

दिनांक 5, 19.01.2025 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan 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 (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

An uphill task ahead in Tiruvallur

The Hindu - 5 Sept

R. SRIKANTH

CHENNAI: With more than 1,100 water bodies, the Tiruvallur district administration has a tough task ahead of the monsoon to make sure its urban residential localities, most of which dot the city's western suburbs, will not experience any more flooding.

In last year's rain, a large number of residential areas adjoining the Chembarambakkam lake including Avadi, Thiruninravur, Pattabhram, Thirumazhisai, Chembarambakkam, Thiruverkadu and Maduravoyal were submerged for days.

Arterial roads including the CTH Road, Avadi-Poonamallee Road, Thiruvallur-Tiruttani Road and Korattur-Thinnai - Periyapalam Road, were also cut off.

T. Sadagopan, a resident of Pattabhram, rued the poor monsoon preparatory works of the district administration.

Several culverts on arterial roads are choked with debris. Stretches like the Avadi-Poonamallee Road and Thiruvallur-Tiruttani Road may be flooded this year too

— T. SADAGOPAN, a resident of Pattabhram

Water Resources Department (WRD) has undertaken bund strengthening work on the Kosasthaliyar. The river's surplus courses have also been de-silted

— E. SUNDARAVALLI, Tiruvallur District Collector

Several culverts on arterial roads are choked with debris. For instance, Avadi-Poonamallee Road and Thiruvallur - Tiruttani Road, which were flooded last year, may face the same situation this year as culverts on these roads have not been cleaned, he said.

In Thiruninravur, where water stagnated for more than a month, residents fear that

heavy rain this year could lead to a repetition of the situation.

S. Murugaian, a resident of Krishnapuram in Thiruninravur, charged that the encroachments on Nemilichery lake and Thiruninravur lake had still not been removed. No steps have been taken by the district administration to provide stormwater drain facilities, he said.

Tiruvallur district officials, however, listed out several flood protection works undertaken on the basins of the Kosasthaliyar and Araniar, which were the cause for flooding.

Collector E. Sundaravalli said the Water Resources Department (WRD) has undertaken bund strengthening work on the Kosasthaliyar for a 15 km-stretch. The department has also undertaken de-silting works in the river's surplus courses which overflow into the tanks of Red Hills, Sholavaram, Meenasinglimeedu, Sadayankuppam, Kadapakkam, Pudur, Arumanthai and Siruvakkam. These works together cost Rs. 11 crore, she said.

Administrative sanction for Rs. 3 crore has been given for using manpower under MNREGS, to clean the channels coming under the PWD. It has also proposed to carry out 252 works on the Arniar river basin, she added.

पुस्तिका के निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसूचक/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

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The New Indian (Chennai)

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The Times of India (Mumbai)

The Telegraph (Kolkata)

हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald ()

The Deccan Chronicle ()

Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

Chaos in city as heavy shower wreaks havoc

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 3: A heavy downpour this afternoon created chaos in the city with the several localities reeling under water-logging, which in turn, led to massive traffic jams on all the arterial roads.

Heavy rains that lasted nearly an hour, yet again exposed the lack of a mechanism to deal with artificial flood in the city. Besides low-lying areas like Anil Nagar and Nabin Nagar, which face water-logging even after a brief spell of rain, many new areas in the city remained submerged under water today.

The RG Baruah Road was the worst hit among the major roads of Guwahati as flood-



Vehicles and commuters on the water-logged MRD Road on Saturday. — AT photo

water brought traffic to a standstill on the road. A few commuters, who tried to brave the floodwater to cross the Zootiniali stretch, ended up dam-

aging their vehicles.

The GS Road also was no exception. Several patches of the arterial road witnessed massive water-logging with floodwater

entering all the lanes and byelanes and even the campuses of many shops and buildings. ABC point and Ulubari areas also witnessed inundation. Due to traffic diversion on the RG Baruah Road and MRD Road, the Ulubari area faced immense traffic commotion for several hours.

Water-logging on a stretch of the B Barooah Road worsened the situation, affecting the smooth flow of traffic. As a result, the Guwahati Club Rotary, Ambari and the entire MRD Road and GNB Road faced traffic jam.

Water-logging in Chandmari

area gave a harrowing time to the commuters. Even after the floodwater receded, it took nearly two hours for the traffic to normalise. Rajgarh, Pub Sarania, New Sarania, Gandhibasti were also inundated by floodwater. Bye-lane 9 and bye-lane 10 of Rajgarh were among the new areas affected due to water-logging.

Floodwater entered the campus of Pragjyotish College at Santipur. Parts of Zoo-Narengi Road, particularly Geetanagar area, Solapara, Panjabari and Lokhra areas were also affected by flash flood.

Accountant Wanted (for Guwahati)

Hindu Times (Delhi)

हिन्दु टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

The Tribune (Chandigarh)

The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)

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The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)

Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

4,800 irrigation tanks to be rehabilitated

Helping farmers find a market and saving water will be the priority in the second phase of IAMWARM

C. LAKSHMI

CHENNAI: Marketing of agricultural produce and water conservation will get priority under the second phase of AMWARM (Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Bodies Restoration and Management) project.

The Rs. 3,000-crore project, which is to be funded by the World Bank, is set to be started in March next year.

It is a multi-sector project to rehabilitate water resources, including tanks and canals, and increase agricultural productivity to improve the livelihood of farmers. A detailed project report is being prepared to rehabilitate nearly 4,800 irrigation tanks, 471 anicuts in 66 sub-basins across 29 districts of the State. Some sub-basins to be covered include Cauvery delta, Lower Bhavani, Lower Aigai, Uppanar, Nagariyar, Anjalar, Lower Tamirabani, and Upper Palar. Nearly 13 lakh hectares of irrigation land is expected to bene-

fit from the scheme. Of the total 127 sub basins, 61 were covered during IAMWARM-I that was completed last year. In the second phase, there will be more focus on ICT (information and communication technology) based techniques - e-Velanmai and e-Mandi.

WHEN EVERY DROP COUNTS

● Tamil Nadu has 127 sub-basins. Of this, 4,800 tanks falling under 66 sub-basins in 29 districts will be improved under IAMWARM (Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Bodies Restoration and Management)

● The project involves coordination among seven government departments and technical support of four universities

● It aims at rehabilitating tanks for sustainable water resources management

and increase agricultural productivity through new techniques

● Nearly 543 lakh hectares of irrigation land is expected to be covered under the project

● The second phase of the project will focus on training farmers in agricultural marketing

● E-Mandi, a digital platform to sell the produce to the highest bidder is another facility to be launched as part of the scheme

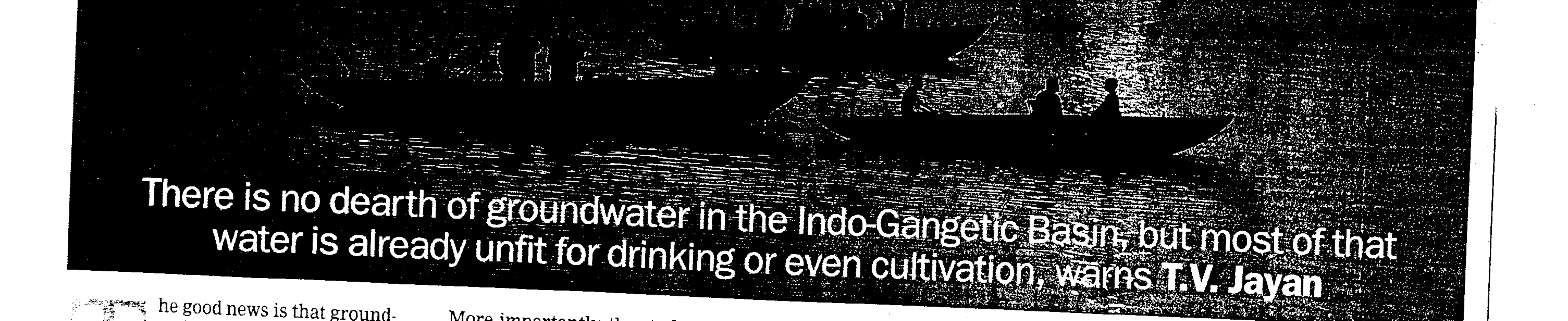


Besides seven other government departments, two more educational institutions — TANUVAS and Tamil Nadu Fisheries University have been roped in to provide technical support in implementing innovative concepts such as bio-fodder.

Sources said there were

plans to upscale pilot projects implemented in IAMWARM-I based on its success. Through e-Velanmai, farmers will be able to seek solutions to agricultural problems through internet or mobile phones and will be linked to scientists of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

ty. Besides encouraging farmers to take up organic farming and pest management practices, the scheme will focus on training farmers in climate resilient agricultural technologies, particularly in these days of extreme weather events, officials said. Another major proposal is to introduce e-Mandi in all districts, an initiative to digitise the weekly market wherein farmers can trade their produce online and the highest bidder takes the stock. This would help farmers get better prices and eliminate third party trade. "We plan to introduce labour saving machineries and technologies to help farmers tide over labour crisis," said an official. Many concepts from the first phase would be adopted in the second phase too. This includes forming farmers group, additional income generation through fisheries, and animal husbandry, farm ponds and technologies like micro irrigation and plastic mulching.



There is no dearth of groundwater in the Indo-Gangetic Basin, but most of that water is already unfit for drinking or even cultivation, warns T.V. Jayan

The good news is that groundwater in the Indo-Gangetic Basin is not being depleted at an alarming rate as previously thought. The bad news is that the quality of the groundwater is dropping so rapidly that soon a large part of it will be unusable. About 60 per cent of the accessible water in the basin — the largest continuous groundwater system in the world — has already been rendered unfit for drinking and cultivation because of salinity and arsenic pollution.

This finding by a team of international researchers, including some from India, is significant because the Indo-Gangetic Basin (IGB) — which is spread over 250 million hectares across India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and southern Nepal — meets livelihoods and agricultural activities of over 750 million people.

Another surprising find of the study, which was published online in the journal *Nature Geoscience* last week, was the total volume of groundwater in the basin. The researchers estimated that the basin, formed by the drainage of three mighty rivers in the Indian subcontinent — the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra — has a whopping 30,000 cubic kilometre of groundwater, which is nearly 20 times the combined annual flow in these rivers.

The study, led by British Geological Survey researcher Alan MacDonald, also estimates that approximately 205 cubic kilometres of water is extracted from the basin every year, making it account for nearly a quarter of groundwater abstracted globally. The basin is also witnessing a marginal 1 to 2 per cent increase in withdrawals annually.

More importantly, the study puts to rest an earlier concern that groundwater levels in the basin were dwindling alarmingly. A study in 2009, based on data available via a US satellite called Grace, flagged the high levels of groundwater depletion as a serious issue.

According to the study, the more important issue on hand is deterioration of water quality, which if not taken care of, would hit water and food security of people living in the subcontinent. It identifies increasing salinity and arsenic contamination as the more pressing problems. While 23 per cent of the basin is hit by salinity, arsenic pollution is a problem in 37 per cent of the the basin, particularly in the eastern parts of India as well as in Bangladesh.

The scientists say salinity is affecting much of the drier parts of Pakistan and northwestern India. The indiscriminate pumping out of groundwater for irrigation is making it worse. In southern Pakistan most of the groundwater is unusable, the researchers warn.

Salinity levels increase when salts are left behind by evaporating water. Such salts get dissolved and increase the salinity levels of shallow groundwater systems.

Gopal Krishan, a researcher with the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) in Roorkee and a co-author of the study, says salinity is a problem in parts of Punjab and Haryana too. In Punjab alone, there are 12 lakh bore wells that extract groundwater, about 90 per cent of which is used for irrigation. About 20 years ago, the number of such wells was around 1.92 lakh.

In an unconnected study, Krishan and his students have shown that groundwa-

While arsenic pollution has been studied and the regions affected mapped out by previous studies, salinity issues are much less researched and understood. But salinity can have a large impact on agricultural productivity

ter in most areas of Mewat district in Haryana has dissolved salt levels that are 10 to 15 times more than what is permissible for potable water.

M.S. Rao, another NIH scientist and a co-author of the *Nature Geoscience* paper, says this is the first ever study that looked at the entire Indo-Gangetic basin.

This was possible because the study is spearheaded by a British scientist and funded by the UK Department of International Development. As a result, countries which refuse to even share riverwater data have come together on a platform to undertake this study.

The study divided the whole basin into 10km by 10km blocks to work out the volume of groundwater in the aquifer, where water levels are rising or falling, and also to map water quality. It was the first one to point out that the falling quality of water rather than dwindling groundwater levels is a more serious problem, says Rao.

Helping to study the arsenic problem was Abhijit Mukherjee, associate profes-

sor of geology and geophysics at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. He thinks that arsenic contamination is a much more widespread problem than it is perceived today.

"What is surprising is that you can have groundwater levels rising close to areas where they are falling, and that across about 70 per cent of the aquifer, groundwater levels are either stable or rising," MacDonald told *KnowHow*.

The IGB is a great source of freshwater. But it needs to be looked after, says MacDonald. He says that while arsenic pollution has been studied and the regions affected mapped out by previous studies, salinity issues in the basin are much less researched and understood. But salinity can have a large impact on agricultural productivity, he explains.

The basin has a vast network of canals that, put end to end, is 1,00,000 kilometres long. "This has been around for 150 years and has fundamentally changed the hydrology of the area. A large proportion of the canal water recharges the groundwater and has stopped water levels from falling. However, where the land is waterlogged, or groundwater levels are too close to ground level, there is a risk of increased salinisation. Just understanding how the canals interact with the groundwater will help ensure the canals do not become a liability," says MacDonald. He hopes that the study can put behind the recent depletion scare and help authorities to focus on salinity and arsenic contamination, which are the more pressing issues that the basin faces currently.

Now that the problem has been flagged, it is time to find a solution.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on September 20-6-99 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

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A a j (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section CWC

Varying perspectives

87-6.
P-5

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, 5 September

Bihar BJP appeared to be divided over the condition of flood relief camps set up by the Nitish Kumar government with party MP Shatrughan Sinha hailing them and senior leader Sushil Kumar Modi alleging that "anarchy" prevailed in them.

Bollywood actor and Patna Sahib MP Sinha, after a visit to the camps in Bhakhtiyarpur area of Patna district yesterday, had lauded their func-

tioning and praised his "friend" Nitish.

He had told reporters that relief operations were being carried out well by the administration and lauded the chief minister saying he had done an "excellent work" for the marooned people.

But, Modi differed sharply.

"He (Sinha) might have seen good conditions at the camps he visited but I have been going to the camps in different areas for the past 9-10 days and I have found that anarchy prevailed in



them," he told reporters.

The state government had promised to provide five kg of rice, two kg potato and one kg pulse to the flood victims but none of that was visible

in the majority of the camps. Modi alleged.

Modi, who is the Leader of Opposition in the state Legislative Council, alleged, adding that there was gross non-

availability of fodder for the animals in the inundated areas.

On the other hand, Sinha told PTI that he narrated what he saw and experienced at the relief camps.

"I do not believe in mixing politics at times of human tragedies and natural calamities. Everybody must follow the path of consensus in this hour of grief instead of confrontation," Sinha, popularly known as 'Bihari Babu', said without naming Modi.

Sinha has been

singing a different tune than that of the BJP ever since the Bihar Assembly polls last year in which he was ignored by the party.

His praise of the state government and the Chief Minister provided ammunition to the ruling JD(U) in the state to fire salvo at the saffron party and its state leaders.

JD(U) chief spokesman Sanjay Singh lauded Sinha for "speaking the truth unlike Sushil Modi who always sees politics even in a human tragedy."

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21.06.2016 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

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तमिलनाडु को 10

दिन पानी मिलेगा

नई दिल्ली। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को कर्नाटक को झटका देते तमिलनाडु को अगले 10 दिन तक कावेरी नदी से 15 हजार क्यूसेक पानी तमिलनाडु को देने का आदेश दिया। अदालत ने यह फैसला तमिलनाडु में किसानों की हालत को संज्ञान में लेते हुए दिया।

न्यायमूर्ति दीपक मिश्रा और न्यायमूर्ति यू यू ललित की पीठ ने सुनवाई के दौरान तमिलनाडु में सांबा चावल की फसल पर प्रतिकूल असर पड़ने का संज्ञान लिया। पीठ ने कर्नाटक सरकार को निर्देश दिया कि तमिलनाडु को पानी की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की जाए।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 22.10.1964 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

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दिनांक - 6-9-16
कर्नाटक को तमिलनाडु
के लिए 15 हजार क्यूसेक
पानी छोड़ने का निर्देश

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): उच्चतम न्यायालय ने आज कर्नाटक सरकार को निर्देश दिया कि तमिलनाडु में किसानों की हालत सुधारने के लिए अगले 10 दिन तक उसे प्रति दिन 15,000 क्यूसेक कावेरी जल छोड़ा जाए। न्यायमूर्ति दीपक मिश्रा और न्यायमूर्ति यू यू ललित की पीठ ने तमिलनाडु में सांबा चावल की फसल पर प्रतिकूल असर पड़ने का संज्ञान लेते हुए कर्नाटक सरकार को निर्देश दिया कि तमिलनाडु को पानी की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की जाए।

शीर्ष अदालत ने तमिलनाडु को कावेरी जल विवाद न्यायाधिकरण (सीडब्ल्यूडीटी) के अंतिम आदेश के अनुसार कावेरी जल की आपूर्ति बरकरार रखने के लिए तीन दिन में सुपरवाइजरी कमेटी से संपर्क करने का निर्देश दिया।

दिनांक 5 सितम्बर को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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The Hindu (Chennai)

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The Times of India (Mumbai)

The Telegraph (Kolkata)

हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)

The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)

Central Chronical (Bhopal)

The Hindu 5 Sept.

Flood of worries over township

In our ongoing series, we see how a project may imperil north Chennai

R. SRIKANTH

CHENNAI: The once lush greenery that spanned as far as the eye could see from the Chennai-Bangalore Highway has almost vanished and has been replaced with a *kutchra* road, which leads to the construction site of the Thirumazhisai Satellite Township in Tiruvallur district.

The residents of the surrounding villages fought the idea of the township tooth and nail, but have come to realise that the construction is a *fait accompli*. They, however, remain anxious about the overall ecological impact it could have by blocking the water course to the Chembarambakkam Lake.

The villagers of Parvatharajapuram, Narasingapuram and Kuthambakkam, even while rueing the loss of 'fertile' agricultural land to a concrete jungle, are terribly concerned about the disaster the township would face and also cause to the north of the city.

At present, with the approach road branching off from the Chennai Bangalore



LOOMING DANGER: Residents fear the construction will block the water course to the Chembarambakkam Lake. — PHOTO: R. RAGU

Highway having been laid, construction activity is in full swing.

'No lessons learnt'

R. Elango, former president, Kuthambakkam village panchayat, said it is disturbing to note the State administration has not learnt any lessons from the previous year's floods.

Standing on the approach road, Mr. Elango said nearly 10 feet of rainwater had submerged the entire 'supposed'

township site in December, with access to the Chennai-Bangalore Highway cut off for a few days. He also said one could not imagine the fate of the downstream areas of Thirumazhisai, Maduravoyal, Thiruverkadu, and Anna Nagar, in case of any major bout of rain.

Though the Tamil Nadu Housing Board (TNHB) claims to have taken into account last year's flooding and has started constructing a retaining wall along the present

approach road, he wondered about the possibility of 'channeling' the huge flow of rainwater through a canal into the Chembarambakkam Lake.

The scars of last year's rain could be seen in several houses located behind the Sidco Industrial Estate in Thirumazhisai.

The approach road itself has been formed along the bund of the supposed canal that drained the surplus rainwater from various parts of Tiruvallur district into the Chembarambakkam Lake.

R. Mohan, a resident of South Mada Street, Chembarambakkam, said rainwater had flooded their street and stagnated for more than a week.

He said the compound wall of the house, which is located near the TNHB satellite township site, was fully under water.

The State government proposes to construct the satellite township at Thirumazhisai spread over an extent of 310.42 acres of land acquired by the TNHB under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

दिनांक १५, सितम्बर को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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DH - १५५१ 'N-K flooding caused by loss of forest cover in Krishna basin'

BENGALURU: The loss of forest cover in the Krishna basin is the reason for perennial flooding in Karnataka during the monsoon, a recent study by the World Resource Institute (WRI) shows.

Forest cover in the Krishna basin has reduced drastically over the last decade. The study, 'Watersheds lost up to 22% of the forests in 14 years. Here's how it affects your water supply', blames the loss of forest cover for snap floods in the Krishna basin.

Global Forest Watch (GFW) Water, a global mapping tool and database, points that the watersheds were lost from 2004-14 with a global average of 6%.

Sumatra in Indonesia was the hardest hit globally, while the Krishna basin in India is left with just 3% of its forest cover.

The study was conducted by Todd Gartner, Senior Associate and Manager, and Yiyuan Qin, Researcher Analyst. Both the researchers are from the Natural Infrastructure for Water project.

'Historic loss'

The researchers termed the loss of forest cover in the Krishna basin a historic loss. They explained that the forest



The loss of forest cover in the Krishna basin took place prior to 2000, which also led to change in water flow and higher sedimentation level. DH FILE PHOTO

loss took place prior to 2000, which also led to change in water flow, higher sedimentation level and the impact was uncertain compared to the recent forest loss.

According to the Global Water Forest, the watershed on Krishna was covered with forests, but now less than 3% of the trees remain as a result of urbanisation and crop land expansion.

Communities in the area are suffering from frequent droughts, floods and high lev-

els of water pollution from agricultural run-off.

Sedimentation is a recurring challenge to reservoirs and dams. Thus, there is a need for massive afforestation in deforested areas which will enhance the natural forest generation, and integrating trees with crops and ranchlands could also help.

The team is planning for a detailed study on the extent and area dynamics for the future.

DH News Service

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The Hindu (Chennai)

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The Times of India (Mumbai)

The Telegraph (Kolkata)

हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

✓ The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)

The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)

Central Chronical (Bhopal)

DH 5 Sept- Cauvery issue: Security beefed up at KRS dam

SRIRANGAPATNA (MANDYA DIST): With the possibilities of Supreme Court giving a verdict on the ongoing Cauvery river water sharing issue on Monday, security has been beefed up at the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) dam and the surrounding areas as a preventive measure. IGP (Southern Range) B K Singh inspected the premises on Sunday.

He supervised the security arrangements at the entrance to the Brindavan Gardens, North Gate, Cauvery statue and other places.

Speaking to mediapersons, Singh said that security arrangements have been strengthened in view of the Supreme Court hearing on Monday.

In case the verdict goes against the state, it might trigger protests and hence the measures, he said.

Additional Superintendent



IGP (southern range) B K Singh, Mandya SP Sudhir Kumar Reddy and others review security at the KRS dam on Sunday, on the eve of the Supreme Court hearing on Tamil Nadu's plea on the Cauvery river issue. DH PHOTO

of Police of Mysuru district Kala Krishnaswamy was also present.

Earlier, Mandya Superintendent of Police Sudhir Kumar Reddy inspected the premises.

He also held discussions with the local officials on the steps required to be taken if the Court orders release of water from KRS dam.

DH News Service

दिन ५/६/७१ को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
नवश्रावणी 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 (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)



School girls wading through a waterlogged road during heavy rain in Kolkata on Saturday. – UNI

Of worth, waste and floods

NITYANAND JAYARAMAN

Urban floods are seen solely as an engineering problem, and better technology and planning, as the only solution. The role of non-engineering factors such as growth in increasing the vulnerability of urban settings is seldom considered. Can a city grow eternally without compromising its resilience to cyclones, rain, heat waves and water scarcity? Don't notions of value and worthlessness have more to do with our urban predicament than calculations involving rain run-off coefficients and storm-water drain designs?

As a Tamil land-use classification, the word *poromboke* has survived since the medieval times. The word referred to shared-use areas like waterbodies, the seaside and grazing lands. These areas were outside (*purom*) the register (*pokku*), and were the source of sustenance and surplus for many communities.

The first connotations of worthlessness were probably appended to the *poromboke* in the early days of property-making by the East India Company. Subsequently, in the colonial government's eyes, *poromboke* areas were of lower worth as they yielded no revenue and were outside the property market.

Today, *poromboke* means "wasteland" although in revenue parlance, the latter is an altogether different category. In colloquial Tamil too, *poromboke* has become a pe-

jorative referring to places or people that are worthless.

The neoliberal Indian state has extended this notion of worthlessness to encompass entire peoples. The exercise of disaster-proofing a city never engages with the question of how or why the urban poor gravitate towards *poromboke* areas.

The term 'illegal encroachment' conjures up images of disorderly hovels constructed by the marginalised on the margins of rivers and canals. It never brings up images of glass and steel IT buildings, a world-class airport, or a court building. Implic-

The city's hydraulic infrastructure is being dismantled in the name of development

it in all the talk about illegal encroachments is a suggestion that a licensed encroachment will not cause damage or be damaged by floodwaters. Where human law is pre-occupied with licences, nature's law is concerned solely with location.

Slogans like "world-class city" or "Make in India" come with specific ascriptions of value and worthlessness to places and people. *Poromboke* areas are seen as valueless, begging to be injected with new worth by converting them to "productive" uses — elevated rail over Buckingham Canal's *kalvai poromboke*, an IT SEZ in Pallikaranai's *kaz-*

huveli (floodplain) *poromboke* and so on.

The city's hydraulic infrastructure has been and is being systematically dismantled in the name of development.

Under Chennai's 2026 Masterplan, the area under residential land use is set to double, and industrial land use to increase from 6,563 hectares to 10,690 hectares. Simultaneously, the area under agriculture will reduce by 42 per cent, and areas under forests, hills and waterbodies will shrink to half the existing 56,000 hectares.

Expanding the built-up area will increase rainwater run-off and necessitate augmented drainage capacity. Ironically, the expansion itself will happen on existing natural drains.

More than 80 per cent of the 1,000 hectares allocated to "Special and Hazardous Industries" in north Chennai's Ennore region is wetlands. Kamarajar Port alone hopes to occupy about 1,000 acres of the Ennore Creek. This will intensify floods in the north Chennai region.

The consequences of such an action cannot be managed by engineering interventions.

Cultural interventions that re-infuse the *poromboke* with the value that it was once associated with hold the key to disaster-proofing cities.

This requires poets, historians, social scientists, visionary politicians and cultural activists, not engineers.

(The writer is a Chennai-based social activist.)

THE SKIES SPEAK

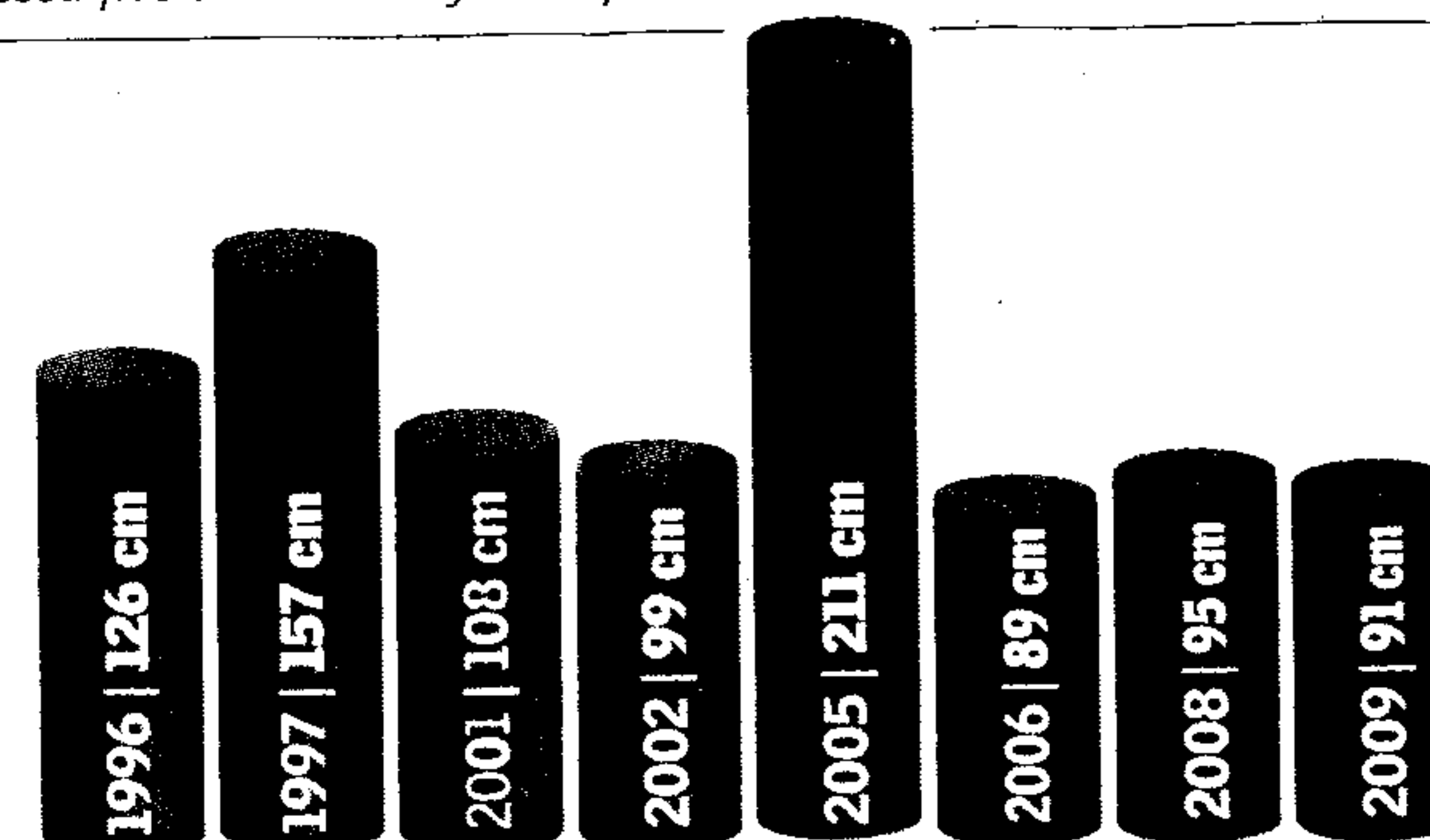
Though it is hard to predict the northeast monsoon because of its volatile behaviour, data from previous years indicates normal rainfall

Chennai | Average rainfall between October and December during northeast monsoon **84 cm**

2015: 166 cm

Chennai witnessed five consecutive years of excess or normal rain between 1976 and 1980

There have been many pairs of good NE monsoon years in the city, says weather expert Y.E.A.Raj



Some of the El-Nino years were followed by years with normal or excess rainfall during monsoon

1918-1919
1925-1926
1969-1970
1996-1998

A normal rainy season likely

K.LAKSHMI

CHENNAI: The question on everyone's mind right now is how this year's monsoon will turn out.

While the India Meteorological Department is yet to announce the long-range forecast for the northeast monsoon, weather experts and bloggers note that the monsoon this year may be 'normal' considering data from the past decades.

Meteorologists note that it is difficult to predict accurate details about the monsoon at this point of time. Normally, IMD comes out with an outlook by September-end.

S.B.Thampi, Deputy Director General of meteorology, Chennai, said: "We have identified certain weather parameters and collected data about the southwest monsoon behaviour to extrapolate it with numerical models. The influence of global weather parameters such as El Nino and La Nina

is also taken into account. The IMD Pune, comes out with a long range forecast for the entire region based on the performance of the monsoon during previous months."

Forecast at this point may not be accurate as weather pattern is still evolving. "We need to wait for a few weeks for more clarity and reliable predictions," he said. Accurate forecast for each area can be done only a few days before the monsoon.

Y.E.A.RAJ, former Deputy Director General of meteorology, said it is hard to predict the monsoon because of its volatile behaviour and influence on a smaller region.

Chennai experienced a good monsoon continuously for five years between 1976 and 1980. Another closer example is that of 2005, when the city endured extensive flooding, and 2006. "Considering this, we may have normal rainfall. Another indicator is that if the southwest monsoon provides excess

rainfall, the NE monsoon may be subdued.

Some international meteorological sites including that of the United Kingdom and International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia, have predicted a 20-40 per cent probability for excess or deficient rainfall, and 40-60 per cent of normal rainfall during the monsoon," Mr. Raj said.

Weather bloggers too note that the Chennai may have normal rainfall this monsoon. K. Srikanth, who blogs at *Chennaiyil Oru Mazhalkalam*, said that in the past century, there have been 24 years when the city received excess rainfall.

Of these, 17 were followed by years with either normal or excess rainfall.

Pradeep John, who runs the popular blog Tamil Nadu Weatherman, added that this year's monsoon may have many cyclones and the actual volume of rainfall will depend on their movement and landfall.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on September 5, 2016 in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
Indian Express
Tribune
Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English) & Publicity Section, CWC.

BANDH OVER SC ORDER ON CAUVERY ISSUE

GOVT BEEFS UP SECURITY, SIDDARAMIAH TO HAVE ALL-PARTY MEET TODAY TO DECIDE NEXT COURSE OF ACTION ST-6-P-10

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Bengaluru, 5 September

The apex court's order to release 15000 cusecs of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu every day for the next ten days, has put the Siddaramiah government here in a quandary. Furious farmers from across the state have taken to the streets in protest blaming the state government for its failure to protect their interests.

Agitated farmers in Mandya, Karnataka's sugar belt, blocked the Bengaluru-Mysuru road in protest against the apex court's order while calling for a bandh in the district tomorrow.

They burned effigies of Tamil Nadu chief minis-



ter, J Jayalalitha, while urging Siddaramiah not to release any water to the

neighbouring state.

The government has already beefed up security

near the Krishnarajasagar dam to prevent the farmers from doing anything "foolhardy," a senior police official said.

Pro-farmers organisations in the district have slammed the government for its purported inability to place Karnataka's stand effectively before the court. More so, as they claim, the reservoirs in the state are virtually empty following inadequate or no rains in the catchment areas. The Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) members even held a 'Jal Satyagraha' at the Cauvery river near Srirangapatna.

The government has its task cut out as it seeks to find ways to pacify the agitated farmers while emphasising

its intentions to protect their interests. At the same time, senior ministers including home minister, G Parameshwara, irrigation minister, MB Patil and the chief minister himself, have urged the farmers to exercise restraint.

All the leaders have repeatedly emphasised that the state had presented its case before the apex court, highlighting the fact that it had very little water in the reservoirs. They argued that Karnataka had barely enough to meet the drinking water needs of Bengaluru, Mandya and Mysuru, as the Krishnarajasagar Reservoir, the main source, had only 18 TMC feet of water.

In fact, the seriousness of

the situation, according to the ministers, can be gauged from the fact that the government is not releasing water for the crops. It is, however, banking on the reports of the meteorological department which has predicted heavy rains this week.

One senior minister, on his part, told *The Statesman* that Tamil Nadu does not need water immediately as it has enough storage in the Mettur dam. Besides while the south-west monsoon is virtually over for Karnataka, Tamil Nadu would get rains from the returning monsoon from next month. This should ease its water problem, if at all.

Meanwhile, Siddaramiah, met his senior cabinet

colleagues to take stock of the present situation, worried as he is about pacifying the agitated farmers. He also hopes that when the next hearing takes place on 16 September, the Supreme Court would understand Karnataka's plight better.

He is expected to have an all party meet tomorrow along with floor leaders and central and state ministers to plan the next course of action.

Meanwhile, after the SC order, vehicles bearing Tamil Nadu registration, including government buses proceeding to Mysore from neighbouring Nilgiris district have been stopped near the border as a precautionary measure, police said.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on September 6-9-2016 in the

Hindustan Times

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The Times of India (N.D.)

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The Times of India (A)

Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

CAUVERY WATER DISPUTE

Release water to Tamil Nadu, SC tells K'taka

State told to release 15,000 cusecs daily

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 5

THE SUPREME Court Monday directed the Karnataka government to release 15,000 cusecs of Cauvery water per day to Tamil Nadu for the next 10 days to make sure the samba crops in Tamil Nadu survive.

"Keeping in view the gesture shown by the Karnataka and the plight that has been projected with agony by Tamil Nadu, we think it appropriate to direct that 15 cusecs of water per day be released at Biligundulu by Karnataka for 10 days," said a bench of Justices Dipak Misra and Uday U Lalit.

Karnataka had offered to release 10,000 cusecs every day while demanding 20,000 cusecs for itself. Considering that samba crops in Tamil Nadu required water immediately, the bench provided for an interim arrange-

ment and said Karnataka would release 15,000 cusecs water every day for the next 10 days.

It also directed the Tamil Nadu government to approach the supervisory committee within three days for the release of Cauvery water as per the final order of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal. The supervisory committee has been asked to pass orders on Tamil Nadu's plea in 10 days. The court posted the matter for further hearing on September 16.

On September 2, the Supreme Court had urged Karnataka to 'live and let live', after Tamil Nadu brought to the notice of the court that the Karnataka chief minister had said that not a drop of water would be released to the state.

The court was hearing an application by Tamil Nadu to direct Karnataka to release 50.52 tmc feet of Cauvery water this season. In reply, Karnataka had said it has a deficit of about 80 tmc feet in its four reservoirs.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on September-6-9-2016 in the

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DE-6-
1-3

FIGURING THE CITY

Rainfall in Delhi


■ While the capital recorded below average rainfall for the first six months of 2016, it recorded 167.8 mm of rain last week.

■ Rainfall in August this year was 1.7 times above average for the month. Since 2006, the highest rainfall recorded in August

was 521.9 mm in 2013.

■ After this, July 2016 saw the highest ever rainfall during the same month in Delhi in the last 10 years, with 540.9 mm of rain over 31 days.

■ This is 85 per cent higher than the rainfall recorded in 2013 – 459.8 mm.



Month/Year	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Total
Normal	12.1	32.7	69.3	179.3	219.6	708.7
2006	2.8	93.2	90.2	263.6	66.3	618.7
2009	2.0	43.0	5.4	124.2	188.6	595.5
2013	11.6	0.0	151.0	459.8	521.9	1,531.4

Source: Agromet Advisory Services, Delhi Unit. ICAR-IARI

News item/letter/article/editorial published on September-6-9-2016 in the

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and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

SC asks Karnataka to release water to TN

Press Trust of India

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: In an interim order which may ameliorate the plight of Tamil Nadu farmers to some extent, Supreme Court on Monday asked Karnataka to release 15,000 cusecs of Cauvery water daily for the next 10 days.

The SC also directed Tamil Nadu to approach the supervisory committee, set up to implement award of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT), within three days for release of Cauvery water as per the final order of Tribunal.

"The Supervisory Committee shall pass appropriate direction in this regard within four days from the date of filing of the reference, keeping in view the language employed in the final order

HT-6-P-11
of the Tribunal. Be it clarified, the Supervisory Committee is bound by the language used in the order passed by the Tribunal...

"Coming to the immediate arrangement, keeping in view the gesture shown by the State of Karnataka and the plight that has been projected with agony by Mr Naphade, we think it appropriate to direct that 15,000 cusecs of water per day be released at Biligundulu by the State of Karnataka for ten days," a bench comprising Justices Dipak Misra and U U Lalit said.

It also directed Tamil Nadu to release water to the Union Territory of Puducherry proportionately as per its interim arrangement, while posting the matter for further hearing on September 16.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on September 6-9-2016 in the

Hindustan Times

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SC ASKS K'TAKA TO GIVE TN ³⁵⁻¹ 15,000 CUSECS CAUVERY WATER

New Delhi, 5 September: In an interim order which may ameliorate the plight of Tamil Nadu farmers to some extent, the Supreme Court today asked Karnataka to release 15,000 cusecs of Cauvery water daily for the next 10 days to its neighbouring state.

The apex court also directed Tamil Nadu to approach the Supervisory Committee, set up to implement the award of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT), within three days for the release of Cauvery water as per the final order of the Tribunal. The apex court's order to release 15,000 cusecs of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu every day for the next ten days has put the Siddaramiah government in Karnataka in a quandary.

Furious farmers from across the state have taken to the streets in protest blaming the state government for what they say is its failure to protect their interests before the Supreme Court. **END**

NEWS

News item/letter/article/editorial published on September 5, 2010 in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
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Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
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Cauvery issue: Security beefed up at KRS dam

DH-S
P-5

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Speaking to mediapersons, Singh said that security arrangements have been strengthened in view of the Supreme Court hearing on Monday.

In case the verdict goes against the state, it might trigger protests and hence the measures, he said.

Additional Superintendent



IGP (southern range) B K Singh, Mandya SP Sudhir Kumar Reddy and others review security at the KRS dam on Sunday, on the eve of the Supreme Court hearing on Tamil Nadu's plea on the Cauvery river issue. DH PHOTO

of Police of Mysuru district Kala Krishnaswamy was also present.

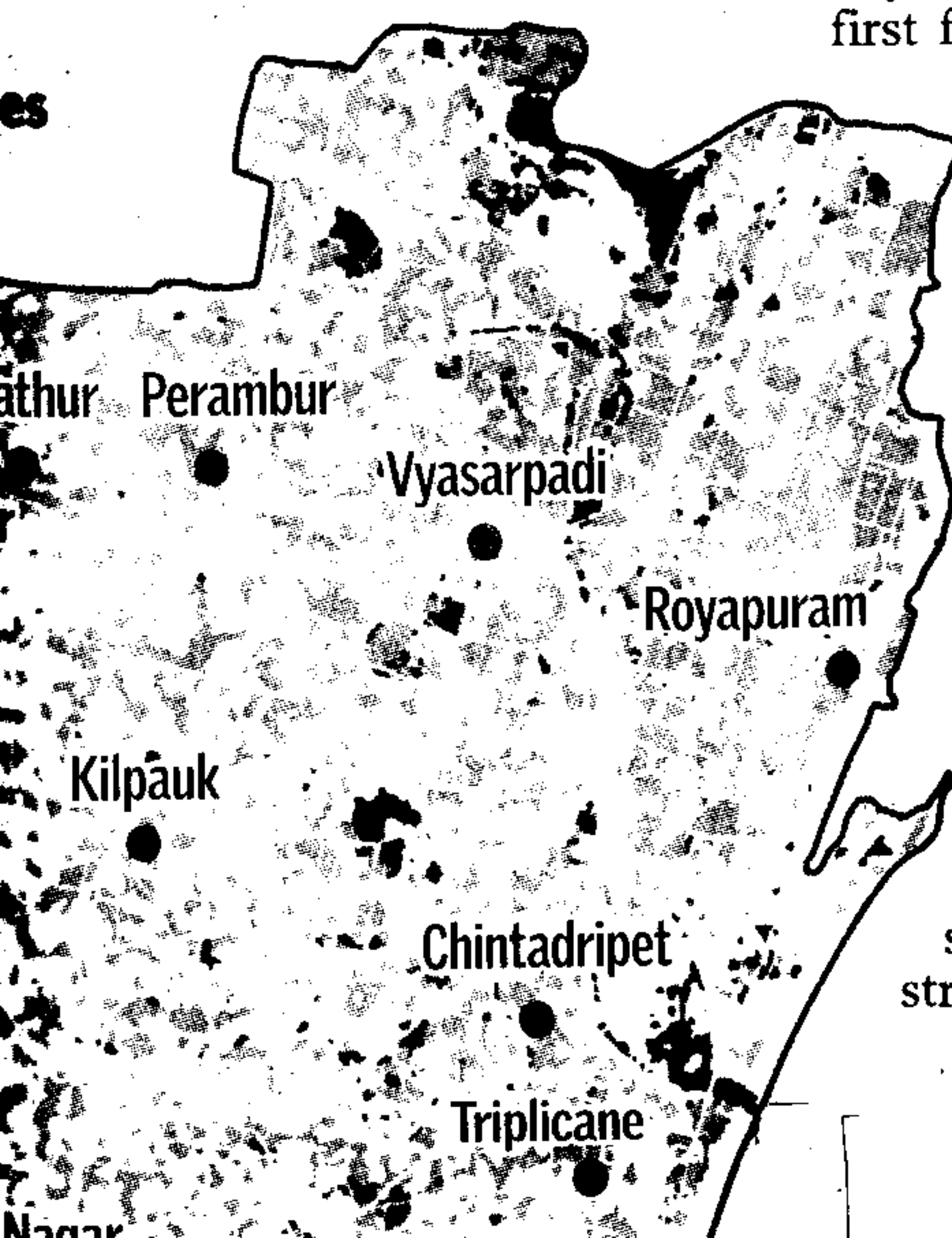
Earlier, Mandya Superintendent of Police Sudhir Kumar Reddy inspected the premises.

He also held discussions with the local officials on the steps required to be taken if the Court orders release of water from KRS dam.

DH News Service

we look at how the city's infrastructure will hold up during the rains and what all its residents might have to endure

TER 2015



S. POORVAJA

CHENNAI: The residents of the city are unlikely to forget the first few days of December 2015. What started with overcast skies and rains, on December 1, turned out to be a nightmare, and heralded the floods that were arguably one of the worst in living memory. The rains, which lashed through the day, left in their wake a battered city with several areas that went under. Several lives were lost, thousands were displaced, stranded and had to be

evacuated with boats and choppers, the loss of property ran to many crores of rupees, and normalcy was not restored until weeks later in many parts of the city.

The release of water from the Chembarambakkam reservoir, as well as what the government called “unprecedented rainfall not seen in a 100 years” completed the destruction.

Nine months later, while many still remember the heroic rescue efforts which were mounted to bring the city back on its feet, the question on everyone's mind is whether the city is prepared to face the northeast monsoon this year.

Given how even a few

hours of rain over the past few days (spilling over from the southwest monsoon) have caused substantial flooding, any consideration of the monsoon months in Chennai only brings a sinking feeling. Over the last two weeks, the city has come alive on social media, raucously wondering how the spell of rain that the city has received has crippled it what it bodes for the coming months.

Common concern

“A common concern among residents across various areas has been that not much action has been taken against encroachments on waterbodies and that more

can be done towards their de-silting,” said Jayaram Venkatesan, founder of Arappor Iyakkam, a city-based organisation which had organised a public hearing ‘Kelu Chennai Kelu’ where residents came and voiced their views on flood preparedness, a week back.

The displacement caused by the rain saw residents along the banks of the Adyar river and the Cooum being relocated en-masse to slum board tenements in areas including Perumbakkam, Kannaagi Nagar and Ezhil Nagar. For other residents, houses in low-lying areas became a cause for concern and solutions including raising the height of their houses have

been much sought after.

Mr. Jayaram admitted that the flooding in December had affected the collective consciousness of more people than before which had made them aware of the fact that a few areas in the city were actually affected every year during the rains

“Even with light showers, the compounds of homes in some areas have been flooded due to the indiscriminate laying of roads and the increase in their height each time. Initially, after the floods in December, it seemed as if the government was seriously carrying out encroachment removal work on a war-footing, but nine months later, now, nothing

concrete has happened,” said Sunil Jayaram, a resident of Chitlapakkam.

Activists point out that the coming months are going to be nerve-racking for the residents of the city. With several improvement works incomplete or having just begun, there is reasonable apprehension that even a ‘normal’ monsoon will spell flooded roads and homes. They also add that the efforts should be long-term, and at a policy level consider adequate drainage for the city while sanctioning layouts and residential establishments, and completely disallow construction activity on flood plains, rain water channels, and river beds.

हिन्दु 6.7.11.1.8.9.C को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ गढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindu Times (Delhi)

हिन्दु 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)

Release Cauvery water to TN: SC

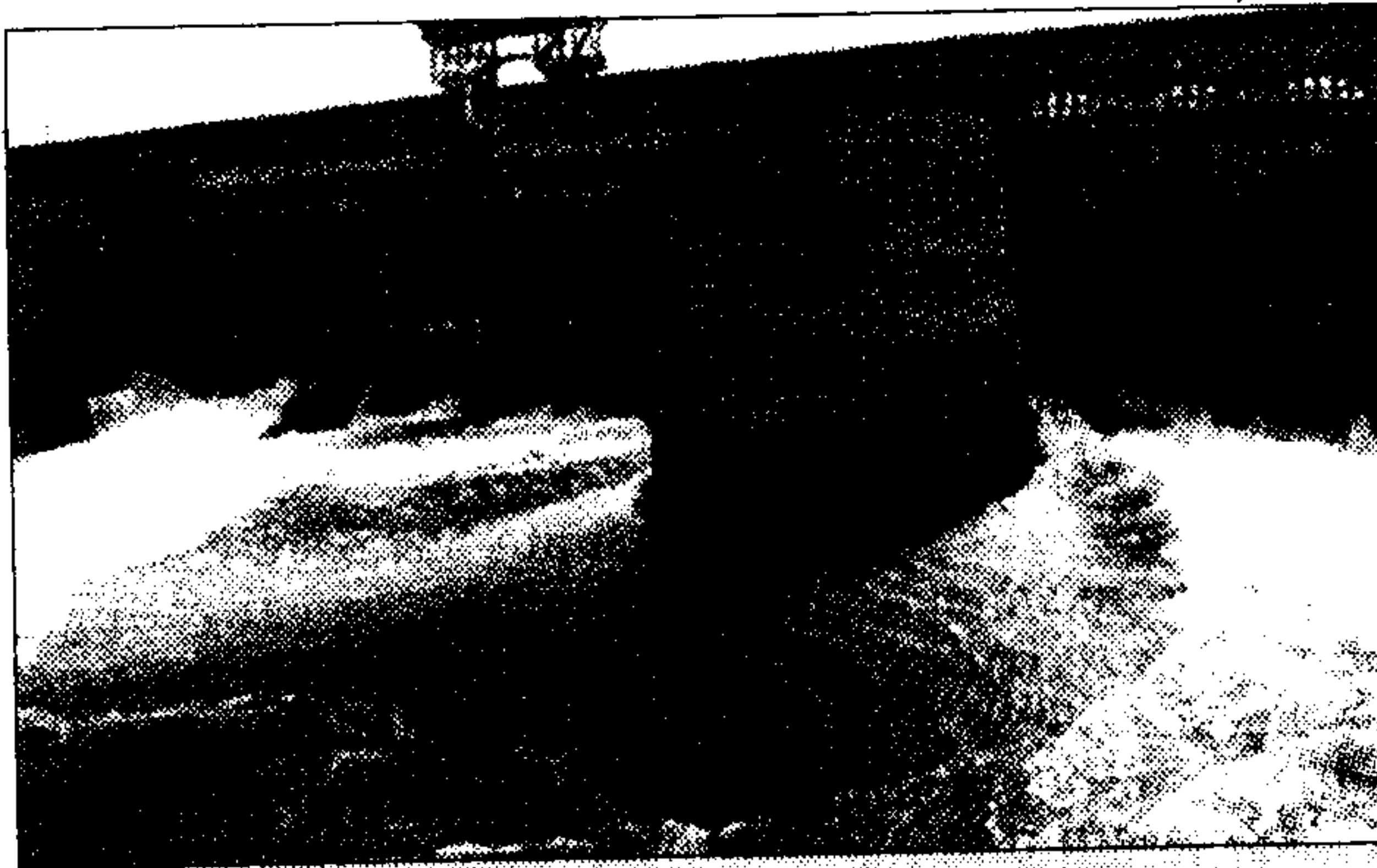
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 5

The Supreme Court today directed Karnataka to release 15,000 cusecs of Cauvery water every day to Tamil Nadu for the next 10 days to ameliorate plight of the farmers there.

Noting that the samba crops in Tamil Nadu would be adversely affected, a Bench comprising Justices Dipak Misra and UU Lalit directed Karnataka to ensure supply of water to Tamil Nadu. The court also directed Tamil Nadu to approach the supervisory committee in three days for the release of Cauvery water as per the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT).

The Supreme Court also asked the supervisory committee to decide on Tamil Nadu's plea in 10 days from today. "We think it's appropriate to direct Karnataka to release 15,000 cusecs of water per day for 10 days," the Bench said. It also directed Tamil Nadu to release water to Puducherry appropriately as per its interim arrangement.

The court posted the matter for further hearing on September 16.



15,000 cusecs of water/day for farmers

- Tamil Nadu sought a direction to Karnataka to release 50.52 tmc feet of Cauvery water to save 40,000 acres of samba crop this season
- Karnataka said it had a deficit of about 80 tmc feet in its four reservoirs due to less rainfall this season
- The SC said, "We think it's appropriate to direct Karnataka to release 15,000 cusecs of water per day for 10 days."

On September 2, the Supreme Court made an emotional appeal to Karnataka saying 'live and let live', after Tamil Nadu brought to the notice of the court that the Karnataka CM had said that not a drop of water would be released to it.

In a recent plea, Tamil Nadu sought a direction to Karnataka to release 50.52 tmc feet of Cauvery water to save 40,000 acres of samba crop this season.

In reply, Karnataka said it had a deficit of about 80 tmc feet in its four reservoirs.

Senior lawyer FS Nariman, who appeared for Karnataka, said there were "rain deficit months" in the recent past and it was difficult to release water to Tamil Nadu.

The apex court had earlier refused to give an urgent hearing to Tamil Nadu's plea for setting up of the Cauvery Management

Board for implementation of the CWDT award.

At the directions of the apex court, the Centre, in 2013, had notified the final award of the CWDT on sharing of water of the Cauvery system among the basin states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and Puducherry (UT).

The CWDT had recommended the setting up of a Cauvery Management Board/Authority on the lines of the Bhakra Beas Management Board for implementation of the order.

The board, in turn, would constitute a Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for assistance.

The tribunal, in a unanimous decision in 2007, determined the total availability of water in the Cauvery basin at 740 tmc feet at the Lower Coleroon Anicut site, including 14 tmcft for environmental protection and seepage into the sea.

The final award made an annual allocation of 419 tmcft to Tamil Nadu in the entire Cauvery basin, 270 tmcft to Karnataka, 30 tmcft to Kerala and 7 tmcft to Puducherry. — PTI