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Israel to help India conserve water, clean up Ganga

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Jerusalem: PM Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu have "visualised" that the two countries would become close partners in development, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, defence and security, foreign secretary S Jaishankar told reporters here on Wednesday.

"It is in this context that we felt it was important to have a separately designated strategic partnership on agriculture and water," Jaishankar said. A joint statement said the cooperation would focus on water conservation, waste water treatment and its reuse for agriculture, desalination, water utility reforms and cleaning of the Ganga. Similar alliance in post-harvest technical know-how and market linkages will be seen in agriculture sector. Jaishankar said this partnership would feed into India's goal of doubling farm income.

"India admires the success of your people in overcoming adversity to advance, innovate and flourish against all odds," Modi said. Defence and security found sufficient emphasis — the statement reflected a new paradigm in stating the countries "agreed that future developments in this sphere should focus on joint development of defence products, including transfer of technology from Israel" encompassing not only "Make in India" but a new concept of 'Make with India'.

The business and economic relationship will get fresh energy on Thursday when both sides sit down for the first CEOs forum, with 16 companies on either side, where water, pharma and defence industries will find pre-eminence. There will also be a presentation on start-up opportunities.

The Modi-Netanyahu meeting focused on defence and security, counter-terror and global and regional security assessments. The Indian side briefed the Israelis about the regulatory changes in India, as well as security challenges. India and Israel will also explore cooperating in third countries, particularly in Africa, Netanyahu said. There is a plan to increase the number of Indian students in Israel — already India is the source of the largest number of post-doctoral students. Jaishankar hinted at the possibility of more civilian flights between India and Israel.

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INTERVIEW | YUVAL STEINITZ

'Israel is far ahead in water recycling'

Its technology and best practices will be useful to India, beginning with Uttar Pradesh

SUHASINI HAIDAR

On Wednesday, India and Israel signed agreements on water conservation and recycling, where Israel's technology is considered the most advanced. Yuval Steinitz, Israel's Minister of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources, tells The Hindu, its technology and best practices will both be useful to India, beginning with Uttar Pradesh.

What do these two MoUs on water signed by India and Israel represent?

■ They represent a very good start. In the field of water, Israel has the most advanced and efficient system in the world.

To give you two figures: we desalinate 90% of the water used in our households from the sea, and then we recycle 95% of our sewage water for agriculture.

Israel has a closed cycle

and no longer depends on nature (rains) for our water supplies.

Whereas India still depends on the monsoon...

■ Well, most countries do. After Israel, Spain recycles its water, but it only comes to 17%, so you can see the difference.

Remember, recycling water is not just useful for agricultural purposes, but it also

helps in stopping pollution.

Water and irrigation are seldom considered important in most bilateral visits. Why have these issues been given such prominence?

■ Because they are extremely important. In fact, I've visited India, it is a beautiful country, but it has a big problem with water pollution.

Of the two agreements we have signed, one is a general one on education on conservation, and one is with Uttar Pradesh where we try to tie together all Israeli technologies. It is useless to clean the Ganga for example, if you don't clean the region around it, and stop all



It is useless to clean the Ganga if you don't clean the region around it.

sources of pollution into it.

But these could be managed by private

agreements with Israeli water companies. Why is there a government to government push on the issue?

■ Well, today we have a lot of private Israeli companies involved in water management, but it started as a government initiative. So we felt if we could combine cooperation between the governments and then take it to private companies.

Every municipality in Israel lays down rules for citizens that price water according to how much is used, and discourages wastage of water.

Private technologies now facilitate that, and we hope to take this model to the people of India.

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Before the sluice gates close

The Sardar Sarovar project cannot be complete without resettlement of the thousands displaced or affected



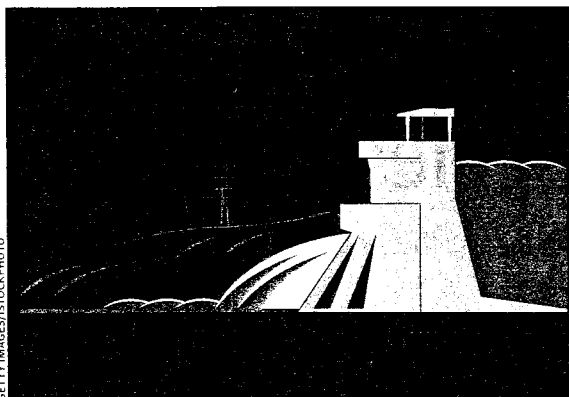
MEDHA PATKAR

The decision to close the 17-m-high (55 feet) gates of the Sardar Sarovar dam was taken on June 16 by the Narmada Control Authority – 56 years after the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation stone in 1961 – and published by the mainstream media as a “historic decision”. No one remembered that Nehru had, in his speech, warned that the people from the first six villages whose lands were taken away, overnight with standing crops, should be done justice to. How tragic it is that those 300 families (now grown into 900) are still not compensated for their lands and properties not declared as “project-affected”, even though their lands are used for the Sardar Sarovar Project offices, staff quarters, roads and storages, parking lots, all for the dam project.

The sanitised version

Media reports didn't refer to the agitation by the project-affected, including Adivasis from resettlement sites and submergence areas within Gujarat, under way at Kevadiya Colony near the dam site. The agitation's leaders were arrested and hundreds stopped by the police as recently as June 6-7, when supporters and activists of the Narmada Bachao Andolan too faced arrest at the Gujarat-Madhya Pradesh border.

There is no mention of protests in most of the villages in Madhya Pradesh (and a township, Dharampur) that would be flooded, partially or fully, when the waters would rise to 138.68 m, 55 ft higher than the 122 m crest level (dam wall height) at which the dam was stopped for the last eight years. The ‘completion’ of the project will likely be used as the main plank in the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

(BJP) campaign for the next Assembly polls in Gujarat. This, when the ground reality is starkly different in the densely populated submergence area. Can all lives and livelihoods be resettled and rehabilitated by July 31, the deadline given by the Supreme Court's order of February 8, 2017, when no orders have been passed by the Grievance Redressal Authority by June 8 as directed? The rehabilitation sites are not ready, with no drinking water, no proper roads, drains and culverts, no grazing grounds and other amenities which are mandatory. Tenders are just floated for crores of rupees worth of works and timelines stretch way beyond the deadline.

Game of numbers

In the Narmada Control Authority's meeting on June 16, the State governments, including those of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra as well as Gujarat, all belonging to the BJP, reported full compliance on rehabilitation, which is an utter falsehood.

The apex court has taken cognisance of the ‘tentative figures’ of families yet to get land, but the court is obviously far removed from ground zero to know the hardships, massive corruption, cheating, exclusion that the farmers, labourers, potters, artisans, shopkeepers and all occupational categories have faced over the

years. Their insistence upon full and fair compliance of law (the Narmada Tribunal Award), the States' rehabilitation policies and Supreme Court judgments of 2000, 2005 and now 2017, have led the state to blame the movement as anti-development and anti-national.

The game of numbers (of project-affected families being reduced by thousands) just before the decision was taken to raise the dam height and submerge more lands and houses was exposed by none else but the Supreme Court itself in its 2005 judgment. Much more has taken place since 2008. The backwater levels were declared as reduced and the houses of 15,946 families declared as out of submergence area, after having those acquired and transferred to the Narmada Valley Development Authority of Madhya Pradesh. The remaining rehabilitation benefits to these families were withheld without following any legal procedure.

The hill Adivasis of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Alirajpur district of Madhya Pradesh had to be allotted land as per law, as they did not accept cash in lieu of land and insisted on land to resettle. However, hundreds remain to be given land, hundreds are yet to be declared as affected, and hundreds – especially poor women – are yet to receive civic amenities at the sites.

All this is discussed or noted in the correspondence but never admitted at meetings for sanctioning the rise in the height of the dam.

Distributive injustice

The rehabilitation sites in Madhya Pradesh present the worst scenario. About 78 sites are not liveable, as investigation reports have concluded. Those who received meagre compensation instead of ‘replacement value’ for houses cannot build houses and resettle. Many of them have received house plots that are not levelled; others haven't got possession even now. At least 18,346 families have been evicted from their villages, as acknowledged in the gazette notification of May 27, 2017 – our estimate is at least twice that number. The Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister has promised to provide houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana to some families, but house plots will be returned to about 5,000 families that had been paid money in lieu of plots by the authorities.

People, even poor, cannot accept temporary resettlement; or agree to one-third of the lawful area of house plots now being offered; or shift to rented houses or tin sheds. Employees from government departments are trying to force people to sign ‘Vachan Patras’ agreeing to shift before July 15, with a vague statement that “I am willing to take whatever benefits government offers as per the rules”. Intimidating warning posters are pasted late at night on walls in all the villages. The strategy is to intimidate and to lure, if possible, at least 2,50,000 people (at the original backwater level, as per the tribunal, based on field surveys) from the villages on one hand and closing the gates to flood and flush them out with all properties and belongings, out of their riverine cultural environs, without full and fair rehabilitation. Without disbursing cash package to all beneficiaries as per the Supreme Court's order, how can the government conclude the chapter on Sardar Sarovar?

The Madhya Pradesh govern-

ment has shown the rehabilitation balance as ‘0’. Maharashtra too has cheated Adivasis and permitted a rise in the dam height. Gujarat never listened to the oustees crying out for justice. The story of Narmada is unfolding in the State: the survival of Adivasi oustees is at stake as they lack access to drinking water at many sites even as the government prioritises water for projects of big industrialists, for sites along the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor that will span 60% of Gujarat, and for cities over villages and small towns.

The real questions

The question is not how many years the struggle continued with non-violent forms of satyagraha, or how many years have passed since the dam was laid. The question is why did the World Bank withdraw from the project? What is the real number of families not yet fully rehabilitated and now to be forcibly evicted? Why is the dam being pushed just before the Gujarat Assembly elections? Why wasn't the water diverted into canals and to Aji dam in Saurashtra when the same amount of water was available in Sardar Sarovar since 2006 and the canals were empty and not fully built? Why are the issues of the downstream impacts to sea ingress and salinisation not resolved to date?

The biggest question is, are the judgments of the apex court fully complied with? The answer is no. Should the common people from the rural and tribal communities be made to run from pillar to post for the same? And even before they get the answers or the results, could the dam gates be closed, their fates sealed and justice denied by the governments that do not care and commit contempt of not only the courts but of the law? Let the sensitive readership and citizenry of this country answer.

Medha Patkar is a social activist and founder of Narmada Bachao Andolan and National Alliance of People's Movements

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Raitha Sangha wants CM to stop water release to TN

MANDYA: Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha members, on Tuesday, decided to submit a memorandum, requesting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is scheduled to visit the district on July 11, to stop the release of water from the KRS dam to Tamil Nadu.

The members, who held a meeting at the Travellers Bungalow here, said, the chief minister is visiting the district to inaugurate the functioning of the MySugar factory, which is being reopened formally on July 11.

"The chief minister will be accorded a warm welcome. A memorandum will be submitted to him, condemning his stand over releasing of water to Tamil Nadu. We will request

him to stop the release of water immediately," they said.

Raitha Sangha district president Shankaregowda said, a memorandum, demanding release of water from the KRS dam to canals, to fill lakes and ponds, and total waiver of farm loans, will also be submitted to him.

After the meeting, the farmers blocked the Mysuru-Bengaluru Road near Sir M Visvesvaraya statue for a while to register their protest.

Meanwhile, Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene district president Shambunahalli Suresh said they will display black flags during the chief minister's visit and lay a siege to his entourage, if water release is not stopped to Tamil Nadu.

DH News Service



Raitha Sangha members block the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway and stage a protest in Mandya on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

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Deals and discussions

On Day Two of Narendra Modi's Israel visit, the two countries announced a strategic partnership and signed seven agreements in the fields of water, agriculture and space. The agreements include a \$40-million joint fund for research and development in innovation.

FACTS SIGNED

- An agreement in the field of water deals with increasing awareness of the need for conservation; the Israeli Water Ministry and the U.P. Jal Nigam Board signed an MoU

- Three MoUs on space cooperation included one for electric propulsion for small satellites, and for the development of an optical link, as well as cooperation on atomic clocks

- The fund of Research and Development, called the "I4F", or the India Israel Industrial Innovation Fund, will see both governments contribute \$20 million to help research scholars manufacture their inventions easily



India and Israel live in complex geographies. We are aware of strategic threats to regional peace and stability. PM Netanyahu and I agreed to do much more together to protect our strategic interests and also cooperate to combat growing radicalisation and terrorism, including in cyberspace

— NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER

दिनांक ५ जुलाई को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindu Times (Delhi)

नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

The Tribune (Chandigarh)

The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)

The Times of India (Mumbai)

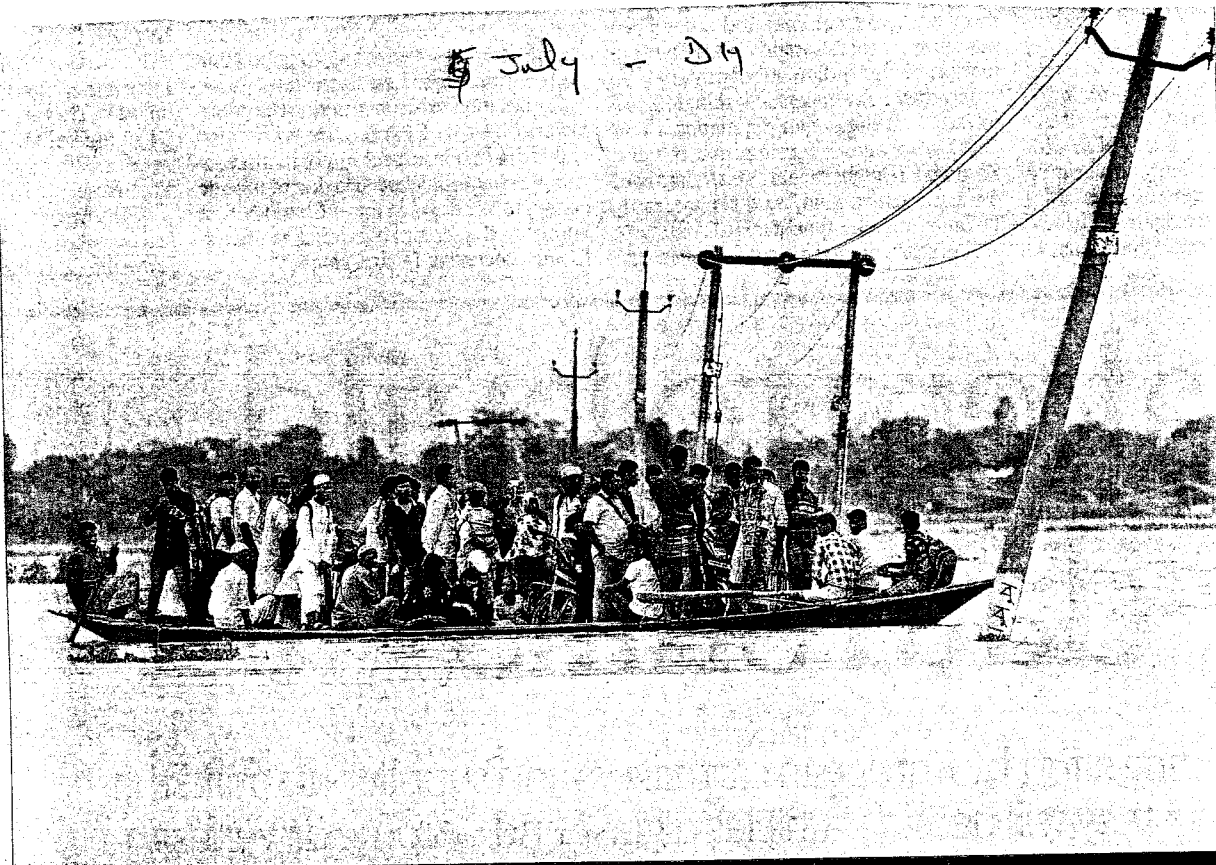
The Telegraph (Kolkata)

हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengaluru)

The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)

Central Chronicle (Bhopal)



Villagers use a boat to cross a flooded road at Asigarh village in the Morigaon district of Assam on Tuesday. REUTERS

Assam flood situation deteriorates

NEW DELHI, AGENCIES: With the monsoon covering the country, flood situation in Assam deteriorated on Tuesday as one person was killed in the deluge.

A report from the Assam State Disaster Management Authority said more than 3.8 lakh people had been affected in the latest flooding in Lakhimpur, Jorhat, Golaghat, Cachar, Dhemaji, Biswanath, Karimganj, Sonitpur, Hojai, Majuli, Barpeta, Nagaon and Nalbari districts.

The report stated that 17 people were killed in the state this year in rain-related incidents, including seven in Guwahati. Nearly 834 villages

Rijiju's copter makes 'preventive' landing

Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju had a narrow escape on Tuesday when his helicopter made a "preventive landing" on a small field in Arunachal Pradesh due to bad weather, reports *DHNS* from New Delhi.

Rijiju, along with seven others and the crew, were flying on a Mi-17 chopper from Guwahati to Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh to attend the Dree Harvest Festival when the chopper faced heavy rain and fog in the afternoon. A Border Security Force spokesperson told *DH* that the chopper made a "preventive landing" as weather conditions did not allow the pilots to fly all the way to Ziro.

are submerged and about 19,000 hectares of crops damaged. It said the Brahmaputra is flowing above the danger mark at Nimatighat in Jorhat and at Tezpur in Sonitpur.

Other rivers like Dikhow at Sivasagar town in Sivasagar district, Dhansiri at Numaligarh in Golaghat, Jia Bharali at N T Road Crossing in Sonitpur, Barak at Badarpurghat in

Karimganj and Kushiara at Karimganj town are also flowing above the danger mark.

Moderate to heavy rain also hit several mid and lower hill parts of Himachal Pradesh, with the MeT predicting thundershowers in the mid and lower hills and snow and rain in the high hills up to July 10.

Rain also lashed most parts of Rajasthan, with Dholpur recording 7 cm downpour, followed by Pirawa with 5 cm and Rupbas, Aklera, Atru, Sapotra and Manohar Thana with 4 cm. Delhi, however, was humid on Tuesday with the maximum temperature at 36 degree Celsius and minimum at 23 degree Celsius.

हिन्दुस्तान के निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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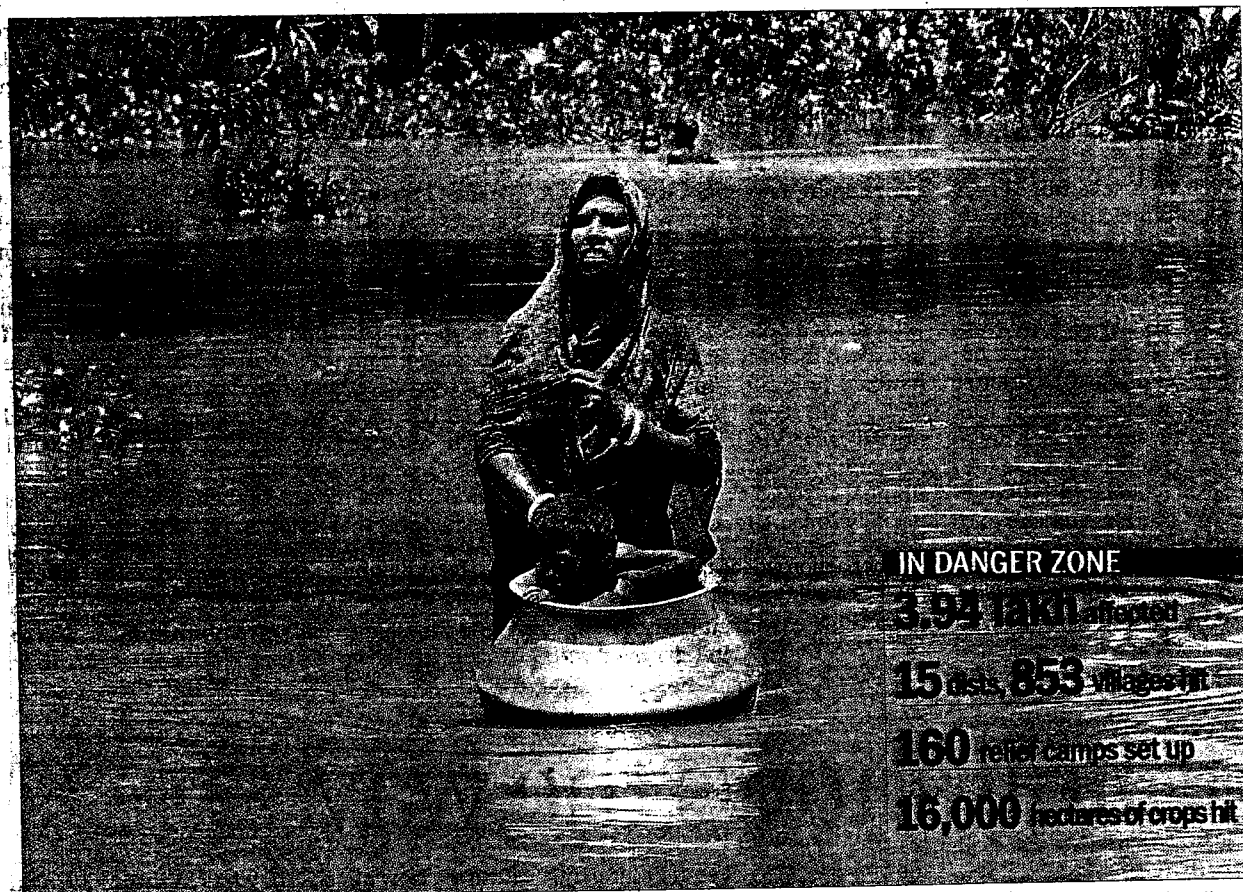
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The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)

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Assam afloat



IN DANGER ZONE

3.94 lakh affected

15 lakh, 853 villages in

160 relief camps set up

16,000 hectares of crops hit

A woman keeps her child afloat in a vessel as they move to a safer place from a flood-hit village in Morigoan, Assam, on Wednesday.

The Kaziranga National Park has also been badly hit by flooding where nearly 70 forest camps have been submerged. PH

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आदेश के बाद भी

पानी नहीं दे रहा

कर्नाटक 26-7-17

चेन्नई @ पत्रिका. कावेरी
जल विवाद को लेकर
तमिलनाडु सरकार ने एक बार
फिर सुप्रीम कोर्ट का दरवाजा
खटखटया है। तमिलनाडु ने
सुप्रीम कोर्ट में कहा है कि
उसके आदेश के बाद भी
कर्नाटक उसे पानी नहीं दे रहा
है। कोर्ट ने बुधवार को
तमिलनाडु के आरोप के बाद
इस संबंध में याचिका दायर
करने की अनुमति दे दी।

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16 देश-विदेश

6 जुलाई, 2017 गुरुवार

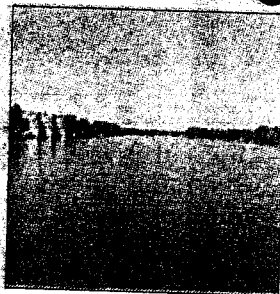
‘पानी’ के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट पहुंचा तमिलनाडु

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): उच्चतम न्यायालय ने तमिलनाडु को यह आरोप लगाते हुए एक नई अर्जी दायर करने की अनुमति दे दी कि कर्नाटक उसे कावेरी नदी के उसके हिस्से का 22.5 टीएमसी पानी नहीं दे रहा है।

न्यायमूर्ति दीपक मिश्रा की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने तमिलनाडु के वकील से इस संदर्भ में उचित आवेदन दायर करने को कहा और आश्वासन दिया कि वह इस संबंध में सुनवाई करेगी।

तमिलनाडु का आरोप है कि एक दायित्व के तहत उसे कर्नाटक द्वारा पिछले 25 दिनों में 22.5 टीएमसी पानी दिया जाना चाहिए था, लेकिन अब तक केवल 16.58 टीएमसी पानी ही छोड़ा गया है जिससे आपूर्ति में जबर्दस्त कमी आई है।

शीर्ष अदालत ने पिछले साल 18 अक्टूबर को कर्नाटक को निर्देश दिया था कि वह तमिलनाडु को अगले आदेश तक रोजाना 2,000 क्यूसेक पानी दे। न्यायालय ने दोनों राज्यों की सरकारों को शांति एवं सौहार्द



सुनिश्चित करने का निर्देश दिया था।

इससे पहले, 30 सितंबर 2016 को उच्चतम न्यायालय ने कावेरी का पानी तमिलनाडु को देने संबंधी अपने आदेशों की बार-बार 'अवज्ञा' को लेकर कर्नाटक की खिंचाई की थी और कहा था कि किसी को पता नहीं होगा कि उस पर कब 'कानून की गाज' गिरेगी।

कर्नाटक ने मुद्दे पर शीर्ष अदालत में इसके तीन आदेशों और केंद्र को कावेरी जल विवाद प्रबंधन बोर्ड गठित करने के निर्देश के खिलाफ एक अक्टूबर को न्यायालय में पुनर्विचार याचिका दायर की थी।