

Cabinet gives Clean Ganga Mission power to fine polluters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE: The bulk of the river cleaning projects involve setting up of sewage treatment plants, installing trash skimmers and beautifying the ghats.

— FILE PHOTO: AFP

This will help us tackle 22 drains responsible for 90% of pollution of river, says Uma Bharti

The Union Cabinet has approved changes allowing the National Mission for Clean Ganga to fine those responsible for polluting the river. Earlier this power was vested solely with the Central Pollution Control Board.

“We wanted powers of the Environment Protection Act,” said Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti. “This will help us tackle 22 drains responsible for 90% of the pollution of the river.”

The Rs. 20,000-crore National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is among the flagship initiatives of the government and though at least 230 projects have been sanctioned this year there is very little progress on the ground in various States along the river such as Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Uttarakhand among others. The bulk of the river cleaning projects involve setting up of sewage treatment plants, installing trash skimmers and beautifying the ghats.

Registered society

The NMCG has been a registered society since 2012 and its role is largely to fund projects to implementing organisations. It didn’t have legal powers to “tackle various threats” or issue directions to polluters. “The mission was grossly ill-equipped to handle such expectations,” said a press note by the Water Ministry accompanying the Union Cabinet order.

The NMCG, which now has the status of an Authority, will have a two-tier management structure with a governing council to be chaired by a Director General. There will also be State-level committees.

“A key focus of the authority will be maintaining required ecological flows in the Ganga with the aim of ensuring water quality and environmentally sustainable development,” said Ms. Bharti.

India in the throes of a water war

ON FIRE Disputes over sharing of resource have led to strikes and deaths, the latest being the Cauvery row

HT SPECIAL

Chetan Chauhan

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NEW DELHI: Last year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change told policy makers that by 2050, most countries will be fighting over water.

Barely a year later, India is already witnessing deaths, strikes and incidents of self-immolation over sharing of the natural resource between its constituent states. Karnataka has been on the boil ever since SC ordered that it release Cauvery water to neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

Odisha called for a bandh in August to protest against Chhattisgarh's projects on Mahanadi, a river shared by the two states, forcing Centre to intervene. Punjab, for its part, has refused to provide Sutlej water to Haryana despite an SC order, resulting in a public spat between the NDA-led governments of Parkash Singh Badal and Manohar Lal Khattar.

The genesis of the rising water disputes, however, lies in the unclear and overlapping Indian water law that allows states to exercise absolute territorial power over water flowing through their territories and politics that incentivises water wastage.

In the Constitution, water is a state subject that allows excess use of water without consulting lower riparian states. In such a scenario, the Centre can only redress conflicts with limited powers of arbitration. At best, it can appoint an inter-state water tribunal whose order can be challenged in the Supreme Court—leading to a long-drawn judicial battle. The Cauvery dispute first landed in the apex court in the 1950s, and

the Sutlej water-sharing dispute between Punjab and Haryana has been languishing there since 1975.

There is another dimension to this problem that gets overlooked. Many states promote water-intensive crops that gulp down the limited natural resource. For instance, the cultivation of pulses in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka has more than doubled in the last 20 years, and this is spurring farmer protests over sharing of Cauvery water.

"Our agriculture economy wastes more water than it conserves," says Himanshu Thakkar, an independent water expert. "We have invested billions in dams and irrigation networks, but very little on water conservation."

India has seen three droughts in the last 10 years (the most for a decade in the last 150 years), and the situation will only worsen due to climate change. Terming 54% of India as "water-stressed", a 2015 World Resources Institute report said: "Almost 600 million people are at higher risk of surface-water supply disruptions."

Vandana Shiva of Navdanya, a non-government advocacy group, has written on how water is being "abused" and "overused" in India. To illustrate her point, she cites how the amount of water used to produce a quintal of farm produce in India is the highest in the world.

There is a solution to this quandary, but it would require harsh and politically difficult decision-making. The erstwhile Planning Commission, in its 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) report, recommended putting a price on every drop of water, scrapping power subsidy for pumping ground water, and providing incentives for water conservation and reuse. Sadly, it still remains a recommendation.

(With inputs from state bureaus)



WATER WARS IN FEDERAL INDIA

More and more states are fighting with one another over sharing of river water—a lifeline for India's farm sector employing more than 60% of the population. Here is a primer on how water is disrupting relations among states



Charred remains of buses torched by pro-Kannada activists during their protests over the Cauvery row.

PTI FILE

1 SUTLEJ-YAMUNA LINK CANAL

Punjab vs Haryana

The Punjab Re-organisation Act, 1966, provided for river water sharing between Punjab and Haryana. Work on a canal linking Sutlej with Western Yamuna canal was stopped in 1990. The SC may soon advise the President on a 2004 decision of Punjab to abrogate all water-sharing deals with Haryana. It's likely to become a poll issue.

2 MAHANADI RIVER

Odisha vs Chhattisgarh

In this four-decade-old dispute, Odisha accuses Chhattisgarh of depriving Hirakud dam of water through the construction of reservoirs along the Mahanadi. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has politicised the issue by accusing Chhattisgarh's BJP government of denying the state its rightful share of water. He even staged a walk-out in the monsoon session of Lok Sabha.

3 KRISHNA RIVER

Telangana vs neighbours

Newly formed Telangana wants the Central Water Tribunal to revise water allocation from Krishna river to Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and itself. Karnataka, Maharashtra have opposed the move, saying the AP Reorganisation Act calls for sharing of Krishna water already allocated to Andhra Pradesh between the two Telugu states. Telangana's plea is currently in court.

4 CAUVERY RIVER

Karnataka vs Tamil Nadu

Karnataka claims the British-era Cauvery agreement does not give the state its due share of water. However, Tamil Nadu says it needs more to sustain the increase in agricultural activities. A recent SC verdict ordering the release of water to Tamil Nadu resulted in widespread violence across Karnataka.

5 BHAVANI RIVER

Tamil Nadu vs Kerala

Tamil Nadu is resisting Kerala's move to build a dam across Siruvani river near Attapadi, stating that it will deprive Coimbatore city of drinking water and affect farmers in three districts. Kerala, however, is entitled to 6 tmc of water as per the Cauvery agreement. The two states are in a deadlock over the issue.

6 GODAVARI RIVER

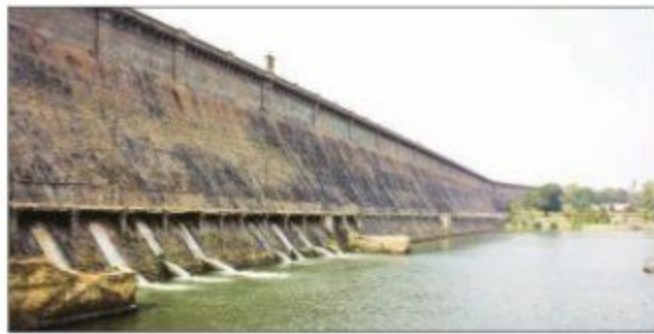
Odisha & Chhattisgarh vs Andhra Pradesh

Odisha and Chhattisgarh are opposing construction of the multi-purpose Polavaram Dam in Andhra Pradesh, claiming that 10,000 villages in the two states will be submerged due to the project. However, the Chandrababu Naidu government has denied the charge. The case is still in Supreme Court.

The fight over the Cauvery: questions of economy and culture

SIMPLY PUT

A day after SC ordered Karnataka to release 6,000 cusecs to TN daily until Sept 27, all parties met in Bengaluru, and the state Cabinet was mulling options on the way ahead



The Krishna Raja Sagar was the first dam to be built on the Karnataka side. Thinkstock

Historical grievances and shrinking incomes

JOHNSONTA
BENGALURU

IN A letter written on July 6, 1915, Sir M Visweswaraya, the then Diwan of Mysore and the master engineer who built the Krishna Raja Sagar dam, noted: "The whole area irrigated under the Cauvery System in Mysore at present is about 115,000 acres only against a corresponding area of 12,25,500 acres in Madras...". Over the years, the fact that a larger agricultural area in Tamil Nadu is dependent on the Cauvery, has played a key role in determining how the waters of the river should be split among the two states.

Agriculture in the Cauvery delta region of Thanjavur and Tiruchirappalli began more than 2,000 years ago. "It is said that a Chola king constructed the Grand Anicut... which formed a great irrigation system in Thanjavur district in the first century AD," said the Cauvery River Water Disputes Tribunal.

At the turn of the present century, irrigation in the Cauvery basin in what is now Karnataka was carried out mainly through diversions of rivers, and tanks. "Since there was no reservoir, the waters of Cauvery and its tributaries like Kabini, Hemavathy, Harangi, Suvarnavathy, used to pass through the State of Mysore but their ultimate destination was the delta area of the then State of Madras," the Tribunal said.

As a result of this historical skew, TN has always had access to the lion's share of waters — at the beginning of the 20th century, only around 138 thousand million cubic (TMC) feet out of the river's total yield, estimated at 740 TMC ft at 50% dependability, was available to Karnataka. In 1924, the states signed an agreement allowing TN to expand irrigation by 11 lakh acres to 27 lakh acres, and Karnataka by 7 lakh acres to 10 lakh acres over the agreement's 50-year life.

Up to 1974, however, Mysore/Karnataka was able to develop only 6,824 lakh acres — a fallout, it claimed, of the unfavourable terms of the 1924 agreement. As the 50-year period progressed, it set about building more irrigation projects in addition to the Krishna Raja Sagar dam (1928) to use the river's waters.

The new projects gave rise to the dispute with TN over the sharing of waters, resulting eventually in the setting up of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in 1990. In its final order on February 5, 2007, the Tribunal awarded 419 TMC ft out of 740 TMC ft to Tamil Nadu, 270 TMC ft to Karnataka, 30 TMC

ft to Kerala and 7 TMC ft to Pondicherry. The remaining 14 TMC ft was reserved for environmental protection and outflow to sea.

Nearly 29 lakh acres of paddy crop in TN and an estimated 14 lakh acres of paddy and semi-dry crops in Karnataka are currently dependent on Cauvery water. Karnataka farmers have traditionally resented the fact that their TN counterparts grow 3 paddy crops a year while they have to be satisfied with 1 and, if there is water left in the dams after release to TN, a second, less water-intensive crop.

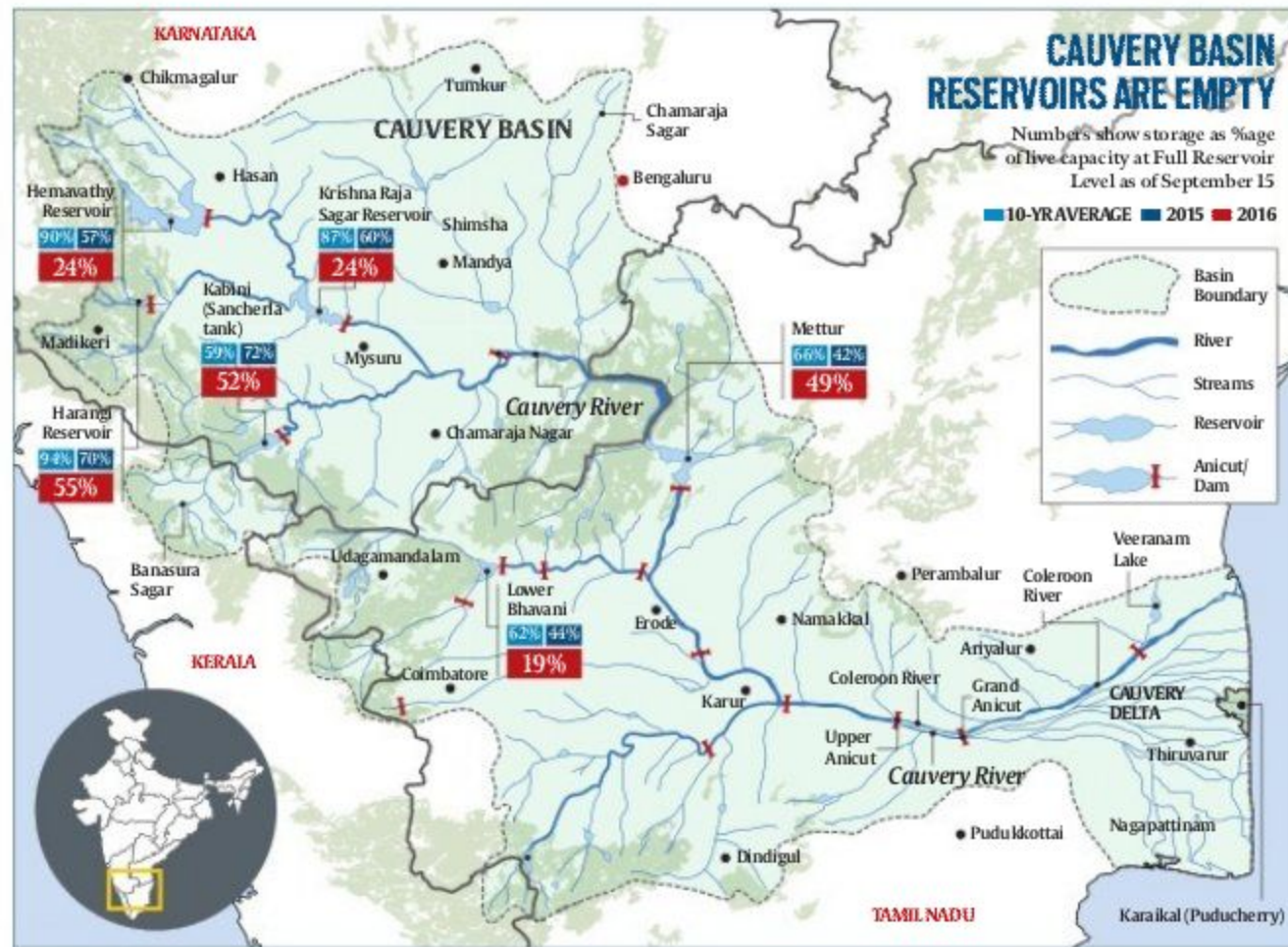
"For the paddy farmer in Mandya (Karnataka) the agricultural season begins in June-July, ends by November. In recent years he has had only 1 crop, unlike in Tamil Nadu where 2 or 3 crops are assured every year," said Rudrapa Gowda, a paddy farmer in Mike revillage. If all goes well, Rudrapa can expect each acre of paddy to yield about Rs 30,000. But after all that he has to spend, he is left with only about Rs 5,000 for himself.

"It is difficult being a farmer here. Most homes are sending children to work in the city, with only one person staying back in the village. At this rate there will be no rice farmers left in Karnataka," he said.

The Cauvery Tribunal did not sympathise with the grievance of Karnataka farmers. "It is admitted that water was being utilised by Tamil Nadu for second crop for many decades. Considering the fact that it was being utilised for second crop, we think it proper to permit Tamil Nadu to use water for second crop, if surplus water is available..." it said in 2007.

Agriculture experts have pointed to the refusal of farmers in both states to move towards cultivating less water-intensive but profitable crops even in the drier years. "Almost all irrigated areas are growing paddy. In unirrigated areas, ragi is the predominant crop. If the Kharif ragi could be grown under irrigated conditions instead of paddy, there would be saving in water without any economic detriment to the farmers..." a Fact Finding Committee report on the cropping pattern in Karnataka. "Further, there is scope for intensive research and introduction of short-term varieties (of paddy)," the report said.

On Tamil Nadu, the Committee said "most of the requirement" of the second Kharif crop, which requires about the same water as the Samba crop, and is grown in about 25% of the Cauvery delta, "has to be met from the storages, causing a big drain" — and "savings can be effected by restricting the double crop paddy area, introduction of a shorter duration variety in place of Samba, and growing crops requiring less water."



DISPUTE STRETCHING BACK A CENTURY AND QUARTER »

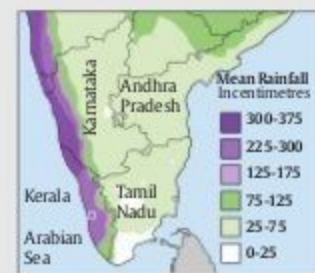
FEB 18, 1892	FEB 16, 1924	FEB 17, 1970	JUNE 1986	MAY 4, 1990	JUNE 25, 1991	1995, 2002	2016
Mysore-Madras agreement; Mysore could not build new irrigation works without previous reference to Madras	After 14 years of dispute and arbitration, Mysore and Madras sign deal to build Krishna Raja Sagar dam at Kannanur	Accusing Karnataka of violating 1892, 1924 pacts, unilaterally starting work on 4 projects, TN asks Centre to refer dispute to Tribunal	TN decides that efforts to resolve dispute over 15 years had failed; no option but to go to Tribunal as per Water Disputes Act, 1956	Supreme Court ruled on a writ petition filed in 1983, directing Centre to notify Tribunal. This was done on June 2, 1990	Tribunal's interim award vehemently protested by Karnataka, widespread rioting and violence over nearly a month	Poor monsoons in both years result in the flaring up of crises as Karnataka finds it difficult to comply with Tribunal's interim order	9 years after Tribunal's final order, with the states still locked in court, another failed monsoon triggers a fresh round of litigation

RAINFALL: DEFICIENT THIS YEAR



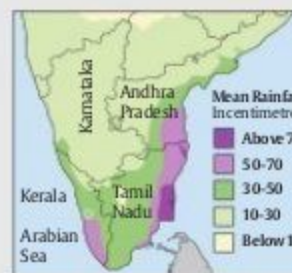
9 days before the end of the Southwest monsoon season, rainfall in Cauvery basin between June 1 and September 21, 2016 has been 28% deficient (32.53 cm against the normal of 45.04 cm).

SW MONSOON: NORMAL PATTERN



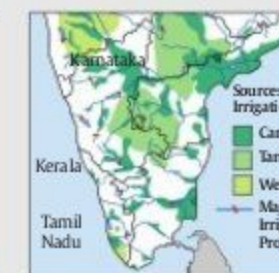
In the four-month Southwest monsoon season from June 1 to September 30, the entire Cauvery basin, barring the source of the river in Coorg, gets between 25 cm and 75 cm of rain on average.

NE MONSOON: BOUNTY FOR TN



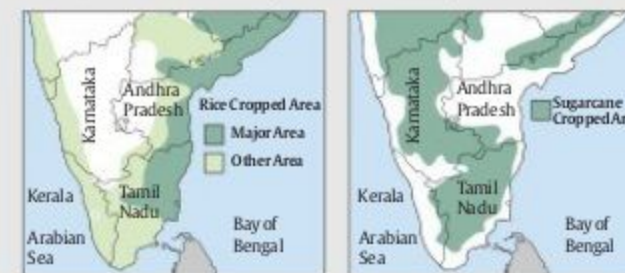
The October-December Northeast monsoon brings over 70 cm rain on average to coastal Tamil Nadu, including the Cauvery delta. South Karnataka gets between 10 cm and 30 cm.

IRRIGATION: TANKS, CANALS



The entire Cauvery basin area in both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu is irrigated only by canals and tanks, with virtually no wells, making bad monsoon years doubly difficult for farmers.

CROPS: 3 RICE CROPS IN TN, ONE IN KARNATAKA; ALSO SUGAR CANE



A historical grievance of paddy farmers in the Cauvery basin in Karnataka has been that their counterparts in Tamil Nadu are able to grow 3 crops of rice, while they can barely manage 1.

'The jewel among maidens, the life force of civilisation'

AMRITH LAL
NEW DELHI

LONG AGO, when time was a river, there lived a rishi called Kaveri. His daughter Lopamudra was married to the sage Agastya, who kept her in his kamandalu. Once, at a time of famine, Lord Brahma became a crow and tipped the kamandalu. Out fell Kaveri's daughter — Kaveri — in the form of a river, bringing relief and prosperity. In other tellings of the story, Kaveri is a king; Lopamudra a representation of Vishnu's maya, with twin manifestations of a human and holy water. Kaveri, or Cauvery, always takes the form of a river goddess with immense capacity to love and nurture. Not surprisingly, she is counted among the 7 sacred rivers in the *ritya vandana sloka*, 'Gange cha Yamune chaiva Godavari Saraswati/ Narmada Sindhu Kaveri jalesmin sannidham kuru'.

For centuries, the Cauvery has fostered civilisations, kingdoms have risen on her banks, and her bounty has allowed rulers to build great temples and empires stretching beyond the seas. The Tamil epics, *Silappadikaram* and *Manimekalai*, celebrated her beauty, the hymns of the *Azhvans* and *Nayanmars* (Vaishnavite and Saivaites) sanctified her sacredness. In the music of great Carnatic composers, and the scholars and writers who lived and wrote in the river's fertile delta, the Cauvery emerged as the vital force of civilisation.

But the river is today just a utility measurable in cusecs and TMC feet, a jug of statistics selectively employed by its consumers. It now divides people, because people have chosen to forget that the Cauvery is one river which needs care as it flows from the Brahmagiri hills in Coorg, past the Mysuru plateau and the ghats on the Tamil Nadu border to form the Akhanda Cauvery before splitting into numerous channels that empty into the Bay of Bengal. Dammed extensively, polluted with abandon, mined heavily for sand — in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the Cauvery is a shadow of its glorious past.

The river's sacred geography begins as a mountain stream at Talacauvery in Coorg. It flows past the temple towns of Somanathapura, Bhagamandala, Srirangapatna and Sivasamudram in Karnataka to enter Tamil Nadu. There isn't, like the Narmada, a Cauvery *parikrama*, but the account of Tamil writers Thi Janakiraman and Chitti, who undertook one in the 1960s, the *Nadanthal Vazhi Kaveri*, or 'Eternal Cauvery', is a remarkable cultural history of the river and its heritage.

The Tamil kingdoms that rose in the Cauvery

basin were early purveyors of irrigation projects. The oldest dam on the river, Kallanai, upstream of Trichy, is said to have been built by Karikala Chola, who ruled Chola mandalam in the 2nd century. The great Cholas who followed in the 9th century, Rajaraja and Rajendra, expanded on the irrigation works to spread the Cauvery to a large area and generate agricultural surplus that enabled them to build an empire. The great temples of Chidambaram, Thanjavur, Srirangam, Darasuram, Gangai-kondacholapuram, Kumbakonam, Thiruvannamalai — the list is endless — came up along the river's many distributaries. At the great Chola port of Kaveripoompattanam or Poompuhar, trading ships from distant lands docked. The port, described in detail in *Silappadikaram*, has now been lost to the sea, and the river can be crossed on foot in the dry season.

The delta is a mosaic of diverse faiths; the great basilica at Velankanni, the churches of Trichy, an early centre of Christianity, the Sufi centre of Nagore. Out of Chidambaram's spiritual universe grew the iconography of Nataraja. Music became synonymous with the river. The trinity of Carnatic music — Thyagaraja Swamikal, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Shyama Sastri — were born in Thiruvannamalai in the Cauvery delta. Thyagaraja, a mendicant, lived and died at Thiruvaiyaru, a village on the river's banks. His composition in *Asaveri raga*, *Saari vedalina ee Kaverinjooda*, is a celebration of the river — *Vara Kaveri kanyakaamani*, or 'This jewel among maidens'. It was in the Thanjavur court that the western violin became an accompanying instrument for Carnatic recitals. Textiles, bronze casting, brasswork, and veena manufacturing industries flourished.

With the rise of Madras as the city of Empire, the cities on the Cauvery began to lose their pre-eminence. But the river flowed quietly, inspiring poets not just in Tamil, but in other tongues as well.

Cauvery's story today is the story of an overexploited river and its overdeveloped basin. The excessive dependence on dam-centric irrigation had added to the neglect of the delta's ponds and *eris* (tanks). Industrialisation and urbanisation had an even more devastating impact. Tributaries like the Noyyal that flows past the textile city of Tirupur are now toxic streams. Farmers along the Noyyal have nothing left on their farms, with seepage from the river ruining even wells. At Noyyal village, where it joins the Cauvery, the water stinks and dead fish lie on the great river's sandbanks.

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(Longer version on www.indianexpress.com)

WE HAVE
NO WATER

"We need the water for drinking... It (the Supreme Court order) is very difficult to implement..."
— SIDAPRAMAIAH,
Karnataka Chief Minister

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News item/letter/article/editorial published on 28/9/16 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.

Apex Council to form panel to study Krishna water-sharing

Meeting was cordial with A.P. & Telangana arriving at a consensus: Minister

M. RAJEEV

HYDERABAD: The Apex Council on river water-sharing between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh has resolved to constitute a joint team of engineers to study the availability of water in the Krishna river. It has also decided to install telemetric equipment at all major projects to assess the drawal of water by the two States and request the Krishna Tribunal to make proportionate allocation of water.

The council resolved to allocate water to the two States, based on the findings of the the high-power team comprising senior officials from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana as well as the Central Water Commission.

"We will request the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal to make proportionate allocation to the two States based on the report," Union Water Resources



IN TALKS: Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti with A.P. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu (right) and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao during the Apex Council Committee meeting in New Delhi. — PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Minister Uma Bharti told reporters in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Ms. Bharti convened the first meeting of the Apex Council, mandated by the provisions of the A.P. Reor-

ganisation Act, 2014, on Wednesday.

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, A.P. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and senior officials of the irrigation depart-

ment participated in the over two-hour meeting convened to resolve the impasse. The Union Minister said discussions were held in a cordial manner and a broad consensus was arrived at on three major issues.

The meeting had been convened to resolve the disputes between the two States through dialogue and their representatives had presented their points of view during the interaction.

She recalled that a proposal had been made during the erstwhile NDA government to evolve a national water policy. Another proposal had been made to place river waters in the Concurrent List.

"There is a need to evolve a mechanism relating to sharing of water in an amicable manner between the States," she said adding that issues relating to water-sharing between Maharashtra and Karnataka were also discussed.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 22/9/16 in the

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

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To release or not to release Cauvery water, that is the critical question

KRISHNAPRASAD

BENGALURU: A decision by the Karnataka legislature not to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu would be binding on the executive as the legislature, like the Supreme Court, is also a constitutional body having powers to take action against the executive for not adhering to its decisions, said some legal experts.

The government, they said, based on a decision by the legislature against the release of water, could go before the Supreme Court pleading "helplessness" in obeying the court's direction for releasing water, in

Will a decision by the Karnataka legislature, also a constitutional body, bind the executive?

view of conflicting directions from two constitutional bodies.

If the Supreme Court hauls up the executive under the Contempt of Courts Act for disobeying its direction, the executive could contend that the disobedience was "not wilful" as it had to adhere to a contrary order from the legislature. Like the Contempt of Courts Act, the legislature can also

haul up the executive wing for breach of privilege if any of its decisions is not implemented.

Past experience

As it would take some time to convene an emergency session of the State legislature, a section of legal experts said it would be better for the government to release water till then as the government was chastised by the Supreme Court in 2003 when Chief Minister S.M. Krishna disobeyed its direction to release water to Tamil Nadu, citing law and order problem and shortage of water.

"If an elected government says because of law and or-

der problem it cannot comply with our order, then let it go," a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court had orally observed when the Tamil Nadu government filed a contempt of court petition against Karnataka.

Finally, Mr. Krishna had submitted an "unconditional apology" to the Supreme Court.

Karnataka cannot pass any law on river disputes as an attempt made by the government in 1991 to nullify the interim award passed by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, was struck down by the Supreme Court, holding that States cannot make a law on inter-State rivers.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 22/5/16 in the

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Siddaramaiah goes by political consensus, public perception ²²

NAGESH PRABHU

BENGALURU: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who has been accused of taking unilateral decisions on many issues, took a political consensus before going forward on the Cauvery issue.

It is believed that the Congress high command, too, was consulted and all legal opinions discussed threadbare before the matter was discussed in the all-party meeting on Wednesday evening.

Going ahead and not implementing the order would make Mr. Siddaramaiah the second Congress Chief Minister, after S.M. Krishna



Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at an all-party meeting on the Cauvery issue in Bengaluru on Wednesday. — PHOTO: PTI

in 2002, to not release water despite a Supreme Court order.

The Congress, which termed the Supreme Court ruling a major setback to the

State, is believed to have taken the point of view that the public perception was "too strong" and it was "politically impossible" to abide by the order.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 22/9/16 in the

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Karnataka decides not to release water till Sept. 23

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BANGALURU: Armed with consensus from major parties in the State, the Karnataka Cabinet on Wednesday decided not to implement the Supreme Court's directive to release every water till September

23, when a special session of the legislature will be convened to take a call on the issue.

The decision, which sets the stage for a confrontation with the court, was taken by the Cabinet after an all-party meeting advised the government not to release water to

Tamil Nadu because it might result in drinking water shortage. The court on Tuesday directed Karnataka to release 6,000 cusecs a day to Tamil Nadu from September 21 to 27.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who chaired the all-party meeting and the

Cabinet meeting on Wednesday evening, said: "Following the advice by the all-party meeting, the Cabinet has resolved to defer the water release till September 23."

While the principal Opposition BJP abstained from the all-party meeting as it said "it had lost faith in the

State government," party State president B.S. Yeddyurappa welcomed the Cabinet's decision.

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दिनांक 22.09.16 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

The Indian Express (Delhi)
हिन्दुस्तान 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 Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

The Tribune, 22/9/16



A man carries his belongings along a flooded street, following heavy rain in Nijampet, on the outskirts of Hyderabad on Wednesday. AFP

Heavy rain cripples life in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 21

Heavy rainfall in Hyderabad since last night has thrown normal life out of gear as water entered low-lying areas, creating huge traffic blocks at most of the important locations and junctions and forcing people to vacate their houses.

According to a press note issued by the office of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, he has instructed officials to use services of the Army and disaster management teams to control the situation.

Rao is camping in the national capital for the apex committee meeting on river water sharing between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. He reviewed the situation back home with the help of senior officials.

The CM also asked officials to take necessary steps to evacuate people from low-lying areas, if required.

Commuters had a tough time reaching their destination with traffic blocks in

Withdrawing monsoon swamps Mumbai, Konkan

■ The withdrawing monsoon led to heavy rainfall in Mumbai and the entire Konkan region, flooding roads and disrupting traffic. Train services, however, continue to function normally

■ Mumbai recorded 138 mm rainfall during the 24 hours ending 8.30 on Wednesday morning

■ More rains are expected in Mumbai with heavy rains likely in Konkan and Goa TNS

several areas due to waterlogging. According to a senior Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) official, about 4,000 cusecs of water has been released from Hussain Sagar lake due to incessant rain.

GHMC Commissioner Janardhan Reddy said people stranded in inundated areas might call for boat services offered by National Disaster Response teams. — PTI

दिनांक ११/७/२०१८ को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Deccan Herald, 21/7/18



WATER WOES: A waterlogged road after heavy rain in Mumbai on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

Rain lashes Mumbai, Konkan coast

MUMBAI: Heavy rain lashed Mumbai and the Konkan coast on Tuesday, slowing down the road traffic.

The lakes in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) witnessed a significant increase in water level due to rain in neighbouring districts of Thane, Palghar and Raigad from the last three days.

With this, the MMR would have a comfortable stock of water till the monsoon of 2018, said sources.

Weatherman has forecast

heavy to very heavy rain in the Konkan belt of Maharashtra. In the last 24 hours, the Colaba and Santacruz observatories of the Regional Meteorological Centre and the rain gauges of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) have recorded good rainfall — average over 50 mm.

The useful content in the seven lakes of MMR that supplies water to Mumbai — Modak Sagar, Tansa, Vihar, Tulsi, Upper Vaitarna, Bhatsa

and Middle Vaitarna — now stands at 14,36,035 million litres, as against the 10,75,254 million litres in 2015, according to BMC.

The IMD has advised fishermen not to venture into the Arabian Sea for the next 24 hours.

Traffic snarl

As rains lashed Mumbai, traffic in south Mumbai slowed down significantly.

According to Skymet Weather, the western coast re-

ceived good rainfall. "Maharashtra witnessed some really good spells in the last two days. Within a span of 24 hours, from 8.30 am on Monday, Mahabaleshwar witnessed sharp showers of 75 mm, Harnai received 35 mm rain, Mumbai 22.6 mm, Ratnagiri 40 mm, Dahanu witnessed 22 mm and Bhira recorded 21 mm of rainfall. A few regions of coastal Karnataka and coastal Gujarat also witnessed light spells."

DH News Service

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SC deadline to set up Cauvery board

OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Sept. 20: The Supreme Court today directed Karnataka to provide 6,000 cusecs of Cauvery water a day to Tamil Nadu till September 27, when it will hear the matter again, and asked the Centre to constitute the Cauvery Water Management Board within four weeks.

A special bench of Justices Dipak Misra and U.U. Lalit passed the directive while questioning the "adjudicating" authority of the supervisory committee that had yesterday asked Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs of water a day till September 30.

Since both states have opposed the interim directive of the supervisory committee, the apex court today asked Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to file their objections.

The proceedings lasted till 4.45pm, well beyond the court's regular closing time of 4pm.

The bench noted that the supervisory committee, an expert body, has the authority to suggest the quantum to be

released but cannot assume an adjudicatory role by passing a direction on the sharing of waters.

It was formed in 2013 following a Supreme Court order, as an interim measure to examine the water requirements of the two states until the water management board was constituted.

The apex court today repeatedly asked additional solicitor general Pinky Anand, appearing for the Centre, why the board had not been constituted although the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, while passing the award in 2007, had directed setting it up.

The tribunal's final award makes an annual allocation of 419mcft (thousand million cubic feet) to Tamil Nadu, 270 to Karnataka, 30 to Kerala and 7 to Puducherry.

The additional solicitor general told the bench that the Centre could not constitute the board because both states have challenged the award in the apex court.

Justice Misra said this could not be an excuse and directed the Union government

to set up the board within four weeks.

Senior advocate Fali Nariman, appearing for Karnataka, repeatedly asked the court not to pass any "pro-tem" order arguing that it would set an erroneous precedent when the state was facing a drinking water problem.

During the arguments, Nariman said that over the years, "each of us (both states) took inconsistent positions that 'I want my pound of flesh'. What if we (Karnataka) don't give or can't give?"

He argued that the tribunal decree would be difficult to implement because Karnataka does not get normal rainfall every year.

Justice Misra said: "First of all, the Cauvery Water Management Board has to be constituted."

Senior advocate Harish Salve appeared on behalf of some residents of Bangalore, seeking to be heard in the matter. Salve submitted that the court has to determine whether residents' right of drinking water has a precedence over Tamil Nadu farmers' crop rights.

दिनांक 21 सितम्बर को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

Deccan Herald, 21/9/16

SC orders state to release 6k cusecs to Tamil Nadu

Ashish Tripathi

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed Karnataka to release 6,000 cusecs of Cauvery river water every day to Tamil Nadu from September 21 to 27.

A Bench of Justices Dipak Misra and UU Lalit passed the order, disregarding the strong opposition raised by Karnataka that any further release of water for the purpose of irrigating Tamil Nadu's samba crops would lead to sacrificing its own drinking water needs.

"As an interim measure, we direct Karnataka to release 6,000 cusecs of water from tomorrow till the next date of hearing September 27," the bench said after a two-and-half-hour hearing.

The court also directed the Union government to set up a Cauvery Management Board within four weeks. This has also come as a setback to Karnataka which has been opposing its formation till the judgement by the apex court on its appeal against the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal's decision.

The court pulled up the Union government over the delay in constituting the Cauvery Management Board which should act as "an independent

Protests erupt in basin areas

Protests erupted in the Cauvery basin areas soon after news of the Supreme Court order over the Cauvery issue came out on Tuesday. Farmers and pro-Kannada activists took to the streets in Maddur, Mandya, Srirangapatna, Mysuru and other parts of the districts in the evening. Mandya MP C S Puttaraju of the JD(S) offered to resign.

Details on Page 7

mechanism to achieve the objective of distribution of water as determined by the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal in 2007".

"The Supervisory Committee was constituted in 2013 but more problem is arising. Pending challenge to the Cauvery award, you can't go on like this. How long have you been fighting over it," the bench asked the counsels representing the Centre, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

» **Cauvery, Page 13**

Related reports, Pages 7 & 2

Board to regulate water release

Ajith Athrady

NEW DELHI: Once the Cauvery Management Board (CMB) is formed in accordance with the Supreme Court's order, it will regulate the release of water to beneficiary states.

However, the water will be released as per the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal's final order. Also, all the reservoirs in the Cauvery basin will come under the board's purview.

The tribunal, in its final order earlier, said a board can be set up on the lines of Bhakra Beas Management Board, which monitors the release of water to Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

The board will be headed by a senior official as decided by the Union Water Resources Ministry. All the riparian states — Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala — and the Union Territory of Puducherry will have their representatives on the board, an official from the Ministry of Water Resources said.

» **Board, Page 13**

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SC orders state to release 6k cusecs to Tamil Nadu

Cauvery, from Page 1

"This dispute is there since 1892. The Cauvery Management Board is an expert body. Just because problem did not arise earlier does not mean that it will not arise in future," the bench added.

At the outset, senior advocate F S Nariman vehemently objected to the decision of the Supervisory Committee which was read out by Additional Solicitor General Pinky Anand.

Concurring with the view, the bench said, "The Supervisory Committee is a pro tem measure."

"We require the Supervisory Committee as an expert to see that the award is implemented and take a decision how it is to be implemented when there are issues and allocation of water is not possible like in the case of deficit or calamity. In this case, the committee has adjudicated on the matter which is not its role," the bench said.

Nariman, for his part, again underscored the fact that Karnataka had suffered a deficit year. He contended there was no formula for monthly release of water and no provision for distress year in the tribunal's decision.

He agreed that the annual li-

ability had been fixed at 192 tmcft. Senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, representing Tamil Nadu, countered him, saying Karnataka was not willing to part with water even as per its own claim of deficit of 48%. "The drinking water is a bogey. They want to keep water for drinking purpose but they withdrew 26 tmcft for irrigation," he claimed.

Nariman submitted that the matter had to be adjudicated by the apex court and a report should be called for from the Supervisory Committee. "We want to challenge the direction for release of water for 10 days by the committee. I am objecting to it. You have to give some final order. Please decide what is to be done for the future," he said.

Nariman also submitted that the tribunal's decision was not in absolute term with regard to distribution of water and the language emphasised for tentative release.

The Bench allowed both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to file their objections within three days to the direction by the Cauvery Supervisory Committee to Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs per day. The next date of hearing is September 27.

DH News Service

Board to regulate...

Board, from Page 1

While Karnataka and other states will lose their supervisory powers over their reservoirs, the board will play a major role in administration, operation, maintenance, and regulation of water supply from Cauvery and its tributaries to all four states as per the tribunal's order. Before starting the process of setting up the board, the Ministry of Water Resources has to notify the tribunal's final order as per the Inter States Water Disputes Act.

Once the Centre notifies the final award of the tribunal, the Cauvery Supervisory Committee will cease to exist and new set of bodies like Cauvery Management Board (CMB) and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) will come into existence. The CWRC, a sub group headed by a member of the board, will be consti-

tuted to assist to the board on water storage, crop cultivation and other related issues. The committee will comprise experts from irrigation, agriculture, animal husbandry, hydrology and related fields.

Though in 2013, soon after the tribunal's final award was announced, the Centre tried to set up the board and sent the matter to the law ministry, seeking its opinion. However, the matter was pending as Karnataka questioned the final award and also pleaded with the apex court to keep the setting up of CMB in abeyance till the court reviewed the tribunal award. Tamil Nadu, on the other hand, has been demanding the board at the earliest.

An official said the board will benefit all the states, similar to the Tungabhadra Water Management Board, which decides allocation of water to Karnataka and Telangana.

Bengaluru

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 22/9/16 in the

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Statesman
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Indian Express
Tribune
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Karnataka defers release of water to Tamil Nadu

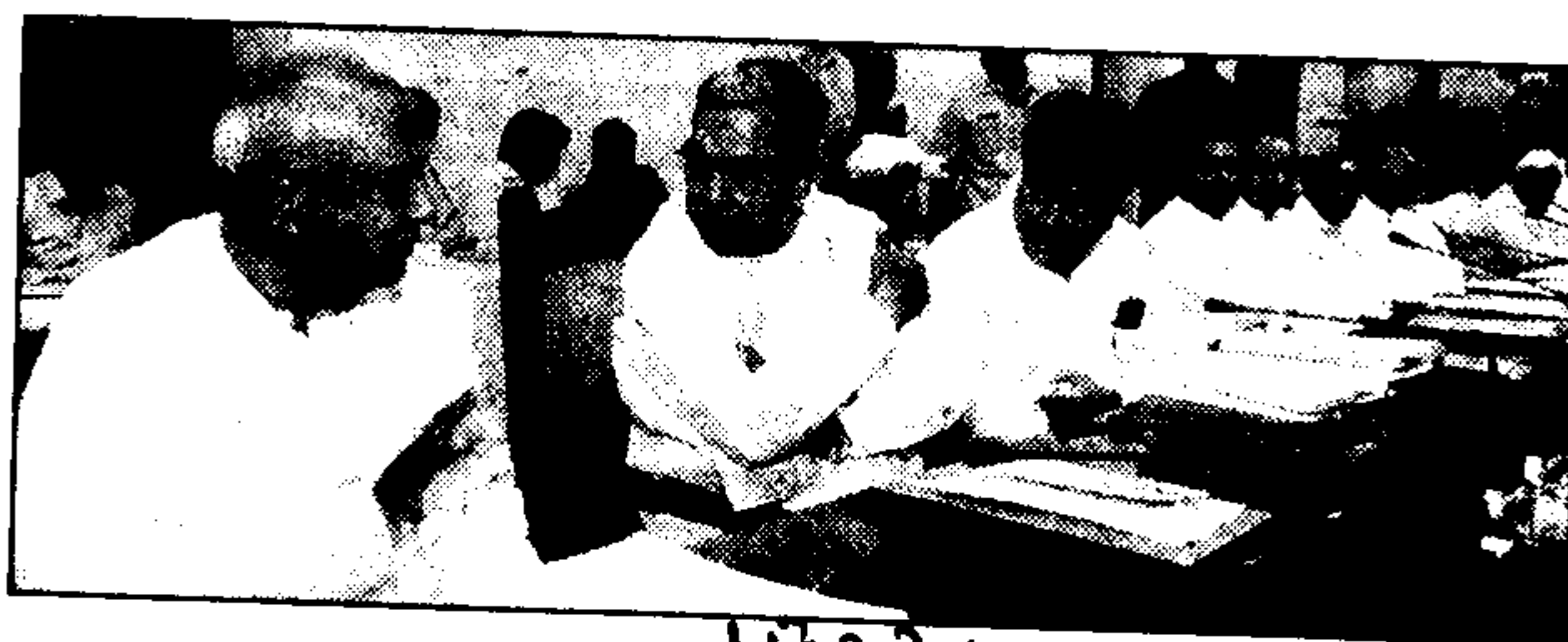
JOHNSON TA

BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 21

THE CONGRESS government in Karnataka Wednesday decided to postpone the release of 6,000 cusecs of Cauvery water per day to Tamil Nadu as directed by the Supreme Court on Tuesday. The state government said the issue will be discussed in a special session of the state legislature scheduled for Friday.

The decision was announced by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah late Wednesday after discussions with the cabinet, legal and irrigation experts, the opposition Janata Dal Secular, and former PM H D Deve Gowda. Gowda reportedly advised that a special session of legislature should be called before deciding on the issue.

In a media statement, Siddaramaiah said, "In the light of the Supreme Court's interim



Former PM H D Deve Gowda and CM Siddaramaiah at an all-party meeting on Cauvery row in Bengaluru Wednesday. PTI

order of September 20, the government has held lengthy discussions in an all-party meeting and in the state cabinet. The all-party meeting has suggested the convening of a special session of the legislature to address the issue. In this background, we have decided in the cabinet to ask the Governor to call for a session of the state legislature on September 23 at 11 am.

"Till the session arrives at a decision, the issue of releasing of

water has been postponed."

It added, "Only the JDS and the Rajya Raitha Sangha attended the all party meeting. The leaders of the BJP did not come."

The state BJP had earlier announced that it would not participate in the all-party meeting. "We are boycotting the meeting because the state government has refused our demand for a joint session of the legislature to discuss the issue," state president B S Yeddyurappa said.

New Delhi

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Karnataka decides to close the Cauvery tap

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

BENGALURU: Karnataka will not release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu, the state cabinet decided on Wednesday defying a Supreme Court order that had sparked large-scale violence in Bengaluru, the country's IT hub, last week.

The decision was taken in an emergency cabinet meeting held a day after the top court revised an earlier order and asked the Karnataka government to release 6,000 cusecs of water to the neighbouring state till September 27.

"The cabinet has decided to defer release of water," chief minister Siddaramaiah said after the meet, adding that an all-party meeting held earlier in the day decided to convene a special assembly session on September 23 on the issue.

Tamil-speaking people, their properties and vehicles registered in Tamil Nadu were damaged across Bengaluru on September 12 when mobs vented their anger against the Supreme Court's earlier order directing Karnataka to release 2,000 cusecs of water to the neighbouring state till September 20. The order challenged the state's

Karnataka, where farmers are facing water shortages due to a deficient monsoon. Stores the river's water at the reservoir on the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Srirangapatna near Mandya.

The state has witnessed sporadic protests, especially at Mandya, the epicentre of the Cauvery agitation, since Wednesday morning, where agitators blocked the Bengaluru-Mysuru road at various places.

Karnataka decides to close the Cauvery tap

Bengaluru police imposed prohibitory orders banning assembly of five or more people till September 25. Additional security forces have also been deployed all over the city.

Earlier during the day, the BJP skipped the all-party meeting attended by JD(S) leaders including former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, leader of Congress in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy.

State BJP president BS Yeddyurappa said the party did not want to be a "culpable partner in the Congress government's sins of omission and commission".

Deve Gowda is understood to have advised Siddaramaiah against releasing water to Tamil Nadu stating the drinking water requirement of Karnataka was more important.

"Drinking water should be given priority. If they (Tamil Nadu farmers) suffer crop losses it can be compensated but we cannot compromise on drinking water," Gowda told media persons.