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

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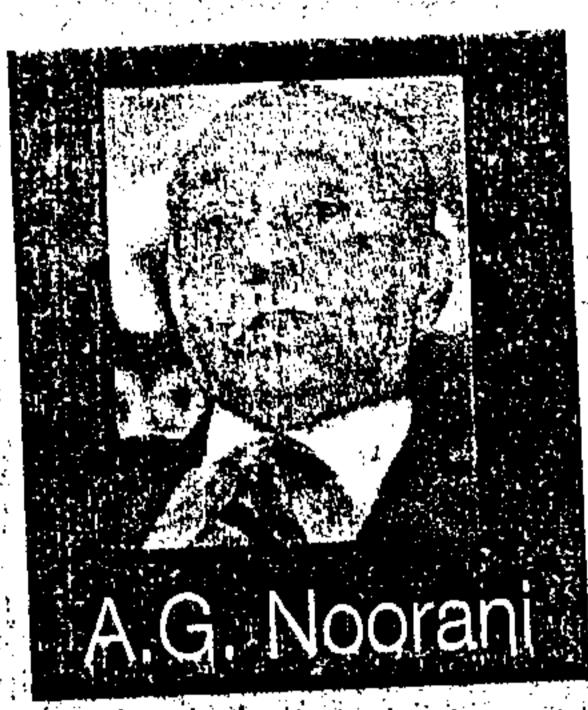
Law of the Indus,

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the sion of any preferential failed to respect the pro- Harmon was asked for an ing of the Indus Waters Pakistan and the WB. IX). The treaty is not a

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East Punjab was there- the World Bank was not a

ments were also signed: Punjab's partition). Agreement by represend does not affect the treaty. It is unnecessary to tatives of Pakistan, the To obstruct the

between parties to a treaty does not affect the legal relations between them by the treaty except in so far as the existence On the same day and of diplomatic or consular for the application of the of diplomatic relations









TN ERUPTS IN PROTEST OVER CAUVERY ISSU

TRAIN SERVICES DISRUPTED IN THE STATE DUE TO RAIL ROKO AGITATION: STALIN. THIRUMAVALAVAN AND VAIKO ARRESTED

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

As the high-level central As the high-level central technical team, led by Central Water Commission chairman G S Jha today submitted its findings and report to the Supreme Court on Cauvery water dispute, Tamil Nadu witnessed vignous protests against the orous protests against the Narendra Modi government's apathy towards the

ment's apathy towards the state, as farmer federations backed by the Opposition started a two day Rail Roko agitation in nearly all over the state.

Due to the agitations, according to railway sources, many intra-state service trains, saw partial and full cancellation. Some of them were rescheduled as well. were rescheduled as well

The protesters alleged that BJP's central govern-ment has suddenly taken a U-turn against the consti-tution of the board with an



eye on the upcoming polls in Karnataka, the only state in the south where the party has influence.

A large number of police

personnel were posted at Chennai Central right from the morning, even as the 48-hour statewide rail roko, originally called by farmer's

organisations, began.
Leaders and cadre of almost all parties except ruling AIADMK and R.IP

blocked railway service blocked rallway service acrossTamilNadu, seeking immediate constitution of the Cauvery Management Board (CMB). The protests were led by Opposition leader and DMK treasurer M K Stalin, who

blocked a suburban train at Perambur in Chennai, The Cauvery delta districts wit-nessed widespread agita-tions by farmer bodies and in some places agitations

K'taka, TN facing water shortage: SC panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A day before the crucial hearing on Cauvery dis-pute in the Supreme Court, a high-level panel today suggested doing away with "outdated and unscientific water amilication took water application tech-niques" to resolve the wrangle, saying both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu were facand Tamil Nadu were fac-ing water shortage, creat-ing unemployment and financial hardship for the people.

The apex court-appoint-

turned violent as well. Stal in led a procession at Perambur in Chennai before blocking the suburban train in the city and courted

arrest.
Meanwhile, hundreds of

ed Supervisory Commit-tee, formed to inspect Cau-very basin to assess the ground realities in the region, said the neigh-bouring riparian states needed to appreciate inter-est of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry to protect their established irrigation and Karnataka's aspirations for development and educate their people accordingly.
The 9-member commit-

tee's report will come up for perusal before a three-judge bench of justices Dipak

ing to DMK, the Left parties and MDMK among others, staged a Rail Roko agitation at Thanjavur, Cuddalore and other places in the Cau-very delta. Stalin, Vidutha-lai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) president Thol ThiruMisra, Amitava Roy and A M Khanwilkar which will hear a long pending appeal against the award of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tri-bunal and other related contentious issues arising out of the dispute.

The panel in its 40-page report has noted that far mers in both states were in severe distress and ade-

severe distress and ade-quate crop compensation must be provided to them. "There has been large number of suicides report-ed in Karnataka's Mandya district," the report said.

mavalavan, MDMK gener-al secretary Vaiko and thousands of agitators were arrested.

The two day rail blockade called by various farmer federations is to be contin-ued on Tuesday also. The

protests came a few days after a high-level technical after a high-level technical team, set upby the Supreme Court, completed its inspection of the Cauvery basin in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to assess the situation. The team submitted its report in the Supreme Court today The apex court had set up the team while hearing a petition by Tamil Nadu one.

a petition by Tamil Nadugov ernment, seeking release of Cauvery water by Karnataka.

nataka.
Train services in Madurai and Tiruchirappalli divisions were affected most as hundreds of farmers and members of various political parties blocked or attempted to block the rail traffic at various places. traffic at various places, demanding constitution of the Cauvery Management Hoard. Though agitation was virulent in Chennai, the train services were delayed by 10 minutes to half an hour only News item/letter/article/editorial published on U

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

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

Cauvery: TN farmers to launch rail roko today

CHENNAI: Backed by various Opposition parties, thousands of Delta farmers in Tamil Nadu will stage a 48hour rail roko agitation across the state on Monday and Tuesday over the Cauvery issue.

While the principal opposition party DMK has already announced its support for the delta farmers' stir, the Congress and the People's Welfare Front comprising Vijayakanth-led DMDK, Vaiko's MDMK and the Left parties on Sunday declared that it would also back the strike.

The two-day strike has been called by various farmers' organisations to condemn the Centre's stance in the Supreme Court against setting up of the Cauvery Management Board and to urge the state government to convene an all-party meeting and a special session of the Assembly for adopting a resolution against the NDA-led Union government over the Cauvery issue.

Accordingly, the Opposition parties have instructed their respective district secretaries and cadres to participate in the twoday stir.

The ruling AIADMK has made it clear that there is no need to convene an all-party meeting and special session of the Assembly, as the state government is expecting a favourable verdict from the Supreme Court that will hear the Cauvery case on October 18.

The delta farmers have also demanded the state government arrange a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the representatives of farmers to explain to him the loss of Kuruvai crop in the last five years and also the possibility of Samba crops wilting this season as Karnataka had not released enough Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

The high-level technical team constituted by the Centre that assessed the ground realities in the Cauvery basin areas of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka will submit its report to the Supreme Court on Monday. The delta farmers have announced that if the report and the subsequent apex court order is not favourable to Tamil Nadu, they will decide the future course of action on October 19. **DH News Service**

News item/letter/article/editorial published on Miles-16-16-2016 in the

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Panel admits K'taka has water shortage

A high-level technical team has upheld Karnataka's repeated assertion that it cannot release water to Tamil Nadu due to an acute shortage.

The report, submitted to the SC on Monday, is a breather for Karnataka, which was rapped by the apex court for not releasing water to the neighbouring state. The court will on Tuesday hear special leave petitions filed by Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala challenging the adjudication of water to the riparian states by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The panel suggested that there should be inter-state cooperation and efforts to give relief to

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returned to power.

CAUVERY ROW



■ DMK treasurer MK Stalin and party MLAs stop a train at the Perambur railway station in Chennai on Monday. PTI PHOTO

Farmers, Oppn parties stage rail roko in TN

KV Lakshmana

letters@hindustantimes.com

CHENNAI: Opposition parties led by the DMK began a 48-hour statewide rail blockade on the Cauvery issue on Monday, blaming the Centre for its 'anti-Tamil Nadu' stand by refusing to constitute the Cauvery Management Board.

Protesters from different political parties and farmers' associations began stopping trains but were taken into custody. There was heavy deployment of police force at railway stations across the state though DMK activists thronged platforms.

First among those detained by police for trying to stop local trains at Basin Bridge station included VCK chief Thol Thirumavalanan. . It is on this line that major trains

enter Chennai from north and central India. At Perambur station, DMK legislative party leader MK Stalin sat on the tracks with party workers. Holding party flags, the protesters declared that they would not allow trains to and from Bengaluru to move on the route.

CPI leader Muthuarasan demanded that the Tamil Nadu government call an all-party meeting on the issue. "The BJP is engaging in double speak," he said and questioned the Centre's U-turn, which he said was only with an eye on Karnataka assembly polls.

Rebuffing the allegations, BJP state unit president Tamilisai Soundararajan said, "There is no government is fully seized of the matter and Tamil Nadu's interests would be protected at all costs."

Both Karnataka, TN facing water shortage: SC panel

NEW DELHI: Ahead of the Supreme Court taking up hearing of the Cauvery river water sharing dispute on Tuesday, a high-level government panel held that both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu were facing water shortage and recommended doing away with "outdated and unscientific" water application techniques to resolve the issue.

The expert panel, set up at the direction of the apex court, was mandated to visit the Cauvery river basin areas to assess the ground situation in the two states. The court is likely to consider the report on Tuesday.

"The infrastructure to deliver water to the farmers is centuriesold and has very low conveyance efficiency. This needs to be modernised for optimal use of scarce water," the report said.

The panel noted the plight of farmers in both states and said, "In the absence of required water, the labour employment for farming and fishing is also limited, creating a scenario of unemployment and financial hardship for them."

The expert panel said, "Both the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu need to appreciate interest of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry in protection of their established need for any protests. The central irrigation and Karnataka's aspirations for development respectively and should educate their + people accordingly."

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Cauvery panel warns of threat to farmers' survival

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

DELHI: The Supreme Court-appointed expert team to inspect the Cauvery basin area found that agriculture labourers have been migrating from Delta districts of Tamil Nadu and many of them have been pushed to suicide due to financial burden. Farmers are suffering for drinking water and irrigation water since available ground water is not suitable, the report said.

"In the last 20 years we are cultivating only two-third of

the area. But this year the situation is further poor as there is no water to raise crops even in one-third area. Even the ground water level has gone down to 250 feet. The very existence of farmers and agricultural labourers is at stake," the team quoted Tamil Nadu farmers as saying.

In Karntaka, the team found that a large number of suicides from Mandya district. Besides, the Karnataka government had declared 42 out of 48 talukas under Cauvery basin as drought af-

fected based on Centre's guidelines.

The report said the total requirement water Karnataka up to the end of May 2017, including irrigation water up to December 2016, drinking water up to May, '2017and evaporation loss of the order of 6.0 TMC, is 65.48 TMC. It said the expected availability up to the end of May, 2017 is 89.16 TMC. The total water requirement of Tamil Nadu is 163.0 TMC against the expected availability of 143.18 TMC up to the end of May, 2017.

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CAUVERY ROW: HEARING IN SC TODAY

Both Karnataka, Tamil Nadu face water shortage: panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICENEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

A DAY before the crucial hearing on the Cauvery dispute in Supreme Court, a panel Monday favoured "optimal, dynamic and resilient" planning of the cropped area in the Cauvery basin states to neutralise the deficit impact of water allocation.

The panel underlined that both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu were facing water shortage, leading to unemployment and financial hardship for the people.

The panel suggested doing away with "outdated and unscientific water application techniques" to resolve the wrangle, saying that the neighbouring riparian states needed to appreciate the interest of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry to protect their established irrigation and Karnataka's aspirations for development and educate people.

The nine-member committee was formed to assess the ground realities in the issue and mandated by the apex court. The committee's report will come for perusal before a three-judge bench of Justices Dipak Misra, Amitava Roy and AM Khanwilkar.



DMK's M K Stalin during a Rail Roko protest in Chennai on Monday. The party is demanding that the Centre constitute a Cauvery management board. Besides opposition parties, a number of farmers' outfits took part in the agitation.

We are hoping for some relief, says Siddaramaiah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, OCTOBER 17

Constantible Constant Constant

KARNATAKA CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah Monday expressed hope that Karnataka will receive some relief in the Cauvery water sharing issue in the light of a report submitted by a high-level technical team mandated by the Supreme Court. "A report based on the committee's

assessment of ground realities has been given to Supreme Court. We are hoping for some relief in the light of the report," he said.

The technical committee has said in its report: "The plights of farmers in both the states have been witnessed. In the absence of required water, the labour employment for farming and fishing is also limited, creating a scenario of unemployment and financial hardship to them."

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Hasmathpet faces a crisis

KAMALAPATHI RAO H. I DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 15

Localities surrounding Hasmathpet tank, or Boini cheruvu, could face the fate of Bandari layout, from where people had to be evacuated following floods, if the government keeps on turning a blind eye to several complaints lodged regarding various societies, committees and the public for half a decade.

The tank, which once extended about 68 acres, including shikam/full tank level land, has now shrunk to 18 acres due to encroachments and illegal layouts.

Recently, a layout was developed behind the Manasa Sarovar Heights by occupying nearly 2.5 acres of the lake.

On January 12, 2016, the NGO Save Our Urban Lakes along with several organisations, including the welfare association of Manasa Sarovar Heights, wrote a letter to the OSD to irrigation minister Sridhar Deshpande on the matter.

Mr Deshpande said the Hasmathpet lake was overseen by the HMDA. The irrigation department forwarded the letter nine months ago along with an earlier report submitted by the special grade deputy collector of land protection wing of Ranga Reddy district to the HMDA. There has been no response.

In 2012, the special grade deputy collector had submitted a report of investigation (Lr.No.LP1/3334/2012) to the executive engineer, irrigation department, and sought help of the assistant director to survey land records to demarcate boundaries for the lake. The officer said in his report that a two-acre parcel of land on the west bank of the lake was occupied by unidentified persons, who filled the tank with soil. At another portion,



A view of illegal layout coming up at Hasmathpet lake.

TIMELINE

Huda notified
Hasmathpet lake
(Boinin cheruvu) in
2000 through notification no.
3196/PR/H/2000

- *A lake protection committee was constituted in 2010
- Lakes and others began fight to protect lake in 2012
- The special grade deputy collector from the land protection wing of the RR district identified encroachments, wrote to irrigation department.
- SOUL wrote to CM on Oct. 5, 2015, and irrigation officials in Jan. 2016.

Hasmathpet nala is also shrinking

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 15

The Hasmathpet nala connecting the Alwal tank to Hasmathpet lake has been encroached upon repeatedly in the last two decades.

As per government records, four decades ago, the nala was 150-ft wide and a buffer zone of 25 ft on either side was meant for greenery.

As per the engineering of the nala, whenever tanks upstream at Alwal overflow, the excess water flows to Hasmathpet tank. The nala has now shrunk to 30 ft, and, at a few stretches in the Cantonment, to 8-10 ft. Many high-rises have

Alwal tanks goes into Hasmathpet tank. The naia has shrunk to 8-10 ft at a few places.

with the nala land.
With the nala having narrowed down, many localities in the catchment get inundated during heavy rain, with lowlying areas in Alwal, C a n t o n m e n t, Bowenpally and Balanagar being the worst affected.

The nala near Manasa Sarovar Heights flows in a small roof drain, leading to road blockades often.

e Manasa Sarovar s Heights' welfare associate tion secretary Usha said they would launch a protest to protect the lake.

the owner of a function hall encroached nearly 1.5 acres of the lake.

As the Telangana statehood movement was at its peak the, officials put

the file on hold. As the government officials remained silent on the matter for four years, encroachments have increased.

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Cauvery protest 7- /8



MDMK chief Vaiko and others leaders block a railway track in Chennai on Monday. Farmers and Opposition parties in Tamil Nadu want the Centre to constitute the Cauvery Management Board immediately. PTI

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उमा भारती से बोले आचार्यश्री...

निदयों के संगम से होगा विकास



जैन मंदिर में आचार्य विद्यासागर महाराज से आशीर्वाद लेने पहुंची केंद्रीय मंत्री उमा भारती।

पत्रिका न्यूज़ नेटवर्क

patrika.com

भोपाल. केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री उमा भारती ने सोमवार को हबीबगंज स्थित जैन मंदिर पहुंचकर आचार्यश्री विद्यासागर महाराज के दर्शन किए। इस दौरान उन्होंने गंगा प्रोजेक्ट के लिए आचार्यश्री से आशीर्वाद मांगा। आचार्यश्री ने कहा कि नदियों के संगम का कार्यक्रम तेजी से हो, तो भारत में विकास के आयाम बढ़ेंगे। इससे कृषि उत्पादन में भी तीन गुना वृद्धि होगी, साथ ही पशुधन भी बढ़ेगा।

केंद्रीय मंत्री उमा भारती सोमवार कांग्रेस महासचिव दिग्विजय सिंह की ओर से दायर मानहानि मामले में कोर्ट पहुंची थी, उसके बाद वे दोपहर में आचार्यश्री के दर्शन करने जैन मंदिर पहुंची। इस दौरान उन्होंने आचार्यश्री से कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में सरकार बेहतर कार्य करने का प्रयास करेगी। वहीं भाजपा प्रदेशाध्यक्ष नंदकुमार सिंह चौहान भी आचार्यश्री के दर्शन के लिए पहुंचे। चौहान ने आचार्यश्री ने अगली बार जीत के लिए आशीर्वाद मांगा।

केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री उमा भारती ने पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री दिग्विजय सिंह की मानहानि से जुड़े मामले में कहा है कि वे माफी नहीं मांगेंगी, समझौता नहीं करेंगी। सोमवार को भोपाल कोर्ट में पेशी के बाद उमा ने कहा, में दिञ्चिजय को आठ साल की उस से जानती हूं। मैं उनके घर राघीगढ़ भी गई थी। वे हमेशा मेरा सम्मान करते हैं। मैं उन्हें भाई मानती हुं, वह प्रकरण वापस ले लें, तो मुझे अच्छा लगेगा। मैं माफी नहीं मांगूंगी। उमा ने मीडिया से चर्चा में कहा कि मैं कोर्ट का सम्मान करती है। सारे तथ्य कोर्ट में पेश करूगी। उन्होंने कहा, मैं तिरंगे के सम्मान, भ्रष्टाचार व नैतिक मूल्यों पर समझौता नहीं कर सकती। उमा ने कहा उन पर जो प्रकरण बने हैं, वह तिरंगा फहराने, राम मंदिर आंदोलन तथा मप्र में कांग्रेस की सरकार का सफाया करने के कारण बने हैं, इसलिए वह खुद को अपराधी नहीं मानती हैं।

Covering L., YIS

News item/letter/article/editorial published on OCHER-16-10.2016 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 Aaj (Hindi) Indian Nation Nai Duniya (Hindi) The Times of India (A) Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity /

Hasmathpet faces a crisis

KAMALAPATHI RAO H. I DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 15

Localities surrounding Hasmathpet tank, or Boini cheruvu, could face the fate of Bandari layout, from where people had to be evacuated following floods, if the government keeps on turning a blind eye to several complaints lodged regarding various societies, committees and the public for half a decade.

The tank, which once extended about 68 acres, including shikam/full tank level land, has now shrunk to 18 acres due to encroachments and illegal layouts.

Recently, a layout was developed behind the Manasa Sarovar Heights by occupying nearly 2.5 acres of the lake.

On January 12, 2016, the NGO Save Our Urban Lakes along with several organisations, including the welfare association of Manasa Sarovar Heights, wrote a letter to the OSD to irrigation minister Sridhar Deshpande on the matter.

Mr Deshpande said the Hasmathpet lake was overseen by the HMDA. The irrigation department forwarded the letter nine months ago along with an earlier report submitted by the special grade deputy collector of land protection wing of Ranga Reddy district to the HMDA. There has been no response.

In 2012, the special grade deputy collector had submitted a report of his investigation (Lr.No.LP1/3334/2012) to the executive engineer, irrigation department, and sought help of the assistant director to survey land records to demarcate boundaries for the lake. The officer said in his report that a two-acre parcel of land on the west bank of the lake was occupied by unidentified persons, who filled the tank with soil. At another portion,



A view of illegal layout coming up at Hasmathpet lake.

TIMELINE

- **m** Huda notified Hasmathpet lake (Boinin cheruvu) in 2000 through notification no. 3196/PR/H/2000
- A lake protection committee was constituted in 2010
- **Save Our Urban** Lakes and others began fight to protect lake in 2012
- The special grade deputy collector from the land protection wing of the RR district identified encroachments, wrote to irrigation department.
- **SOUL wrote to** CM on Oct. 5, 2015, and irrigation officials in Jan. 2016.

the owner of a function

hood movement was at

its peak the, officials put

1.5 acres of the lake.

Hasmathpetnala is also shrinking

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 15

The Hasmathpet nala connecting the Alwal tank to Hasmathpet lake has been encroached upon repeatedly in the last two decades.

As per government records, four decades ago, the nala was 150-ft wide and a buffer zone of 25 ft on either side was meant for greenery.

of the nala, whenever lying areas in Alwal, tanks upstream at Alwal overflow, the excess water flows Hasmathpet tank. The nala has now shrunk to 30 ft, and, at a few stretches in Many high-rises have

worst affected. the often.

Sarovar Heights flows in a small roof drain, lead-Cantonment, to 8-10 ft. ing to road blockades

the file on hold. As the hall encroached nearly officials government remained silent on the As the Telangana statematter for four years, encroachments have increased.

come up on the nala land. With the nala having narrowed down, many localities in the catchment get inundated dur-As per the engineering ing heavy rain, with low-Cantonment, Bowenpally and Balanagar being

a Overflow from

Awal tanks goes

III Jasinather

SITUREO 8-10 ft

at a few places.

tank. He nala las

The nala near Manasa

Manasa Sarovar Heights' welfare association secretary Usha said they would launch a protest to protect the lake.







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Cauvery protest 7-/8

Deccan Herald



MDMK chief Vaiko and others leaders block a railway track in Chennai on Monday. Farmers and Opposition parties in Tamil Nadu want the Centre to constitute the Cauvery Management Board immediately. PTI

दिनाकं को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi) ਗੁਕੁਆਦਰ ਟਾਡ੍ਰੇਸ਼ਦਾ (ਫ਼ਿਲ੍ਗੀ) The Tribune (Chandigarh) The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati) The Times of India (Mumbai) The Telegraph (Kolkata) हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

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

Water release from Mettur cut by 6,000 cusecs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

in the Mettur Dam fast depleting and the Karnataka government deciding to close down the sluices of both Krishnaraja Sagar and Kabini reservoirs, the Public Works Department on Sunday brought down the volume of water released for the samba crop in delta districts.

The release of water, which stood at 18,000 cusecs on Sunday morning, was brought down to 16,000 cusecs by 8 a.m. and to 12,000 cusecs by 10 a.m.

The State government,

which had pegged the release of water at 12,000 cusecs since the sluices of Stanley Reservoir were opened on September 29, had stepped up the discharge to 18,000 cusecs only on Thursday (October 13), following persistent demands from the delta farmers who complained that the water had not reached the tail-end areas even after three weeks.

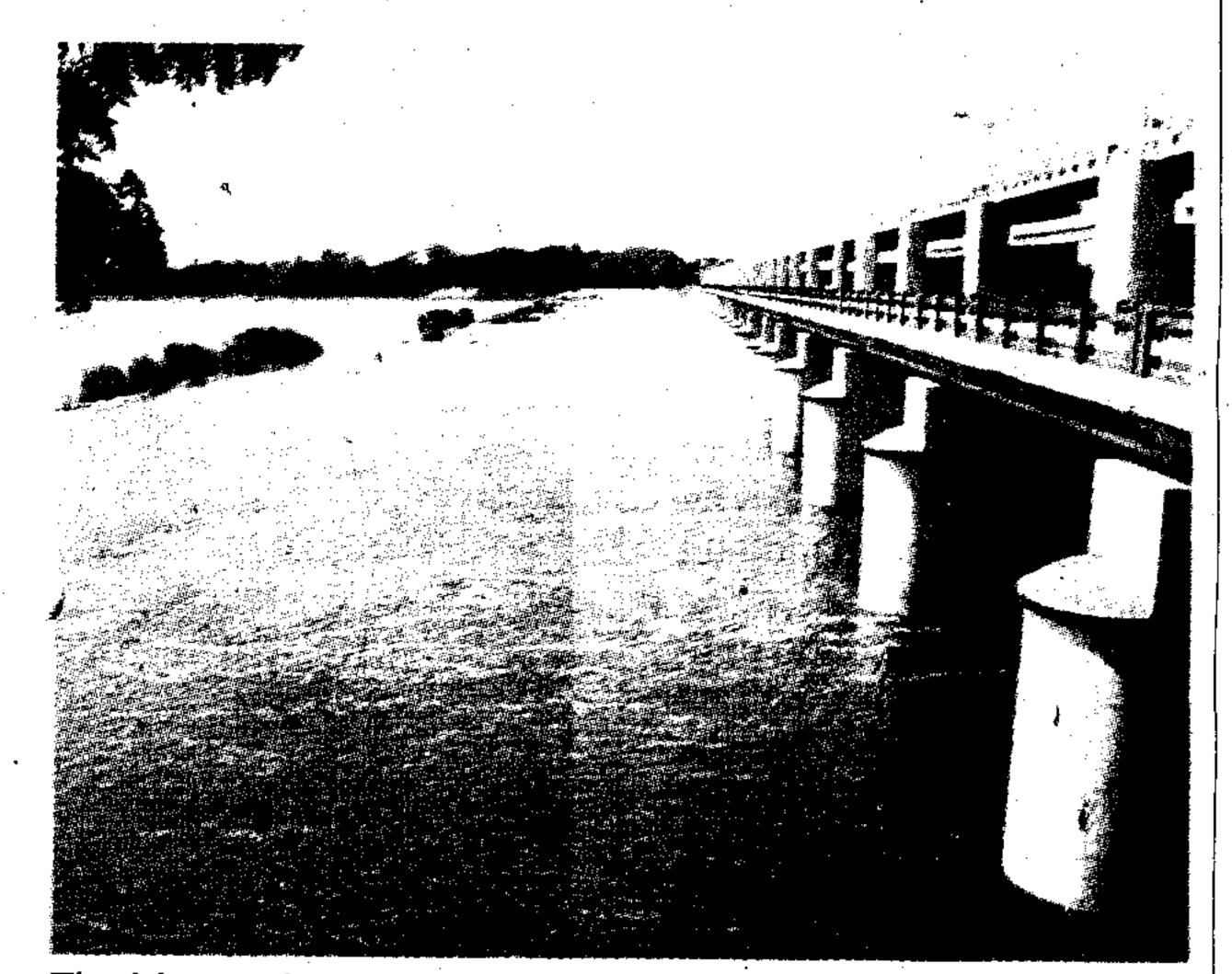
Meanwhile, the dam registered an increased realisation of water in river Cauvery on Sunday. The inflow into the dam which stood at 3,521 cusecs on Saturday, rose to 7,051 cusecs.

The increased inflow is due to the reported heavy downpour in the catchment areas of river Cauvery.

With Karnataka government closing down the Krishnaraja Sagar and Kabini reservoirs on Saturday, the inflow is expected to come down in the days to come, much to the concern of the farmers and official machinery alike.

The water level in the dam stood at 64.65 feet on Sunday, against its full level of 120 feet.

The storage level was 28.273 tmc against the dam's full capacity of 93.47 tmc, PWD sources said.



The Mettur dam registered an increased realisation of water in the Cauvery on Sunday. — FILE PHOTO

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दिनाक्न को निम्निस्रित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Drought in 4th straight year saw huge cut in productivity

90 Lakh Of State's 1.36Cr Farmers Hit

Bhavika.Jain@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Farmers across Maharashtra have made insurance claims worth Rs 862 crore against crop losses suffered during the rabi season. This payout will be the highest since 1999.

The insurance payout for the kharif season in 2015-16 of Rs 4,208 crore was the highest since 1999.

For the rabi season of 2015-16, a total of 34.26 lakh farmers had opted for insurance of crops on a total area of 25.25 lakh hectares, insuring crops worth Rs 2,858 crore. However, total claims worth Rs 862 crore have been approved by the centrally appointed agricul-

WAITING FOR RELIEF		
	Compensation under insurance claims	Farmers benefitted
	RABI 2015-2016 ₹862 crore	MA
	RABI 2014-2015 ₹210 crore	6.84 lakh
	RABI 2013-14 ₹14 crore	0.68 lakh
	RABI 2012-13 ₹565 crore	9.01 lakh
	RABI 2011-12 ₹135 crore	2.83 lakh

tural insurance company. Rs 400 crore each will be shared by the state and the Central government towards the payout, while Rs 62 crore is the premium paid by the farmers.

The National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is a Central scheme under which premium is fixed depending on the crop that is being insured. Only a small percentage of the total premium is paid by the farmer; the remaining is pooled in by the state and the Centre.

"The claims against losses for the last season were exceptionally high as the agriculture sector was going through a low period due to the fourth consecutive year of drought," said a senior official.

Due to the severe drought situation in the state, there has been a reduction in both the area under cultivation during the rabi season and agricultural productivity. A total of 62.44 lakh hectares were available for cultivation this year. But data made available by the agriculture department shows only 77.49% of the total land was cultivated during the rabi season. Overall production of all crops came down by 17%, while per hectare productivity reduced by 25%. In 2015-16, almost 70% of the state was drought-affected, which includes over 28,000 villages and 90 lakh of the 1.36 crore farmers in the state.