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Handshakes, but both firm on SYL

Deadlock on canal at Northern Zonal Council meet

PRADEEP SHARMA & RAJMEET SINGH

CHANDIGARH, MAY12

Deadlock prevailed between Punjab and Haryana over the contentious Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal at the Northern Zonal Council (NZC) meeting presided over by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh here today, with Haryana terming the issue as "non-negotiable".

Haryana Agriculture Minister OP Dhankar, who was present at the meeting, said Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had made it clear that there was no question of any dialogue on the SYL canal issue since the Supreme Court's judgment had attained finality.

He said what all states had agreed to was the suggestion of Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh to hold meetings at the level of officers and political executives on all other contentious issues of sharing power and water.

Earlier, Sanjeevani Kutty, Secretary, Inter-State Council Secretariat, and Karan Avtar Singh, Punjab Chief Secretary, told reporters that Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan agreed to Rajnath's suggestion of discussing all interstate river issues at a meeting of CMs and chief secretaries so as to arrive at mutually acceptable solutions.

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh said though Haryana had less land, it was given more water at the time of Punjab's reorganisation. Punjab did not get any share in the Yamuna waters, he maintained.

Khattar, however, said:



Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh greets Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar at the NZC meeting on Friday, TRIBUNE PHOTO

With estimated 10 lakh acres in southern Punjab likely to go dry following the SYL construction, the region can become hotbed of terrorism, triggering a national problem.

Capt Amarinder Singh, PUNIAB CM

There is no question of any dialogue on the SYL canal issue since the Supreme Court's judgment has attained finality and Haryana's execution petition is listed for hearing in July.

Manohar Lai Khattar, HARYANA CM

"Haryana is a water-stressed state. Against a demand of 36 million acre feet (MAF), the availability of water in Haryana is only 14.7 MAE. We give additional water to Delhi in compliance with the Supreme Court orders out of our share in the Yamuna waters. This, despite the fact that Punjab is not giving Haryana its full share in the Ravi-Beas waters."

"Thousands of villages and millions of hectares in Haryana are bereft of water, which we are entitled to get from Punjab," Khattar said.

Capt Amarinder reiterated his demand for re-assess-

ment and re-determination of the availability of surface water in the Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. He urged the Centre to take expert advice on how to make reliable estimates of future flows in these rivers.

Khattar said, "We are not in agreement with Punjab on its proposal of exclusive investment in Bhakra Main Line Canal and exclusive utilisation of electricity generated there-from by Punjab."

The Punjab CM, meanwhile, requested the J&K Government to ratify the pact for resumption of construction on the Shahpur Kandi Dam project, stalled since 2014.

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Monsoon 3 days early over Nicobar

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, MAY14

The southwest monsoon has covered the Nicobar Islands and the entire south Andaman Sea three days ahead of its normal onset date, the IMD said today.

"In view of the strengthening and deepening of southwesterly winds, persistent cloudiness and rainfall, southwest monsoon has advanced into some parts of southeast Bay of Bengal, Nicobar Islands, entire south Andaman Sea and parts of north Andaman Sea today," the country's official forecaster India Meteorological Department said.

IMD Director General KG Ramesh called it "too early to forecast whether the monsoon would hit the Kerala coast ahead of schedule". However, the countdown has begun for its arrival over mainland Kerala, which could be around May 25-26—ahead of its normal onset date of June 1.

As per IMD chief, the pre-

whether the monsoon would hit the Kerala coast ahead of schedule. The prevailing conditions do not suggest monsoon could hit Kerala early.

KG Ramesh, IMD DIRECTOR GENERAL

vailing conditions do not suggest monsoon could hit Kerala early because it has arrived early over Andaman and Nicobar Islands before the normal onset.

What is certain is that "conditions are favourable for further advance of southwest monsoon into some parts of southwest Bay of Bengal, some more parts of southeast Bay of Bengal, remaining parts of Andaman Sea, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and some parts of east-central Bay of Bengal during the next 72 hours".

The IMD, which has predicted "normal rains" for 2017, also discounted the possibility of El Nino hampering the monsoon season.

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नदी जल पर राज्यों की

संहीगढ़, (भाषा): केंद्र जल्द विदुओं के बारे में वह ही पंजाब और हरियाणा सहित संवाददाताओं को जानकारी दे रहे थे। बैठक के दौरान उन्होंने कहा कि संबद्ध राज्यों में यह अन्य राज्यों की एक बैठक बुलाएगा, ताकि ठनके बीच नदी आमराय बनी है कि कई जल साहोदारी के विवादास्पद मुद्दे का इल हो सके। पंजाब बरसों से लंबित नदी हरियाणा जल साझेदारी के और पंजाब के बीच मुद्दे को हल करने के मुख्य सचिव और गंजाब के बीच मुद्दे को इल करने करन अवतार सिंह यल रहे विवादास्पद की जरूरत है। ने बताया, ''जल मुद्दे के इल की तरफ अंतर राज्यीय संसाधन मंत्रालय एक पहल परिवर सचिवालय 🐫 यक पहल मदी जल मुद्दे पर चर्चा की सचिव संजीवनी के लिए जल्द ही पंजाब, कुट्टी ने बताया कि राज्यों इरियाणा और राजस्थान सहित ेक बीच आमराय बनी है और वे प्रभावित राज्यों की एक बैठक नदी जल मुद्दे का हल करना बुलाएगा।" यहां केंद्रीय गृहमंत्री चाहते हैं। जल संसाधन मंत्रालय राजनाथ सिंह की अध्यक्षता में नै इसका इल करने के लिए हुई उत्तरी क्षेत्रीय परिषद की बैठक के दौरान हुई चर्चा के संबद्ध राज्यों की एक बैठक मुलाई है।