



More than 500 deaths due to debt, crop failure, say officials

# Number of farmer suicides in Marathwada crosses 800 mark

## Govt picks Osmanabad for zero suicide plan, seven other districts to follow suit

**MANOJ MORE**

OSMANABAD, NEW DELHI,  
OCTOBER 17

WITH THE number of farmer suicides in Marathwada crossing 800-mark in 10 months of this year, the Maharashtra government has picked Osmanabad, one of the worst-affected districts, for its "zero suicide" plan.

To achieve the objective, the government has launched a slew of measures in Osmanabad which would be replicated subsequently in other seven affected districts of Marathwada. Osmanabad is one of the three worst-affected districts of Marathwada region. The other two are Beed and Nanded. By the end of last month, all three districts saw over 100 suicides, with Beed crossing the 150-mark.

Of the total 807 suicides by farmers, at least 294 are not related to crop failure or rising debt of farmers, say district officials. "But yes, as many as 513 deaths are due to indebtedness and crop failure caused by poor rains. Nearly 294 suicides have taken place due to various reasons, including illness or family disputes. In some cases, it was found they did not qualify as farmers. This emerged in a survey carried out by a team of officials," Divisional Commissioner Umakant Dhangat said.

Almost every week over the past 10 months, the Marathwada region has seen suicides by farmers, sometimes the number being as high as 30 a week. This has prompted the government to initiate strong steps, including designating Osmanabad as the "model district" where it plans to bring down number of farmer suicides to "almost zero" in the next few months and then subsequently replicate the plan in

other districts.

As the first step, officials have launched "mass counselling movement" of farmers and their families.

"This is being done by appointing committees at taluka-level. The committee members have to locate farmers in distress and start their counselling immediately. It primarily includes updating them about availability of government schemes whether it concerns improving farm yield or loan from nationalised banks at lower interest rates than those offered by money-lenders," said Dhangat.

District officials are also holding public meetings in villages where well-to-do villagers are urged to identify those in distress and guide them to government counselling centres or nearby government departments. The officials are also reaching the door-step of the farming community to understand the travails they face in their everyday life.

Significantly, stress is also being laid on working on the mental aspects of farmers.

The officials under National Health Mission try to first understand the trauma the farmers are facing and then advise them how to cope with it.

Another significant step the state government has taken is to launch the Vasantrao Naik Swawlambhi Shetkari Mission. It has roped a prominent activist from Vidarbha, Kishore Tiwari, to head the mission. "The mission has an express purpose to make farmers self-reliant, help them face vagaries of nature and free them from the clutches of money-lenders and the vicious cycle of debt," he said.

Tiwari said the government was working at multiple levels to reduce the spiralling cases of farmer suicides.

# Dwarka seeks water body tag for recharge sites

**Ritam Halder**

ritam.halder@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The residents of Dwarka have taken up the cudgels to ensure that two natural groundwater recharge sites in the area get water body status in the records of Delhi government and the Delhi Development Authority.

The two natural groundwater recharge sites are in sector 20 and 23, respectively.

Delhi has 1,000-odd water bodies, including village ponds, marshes, lakes and step wells, according to records available with the Delhi government.

Activists say about 80% of these have been gobbled up by encroachments and urbanisation.

According to activist Diwan Singh, who is also a member of Dwarka Water Bodies Committee, the residents under the banner of Sukh Dukh Ke Saathi have taken up this cause to make sure that these water bodies act as natural groundwater recharge sites in this corner of the city.

"We are moving with our efforts to get the sites in Sector 20 and 23 in records of the DDA and Delhi government as water bodies so that due budget alloca-

tion, and other works are processed in a proper, systematic manner," Singh said.

According to Singh, on October 13, the Dwarka tehsildar visited the water bodies with officials of the DDA. "The tehsildar has asked DDA to initiate the process for demarcation of water bodies so that the process for their inclusion in records can be finalised. This week, a Central Ground Water Authority official also visited the sites. He took note on how the performance of these water bodies can be improved further and would write to the Union Water Resource Ministry," the

activist said.

Three years back, in 2011-12, an environmental group led by Diwan Singh did a survey of ponds in 50 villages in and around Dwarka region. It was found that all these water bodies were nearly dead. Of the 183, 93 were dry, 63 had sewage in them and the rest were filled up artificially for animal husbandry purposes.

The development comes at a time when the national capital's water bodies are vanishing due to apathy of authorities concerned, being used as garbage dumping sites or maintained poorly.

# Cauvery water collected for Amaravathi

**SRIRANGAPATNA (MANDYA DIST):** A team led by Hindupur MP Nimmala Krishnappa from Andhra Pradesh visited the town on Saturday to collect soil and water from River Cauvery for the foundation laying ceremony of Amaravathi, the new capital of Andhra Pradesh scheduled on October 22.

The MP said that Amaravathi, the new capital city of

Andhra Pradesh, is coming up on 30,000 acres of land near Vijayawada and dignitaries, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are participating in the foundation laying ceremony.

“Each MP of the bifurcated State has been entrusted with collecting sacred water from various rivers in the nation — Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra,

etc—for the ceremony,” he said.


The panchaloha (alloy of five metals) pot with Cauvery water and a handful of sand from the riverbed were placed near Sangama and religious rituals were conducted under the guidance of Somasekhar, the priest of Kanipaka Varasiddi Vinayaka Temple in Chittoor district.


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NAVBHARAT TIMES

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## Drought declared in 34% of Maharashtra

Priyanka Kakodkar, TNN | Oct 16, 2015, 07:22PM IST

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MUMBAI: The Maharashtra government has declared a "drought-like condition" in 14,708 of the state's 43,000 villages. This means the drought covers 34% of the state.

This is the second successive year of drought in Maharashtra. In fact, the state has experienced three such calamities in the last four years.

The region of Marathwada has been worst-hit, with a drought-like condition declared in every single village. As many as 8,522 villages in the region have been impacted. This accounts for 58% of the drought area in the state.

North Maharashtra which includes Nasik and Jalgaon districts follows next with 4,869 villages impacted. This accounts for 33% of the drought area. The region of Konkan has been spared, with not a single village affected by the calamity. The Konkan region experienced a plentiful monsoon this year.

"We have declared a drought-like condition earlier than usual. It is usually declared in December after a final assessment of crop loss," said state revenue minister Eknath Khadse, responding to the Opposition's criticism that the state was not taking the crisis seriously.

The state can declare a drought-like condition only after an assessment of crop yield. Villages where the harvest is less than half the average yield come under this category.

The government has announced a series of measures for drought-affected farmers including the waiver of land revenue and school fees for their children and a 33% waiver in the bill amount of agricultural pumps. The government has also said it will provide water tankers in scarcity-prone villages and take steps not to disconnect agricultural pumps.

So far, Rs 920 crores has been provided for drought relief, of which Rs 556 crores has come from the Centre. Another Rs 556 crores is expected from the government, officials said.

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Global forecasts point at a mild winter this year

Amit Bhattacharya, TNN | Oct 18, 2015, 12.00AM IST

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NEW DELHI: Winter this year is expected to be mild over most parts of the country with above-normal average temperatures, according to global climate forecasts and projections at a south Asian climate conference that concluded in Chennai on Thursday.

Experts gathered at the first Winter South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (Win-Soscof) released a consensus statement that also predicted above normal winter monsoon rainfall in Tamil Nadu in the October-December period. The state receives most of its rainfall during this period.

"During the season, normal to above normal temperatures are likely over most parts of the region," the statement added.

It noted the continuing presence of El Nino conditions over the Pacific Ocean which are known to strengthen the northeast monsoon circulation and enhance rainfall over the region. "El Nino conditions are also known to cause above normal temperatures over the region," the statement said.

The conference would issue another forecast for the December-February period in November. "There was consensus among experts from the nine attending nations that the December to February period is likely to witness above normal temperatures," said B P Yadav, director, India Met Department.

The projections are consistent with seasonal forecasts from major international weather agencies. The long range forecast map issued by European agency ECMWF for November-January period shows average temperatures 1-2 degrees above normal over most of India, barring southern TN and the northeast.

Such seasonal predictions give an average temperature anomaly for the entire period. That means, although there could be cold spells during the season but the average temperatures over the period would be above normal.

However, Yadav said, "While most models show a mild winter this year in India, the season is still a few months away. Forecasts with such long lead times have less accuracy."

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» TODAY'S PAPER » NATIONAL

Published: October 17, 2015 00:00 IST | Updated: October 17, 2015 05:48 IST KOCHI, October 17, 2015

## HC comes to the rescue of Pampa

• [K.C. Gopakumar](#)



Discarding of clothes into the river by Sabarimala pilgrims will be considered an offence.

Concerned at the aggravation of the pollution of the Pampa, a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Friday ordered that throwing of clothes and other belongings into the river by the Sabarimala pilgrims be considered an offence under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act.

It directed that those acting to the contrary should be proceeded against under the provisions of the Act.

The Bench comprising Justice Thottathil B. Radhakrishnan and Justice Anu Sivaraman, while dealing with a case relating to the affairs of the Sabarimala temple, observed that abundant materials before the court and various reports of the State Pollution Control Board and other agencies categorically showed beyond the shadow of doubt that the river was being constantly polluted.

Discarding of huge quantities of clothes and other belongings had aggravated pollution of the river.

The court pointed out that there was absolutely no practice or religious tenets which advised a person, after having darshan at the temple, to discard the clothes and other belongings which he worn into the river. Therefore, no such practice could be permitted under “the camouflage” of freedom of practice of religion under Article 25 of the Constitution.

The court said Section 24 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act prohibited dumping of materials into a stream or a river which impeded the flow of its waters.

The discarding of clothes or any material or other personal belongings — biodegradable or not — into the waters of the Pampa by any person amounted to violation of Section 24 and the person doing it could be proceeded against. The section prescribed a prison term of a year-and-a-half.

Those who advised pilgrims to discard clothes into the river could be proceeded against for the offence of abetment under Section 109 of the IPC.

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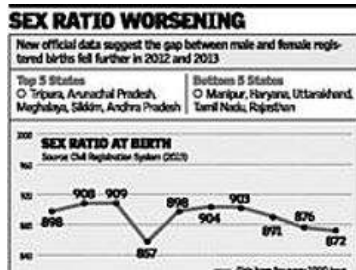
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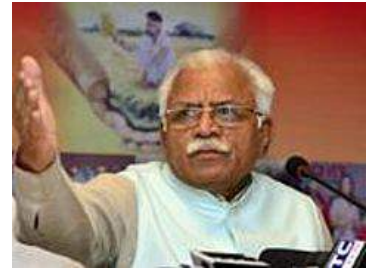
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MUMBAI, October 19, 2015

## HC pulls up Maharashtra for Kumbh water release

• [Rahi Gaikwad](#)

*Division Bench questions the decision as the State is reeling under drought*

Water supply cuts have started at Shankarnagar in Nashik city. Till a week ago, Rajendra Jadhav, a resident says, there was supply through taps twice a day, for two hours each time. Now, it's just once a day. About 15 km away, in Niphad taluk, grape-grower Vasudeo Kathe's orchard runs the risk of ruin for want of water.

These areas are supplied water from the Gangapur dam, which is located 10 km from Nashik. The Maharashtra government let out water from the dam for 'Shahi Snan' (a royal bath) at the Kumbh Mela held recently in Nashik. The decision came under criticism from the Bombay High Court, which questioned the wisdom of water release for holy dip in the Godavari, when the State was reeling under drought.

Last week, the court directed the Chief Secretary to examine the legalities of the decision, which went against the government's water policy that prioritised water release for drinking and domestic use and sanitation.

A Division Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and V.L. Achliya, in a September 22 order on a public interest litigation petition filed by Professor H.M. Desarda, said: "The State government was insensitive to the needs of common people in the drought-affected areas who have to travel long distances every day to fetch drinking water...What is shocking is that for washing away the dirt created in the river by the 'holy bath,' a substantial quantum of water will have to be released from the Gangapur dam."

In another order earlier, the Bench asked the government to adopt "a sensitive and scientific approach to saving water" and "revisit the entire issue in the light of the fact that the water which will satisfy the basic needs of lakhs of citizens is being diverted for 'Shahi Snan'."

The holy bath at Nashik Kumbh took place on August 29 and September 13 and 18. Of the 4.5 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water reserved for Nashik city during 2015-2016, 5.15 per cent or 0.232 TMC was released for the event on the three days. The government maintained that if enough water had not been released, a law and order situation would have arisen. "The Godavari is not a perennial river. If lakhs of people come on their own, it is the State's responsibility to provide them water for bathing," Nashik Collector Deependra Singh Kushwah told *The Hindu*.

"The [government's water] policy also says water can be used for 'other purposes.' Moreover, the water that was released has not been wasted. It will go to the lower Godavari basin. The actual amount of water released was much less than what was sanctioned. In fact, the High Court itself had previously ordered that clean water be provided to the devotees," Mr. Kushwah said. Details apart, it was the government's flawed thinking that drew the court's ire. The criticism was also timely, as last Friday, the government declared drought in 14,708 villages. The 'Shahi Snan' is a pointer to the more pressing issue of inequitable water distribution, experts say.

"It was silly to release water for Kumbh. Why not do 'Shahi Snan' symbolically by putting a bit of water on the head," asked water expert Vijay Diwan. The suggestion was not well received by the spiritually inclined. "Let's see what happens in future. The government has to provide water for the bath. It is our *dharmik parampara* [religious tradition]. God will fill up the river with twice the amount of water," Mahant Dharamdasji of Shri Nirvani Ani Akhara, told *The Hindu*.



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- अधिक सूखा
- भूमि जल स्तर में गिरावट
- समुद्र जल स्तर का बढ़ना - खारे पानी का प्रवेश

## अप्रत्यक्ष प्रभाव

- खाद्य सुरक्षा को खतरा
- कम कृषि/फसल उत्पादन
- औद्योगिक उत्पादन पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव
- जल गुणवत्ता में कमी

## सहायक कारक

- सतही/भूमि जल संसाधनों का अंधाधुंध उपयोग
- जल निकायों में प्रदूषण
- रसायनों, फर्टिलाइजर और कीटनाशकों का अत्यधिक उपयोग
- अकुशल सिंचाई पद्धतियाँ
- वनों का कम होना

## संस्तुत पद्धतियाँ

- जल के अपव्यय को कम करना

## केन्द्र सरकार की स्कीमों और कार्यक्रम

प्रधानमंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना-





- स्प्रिंकलर/ड्रिप सिंचाई का उपयोग
- वर्षा जल संवयन
- भागीदारी सिंचाई प्रबंधन
- अपशिष्ट जल परिशोधन और उसका पुनः प्रयोग
- औद्योगिक बहिर्वाह का परिशोधन और तरल रहित (जीरो लिक्विड) निस्सरण
- वृक्षारोपण

- त्वरित सिंचाई लाभ कार्यक्रम (एआईबीपी)
- कमान क्षेत्र विकास (सीएडी)
- जल निकायों की मरम्मत, नवीकरण एवं पुनरुद्धार
- वृहत एवं मध्यम सिंचाई परियोजनाएं : लघु सिंचाई परियोजनाएं
- अनुसंधान एवं विकास स्कीम
- बाढ़ प्रबंधन कार्यक्रम
- बांध पुनरुद्धार एवं सुधार परियोजना (डीआरआईपी)
- राष्ट्रीय जलभृत (एक्वीफर) प्रबंधन कार्यक्रम
- जल संसाधन सूचना प्रणाली का विकास
- नमामि गंगे — एकीकृत गंगा संरक्षण मिशन
- राष्ट्रीय जल मिशन का कार्यान्वयन
- नदियों को परस्पर जोड़ना
- जल क्रांति अभियान
- राष्ट्रीय जल विज्ञान परियोजना





Published: October 17, 2015 00:31 IST | Updated: October 17, 2015 02:38 IST MUMBAI, October 17, 2015

## Maharashtra declares drought-like condition

- Special Correspondent



Vivek Bendre

A file photo of drought affected Maharashtra in 2013.

The Maharashtra government on Friday declared a 'drought-like condition' in 14,708 of the 43,000 villages which received less than 50 per cent average rainfall between June and July.

It has announced a series of measures for drought-affected farmers, including the waiver of land revenue and school fees for their children and a 33 per cent waiver in the bill amount of agricultural pumps.

It would provide water tankers in scarcity-prone villages and would ask the State power distribution utility not to disconnect power supply to agriculture pumps.

The Marathwada region has been most affected, with a drought-like condition declared in as many as 8,522 villages in the region.

The Nasik and Jalgaon districts of north Maharashtra have also been severely affected.

Revenue Minister Eknath Khadse said the government had declared a drought-like condition earlier than usual as it was normally declared after an assessment of crop-yields in December. Villages, where the harvest was less than half the average yield would then be declared drought-hit.

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Printable version | Oct 19, 2015 4:03:43 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/maharashtra-declares-droughtlike-condition/article7771052.ece>

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दिनांक 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times ( Delhi )

भारत 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 )

## 20 अक्टूबर को फिर हो सकती है बारिश

■ स, नई दिल्ली : दिल्ली में एक बार फिर बारिश होने की संभावना है। मौसम विभाग ने 20 अक्टूबर को बारिश होने की उम्मीद जताई है। शुक्रवार को मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर 35.3 डिग्री दर्ज किया गया, जो नॉर्मल से दो डिग्री ज्यादा है। वहीं मिनिमम टेंपरेचर 21.8 डिग्री रहा। मौसम विभाग ने अपने बुलेटिन में कहा कि शनिवार को बादल छा सकते हैं और मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर 35 डिग्री और मिनिमम टेंपरेचर 22 डिग्री रहने का अनुमान है। शुक्रवार को मैक्सिमम ह्यूमिडिटी 91 पर्सेंट दर्ज की गई। मौसम वैज्ञानिकों ने कहा कि मिनिमम टेंपरेचर में गिरावट हो सकती है। वेस्टर्न डिस्टर्बेंस की वजह से मौसम के पैटर्न में बदलाव दर्ज हो रहा है।

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.

## दिल्ली को बारिश से मिलेगी राहत

■ नगर संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली में सोमवार और मंगलवार को हल्की बारिश होने की संभावना है। जिससे एक बार फिर दिल्ली और आसपास के इलाकों में मौसम सुहावना बन जाएगा। मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर भी गिरने के आसार हैं। मौसम वैज्ञानिकों का दावा है कि बारिश के साथ आंधी भी चल सकती है। मौसम विभाग ने अपने बुलेटिन में कहा कि संडे को आसमान में बादल छाए रह सकते हैं। सुबह के समय मौसम में नमी लोगों को महसूस हो सकती है क्योंकि धुंध छाने की

संभावना है। साथ ही मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर 35 डिग्री और मिनिमम टेंपरेचर 23 डिग्री रहने का अनुमान है।

शनिवार को दिन भर मौसम का मिजाज सामान्य रहा। दोपहर के समय धूप निकली और हल्की गर्मी भी महसूस हुई। मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर नॉर्मल से दो डिग्री ज्यादा के साथ 34.6 डिग्री दर्ज हुआ। वहीं मिनिमम टेंपरेचर नॉर्मल से दो डिग्री ज्यादा के साथ 22.6 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज हुआ। शनिवार को मैक्सिमम ह्यूमिडिटी का स्तर 91 पसेंट दर्ज हुआ। इसका मिनिमम लेवल 49 पसेंट रहा। मौसम वैज्ञानिकों के मुताबिक दिल्ली में

बीते दो दिनों से ह्यूमिडिटी का लेवल काफी ज्यादा बढ़ा है।

मौसम वैज्ञानिकों ने कहा है कि आने वाले एक हफ्ते में बादल छाए रह सकते हैं। स्काईमेट के मौसम वैज्ञानिक महेश पलावत ने कहा कि वेस्टर्न डिस्टर्बेंस की वजह से मौसम के पैटर्न में बदलाव होगा। साथ ही 25 से 26 अक्टूबर को भी बारिश होने की संभावना है। मौजूदा मॉडल्स से जानकारी मिली है कि इन दोनों दिनों में भी वेस्टर्न डिस्टर्बेंस का असर नॉर्थ इंडिया में रहेगा। इस दौरान आंधी भी चल सकती है। इस हफ्ते सुबह के समय धुंध छा सकती है।

नं०-18-10-15

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.

## State to meet Nariman on Mahadayi water release

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said the State government will consult senior counsel Fali S Nariman on filing an interim application before the Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal. A delegation will meet Nariman after October 23.

Addressing the media in Bengaluru, after an all-party meeting, Siddaramaiah said that a consensus had been arrived at to seek Nariman's opinion before filing the appeal seeking diversion of 7.56 tmc ft of water from Mahadayi river to Malaprabha river, as a temporary relief.

"An all-party team will be taken to meet Nariman. The government could have invited him to the State, but given his old age, it was decided that we should call on him" he said.

Siddaramaiah dismissed queries regarding the possibil-



**Chief Minister Siddaramaiah chairs a meeting on Mahadayi issue in Bengaluru on Saturday. Law Minister T B Jayachandra, Irrigation Minister M B Patil, Opposition leader Jagadish Shettar, JD(S) leader Kumaraswamy and BJP leader K S Eshwarappa are seen. DH PHOTO**

ity of another meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The matter didn't come up for discussion. The meeting's only agenda was to discuss the pros and cons of filing an interim application," he added.

Sources said Kumaraswamy brought up the issue of meet-

ing Modi. But leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Jagadish Shettar, shot down the suggestion.

The leaders also discussed the possibilities of filing an interim application seeking 3 tmc ft of water, instead of 7.56 tmc.

Sources said Nariman, who was opposed to filing an interim application, had suggested that Karnataka should consider seeking 3 tmc ft of water, given the urgency of the situation.

Though Nariman's suggestion is acceptable to the government, the Opposition parties, especially the JD(S), are opposed to settling for a smaller share of water.

Before the meeting, JD(S) MLC Basavaraj Horatti told the media that his party would oppose the proposal to seek 3 tmc of water. "We will agree only if the government files the application seeking 7.56 tmc water," he added.