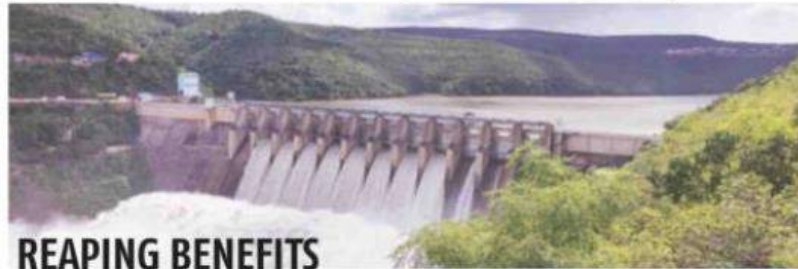
Staggered withdrawal of the southwest monsoon will not only benefit the standing kharif crops, but also help improve the moisture level in the soil. This, in return, should facilitate the early sowing of rabi crops, such as wheat, chana and mustard.

Excess showers in parts of Madhya Pradesh at the fag end of the monsoon season, however, are said to be hurting soybean crops. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday said that the withdrawal of the southwest monsoon has started from western Rajasthan, after a delay of almost eight days.

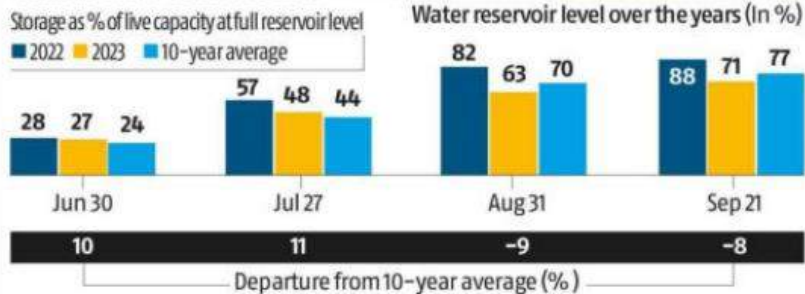
But it further said fresh weather systems are developing over the Andaman Sea and East Central Bay of Bengal. They are likely to move west-northwestwards with the possibility of gradual intensification.

"This weather system may cause rainfall again over Madhya Pradesh and up to east Rajasthan. This would delay the pace of the withdrawal of southwest monsoon," Mahesh Palawat, vice-president of meteorology and climate change at private weather forecasting agency Skymet told Business Standard.

Palawat said that rainfall may continue until the first week of October over central India, in states like Chhattisgarh and Odisha, and that should improve the residual soil



REAPING BENEFITS



Source: Central Water Commission

moisture.

The revival of the monsoon rainfall in September not only gave a fresh lease of life to the standing crops in many places but also slightly pushed up water levels in reservoirs.

Until August, the average water level in 150 reservoirs across India that are monitored by the Central Water Commission was around 9 per cent lower than the 10-year average; this by September 21, was 8 per cent lower than the 10-year average.

In Madhya Pradesh, though, some farmers are worried about excess rainfall over the past few days -- after the long dry spell in August -- saying it has damaged soybean crops in some areas.

Pushan Sharma, director-research, CRISIL Market Intelligence and Analytics, said while the pick-up in monsoon bodes well, rainfall towards the end of September and early October remain a critical aspect to monitor, since it may have a detrimental impact on the kharif yield.

BENGALURU READIES FOR BANDH

No More Water Release, Karnataka to Tell Cauvery Authority Today

Chief minister asks agitators not to be misled by BJP and JDS

Our Political Bureau

Bengaluru: Karnataka will tell the Cauvery water authority that scarcity prevented release of water to Tamil Nadu, chief minister Siddaramaiah has said as Bengaluru prepared for a Tuesday shutdown called by pro-Kannada and farmer organisations.

The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's orders to release 5,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu will end on Tuesday. Karnataka has decided to stay firm on not releasing water following growing resistance from farmers and BJP-JDS.

"After 26th, we will approach the authority again and clearly convey our opinion that no more water will be released," Siddaramaiah said in a statement in Bengaluru on Monday. The dispute needs to be handled delicately without jeopardising the interest of the state and dignity of the judiciary. The government was in constant touch with legal and irrigation experts and will take decisions based on their advice, he said.

The CM took a dig at the Opposition. When it comes "to safeguarding land-water-language, we should demonstrate a broad attitude that we are all Kannadigas, regardless of our political affiliation. This is not the first time that the Cauvery River water



In Mysuru

MACHUSUDHAN SR



dispute has arisen," he said, objecting to BJP-JDS seeking his resignation. As a government bound by the Constitution, his regime had to act responsibly as the Cauvery water dispute was before the Supreme Court and the Cauvery Water Management Authority, Siddaramaiah said.

Whenever the water dispute arose in the past, all parties kept their differences aside and acted unitedly. The history of state governments led by all parties showed they have inevitably obeyed the order of the court, he said.

The CM said he respected people's right to protest. The government would not do anything to suppress the agitation. But he warned the pro-Kannada and farmers organisations not to be misled by the smear campaign of BJP-JDS.

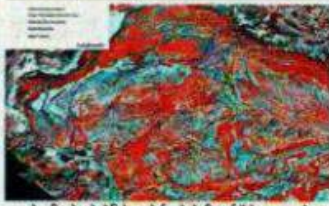
Dainik Bhaskar- 26- September-2023

भास्कर ब्रेकिंग • हेरिटेज बोर्ड हरियाणा में 400 किमी में सरस्वती को ला चुका अस्तित्व में, अब बाकी राज्यों की बारी विलुप्त सरस्वती नदी को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए राजस्थान गुजरात, हिमाचल और उत्तराखंड में इसी वर्ष बनेगा रिसर्च सेंटर

पवन रिश्वाड़ी | नागौर

हरियाणा के सरस्वती नदी हेरिटेज डवलपमेंट बोर्ड ने विलुप्त सरस्वती को आदि बंदी से ओढ़ा हैड तक 400 किमी में पुनर्जीवित कर दिया है, अब यह काम राजस्थान सहित चार अन्य राज्यों में होगा। यह बोर्ड राजस्थान, उत्तराखंड, गुजरात व हिमाचल में सरस्वती नदी रिसर्च चेयर (सेंटर/पीठ) की स्थापना इसी साल करेगा ताकि यह नदी फिर से अस्तित्व में आ सके। सरस्वती हेरिटेज डवलपमेंट बोर्ड इन राज्यों के विश्वविद्यालयों से भी संपर्क कर रहा है जिससे कि अब सरस्वती

अजमेर, जोधपुर, श्रीगंगानगर या बीकानेर में खुलेगी शाखा



इसरी की ओर से हेरिटेज बोर्ड को भेजी गई सैटेलाइट इमेज।

विशेषज्ञ बताते हैं- 6 से 3 हजार ईसा पूर्व सरस्वती नदी हिमाचल के 17 से 18 किमी नीचे तक बहती थी। तब भूकंप जैसी घटनाओं से सरस्वती का रुट ऊपर की तरफ चला गया और गंगा-यमुना नीचे आ गई।

नदी का इतिहास इन 4 राज्यों के पाठ्यक्रम में भी शामिल हो सके। हरियाणा में बोर्ड की स्थापना के बाद सरस्वती को पुनर्जीवित करने का काम काफी तेजी से हुआ है।

सिरसा, राजस्थान के बॉर्डर पर है, इसलिए अगला प्लान इसे राजस्थान में पुनर्जीवित करने का है। इसकी कवायद में नवम्बर में पदाधिकारी राजस्थान आएंगे।

राजस्थान के विश्वविद्यालयों से चल रही हैं बातचीत

भास्कर एक्सपर्ट

धूमन सिंह किरमत, एडवोकेट

रिसर्च चेयर स्थापित करने को राजस्थान सहित अन्य प्रदेशों के विश्वविद्यालयों से चर्चा चल रही है। राजस्थान में इसकी स्थापना अजमेर, जोधपुर, हनुमानगढ़, श्रीगंगानगर, बीकानेर या अनुपगढ़ में से किसी एक यूनिवर्सिटी में हो सकती है क्योंकि यह वही जगह है जहां से पौराणिक काल में



सरस्वती नदी बहती थी। सरस्वती की सहायक नदी- दृष्यदती नागौर, चुरू व जोधपुर से होकर बहती थी। इसके बहाव क्षेत्र से यहां हरियाली होती थी जबकि अजमेर के पास का नागौर का ज्यादातर हिस्सा आज भी लूणी नदी के बहाव का क्षेत्र है जो आगे जाकर जोधपुर में मिलता है। यह भी सरस्वती की सहायक थी। जबकि नागौर के पूंदलु से निकली जोजड़ी, लूणी की सहायक नदी है। सरस्वती की कुछ धाराएं नागौर में बहती थीं। सरस्वती खुद राजस्थान के कई जिलों में बहती थी।