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Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirathi (English) & Publicity Section

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The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

J. Mahmood
23.2.18
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Deputy Director (Publication)

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The Times of India (A)
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YES, NO, IT'S COMPLICATED

Is the Supreme Court verdict on Cauvery fair?

YES



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Technical Committee
for Cauvery Water
Dispute

Some glaring concerns in the 2007 tribunal order have been addressed

With an additional allocation of 14.75 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) of water to Karnataka, the Supreme Court has given the State reason to rejoice. The order is fair and does not take away anything significant from Tamil Nadu. What it has done is to address some concerns that were present in the 2007 order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, such as of drinking water in Bengaluru and the constraints of irrigation in southern Karnataka.

There is much to be satisfied with in what has been allotted to

Karnataka in the recent order. On many points, the Court validates the objections raised by Karnataka to the 2007 tribunal order.

Allocation for Bengaluru

For instance, the court makes it clear that the contentious 1924 agreement had lapsed. It noticed that the State did not have bargaining power at the time of entering the said agreement. Yet, post-Independence, Karnataka chose not to denounce the agreement. While the agreement cannot be called "unconscionable", as Karnataka

had not raised objections to it after Independence, the court observed that several clauses in the 1924 agreement did not indicate permanency, and had lapsed after 50 years, by 1974. The court also rightly observed that the overall population of river basin States has to be placed on a pedestal, and be taken into account as a fundamental principle for equitable distribution.

Keeping this in mind, the court acknowledges the need for a higher share of Cauvery water for Bengaluru, which now has more than 10 million inhabitants. The 2007 tribunal order had reduced Karnataka's



share for the sole reason that only one-third of Bengaluru falls within the river basin, and that 50% of the drinking water supply would be met through groundwater.

The Supreme Court rightly notes that the tribunal's view ignores the basic principle pertaining to drinking water. Keeping in mind the global status that Bengaluru has attained, an additional 4.75 tmc ft has been awarded to it in order to implement the existing water supply schemes. The remaining 10 tmc ft can be used to expand agricultural activities.

Does this additional allocation deprive Tamil Nadu? No. While lo-

wering the allocation of surface water, the Supreme Court has ruled that a minimum of 10 tmc ft of groundwater is available in the Cauvery delta for safe use by Tamil Nadu. This had been ignored in the tribunal order.

Pending issues

However, there are certain issues in the order that need to be addressed. The Inter-State Water Disputes (ISWD) Act, 1956 stipulates that besides the chairperson and two former High Court or Supreme Court judges appointed by the Chief Justice of India, a minimum of two assessors (technical experts) are to assist the tribunal. While the Supreme Court sought the assis-

tance of technical experts in the coal scam and the iron ore mining case, it has not done so in the Cauvery dispute. Prime among these unresolved issues is the framing of a deficit formula for sharing water, and construction of hydel projects on the common boundary of the river. For instance, Karnataka plans a run-of-the-flow Mekedatu hydel project. The status of this project is yet to be decided within the framework of the judgment.

Similarly, issues of climate change and allocation of regenerated and surplus water have not been considered. As a result, basin States like Karnataka will continue to knock at the doors of the Supreme Court for redress.

NO



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It is unlikely to change the supply conditions in Tamil Nadu in any meaningful manner

In the traditional cake-cutting wrangle, one always gazes at the share of the other party rather than at one's own share. This is exactly what happened after the much-awaited Supreme Court verdict on the Cauvery dispute. While the verdict has disappointed Tamil Nadu, momentary happiness was seen in Karnataka.

In 1991, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in its interim award declared that 205 tmc ft should be allocated to Tamil Nadu. This was slashed to 177.25 tmc ft in the 2007 tribunal order. This has been

further cut to 177.25 tmc ft by the Supreme Court. While these numbers have enormous political ramifications, it is highly unlikely that they will change the water supply conditions in Tamil Nadu in any meaningful manner.

Historical precedents?

One is not being distrustful. But look at history.

Since the 2007 order, which even prescribed how much water should be released every month, supply conditions have not improved for Tamil Nadu. Karnataka's

position has always been to not release water at the start of the southwest monsoon, but to wait till September to take stock of both storage and monsoon conditions. It has almost become customary for Tamil Nadu to file petitions annually in the Supreme Court to direct Karnataka to release water.

On many occasions, directions from the Supreme Court have resulted in violent protests, causing disruption of life and enormous damage to property in Karnataka. We saw this happening in September 2016 too.

Now that the final verdict has



been declared, the practical question to ask is whether there is any degree of certainty in getting water (177.25 tmc ft) from Karnataka. Again, looking at the past, the answer is in the negative.

Therefore, all these numbers are seemingly irrelevant if water doesn't flow downstream when it is most needed in Tamil Nadu (between June and September and in January and February).

The principle of federalism

The next question is how to operationalise the Supreme Court verdict. The tribunal in its final award had indicated the need for the con-

same quantum. This means that the annual water release obligation of Karnataka reduces to 177.25 tmc ft, compared to 192 tmc ft as per the tribunal award. In a distress year, Karnataka's obligation would reduce in the same proportion, but the monthly release quantities are to be decided by the implementation authority, to be set up as per the tribunal award.

The reason given by the Supreme Court for increasing the drinking water allocation for Bengaluru is that drinking water is top priority. True, but nothing stopped Karnataka from allocating more water for Bengaluru from its own share, as Karnataka is already do-



ing. Consideration of cutting other States' share for this should not arise. Second, it is well-known that Bengaluru is using its water resource options sub-optimally. It's not a question of quantum, which may be minuscule and some of it may be returning to Tamil Nadu through the Pinakini river, but in the process, the court has opened up possibilities of more such sub-optimal allocations in the name of higher priority uses in other basins. Considering areas outside the Cauvery basin (two-thirds of Bengaluru) for such allocation is another aspect that is bound to set a complicating precedent.

It's welcome that the court has brought groundwater into the co-

ordination of water-counting, while increasing 10 tmc ft allocation for Karnataka since Tamil Nadu has access to additional groundwater in the Cauvery basin. The figure of 10 tmc ft, however, is ad hoc and not based on science. If groundwater is to be taken into account, full assessment of the groundwater (as also water stored in storages smaller than 3 tmc ft) should have been taken into account.

Increased water use

The judgment, in fact, has the potential to push for increased water use in both States: In Tamil Nadu, since the court has allowed it to use 10 tmc ft groundwater, and in Karnataka since the court has allocated 14.75 tmc ft more water. This, in a basin where the available water de-

mand is already much more than the available water, as the court notes (para 188). This could have been avoided if the judgment had included a rider to the effect that these provisions should not lead to additional water use in both States.

That leads us to a crucial issue: The need for demand side management, in addition to local rainwater harvesting measures, both of which are missing in the judgment.

The test of the efficacy of the judgment in resolving the Cauvery dispute would be in the effectiveness of the implementation mechanism and achieving equitable water distribution in deficit years. However, it seems that the judgment is bound to raise more water disputes, including in the Cauvery basin.

IT'S COMPLICATED



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People

The judgment's efficacy would lie in the implementation mechanism

It's welcome that the Supreme Court's 465-page judgment of February 16 includes some aspects of groundwater, references to water allocation priority from the National Water Policy, directions to set up the implementation mechanism in six weeks, and fixing the water-sharing quota for 15 years.

Grey areas

There are also some grey areas in the order. It treats the dispute as a water-sharing dispute rather than as a river-sharing dispute. There is inattention to factors like changing rainfall pattern, rainwater harvesting, the potential of soil water cap-

ture, catchment degradation and local water systems. The order also justifies water supply to areas outside the Cauvery basin when other options exist. Some directives for transparent functioning of the proposed implementation mechanism would have helped. It would have also helped if the judgment had come earlier, rather than 11 years after the award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

In terms of water allocation, the only change the Supreme Court has directed is an increase in Karnataka's allocation by 14.75 tmc ft from the tribunal's award, reducing the allocation for Tamil Nadu by the

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Cauvery issue: TN CM to lead all-party delegation to PM ²³ _{ST}

The meet resolves to urge Modi to immediately set up Cauvery Management Board

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, 22 FEBRUARY

Tamil Nadu chief minister K Palaniswami will lead a delegation of leaders of all parties, farmers and MPs from the state to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Cauvery issue, an all-party meet decided here today.

Days after the Supreme Court verdict reduced the quantum of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu by 14.65 tmcft, the meet resolved to urge Modi to immediately set up the Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulatory Authority as per the apex court's order to set up the bodies within six weeks.

A resolution was adopted at the meet endorsing it.

In a show of solidarity, three unanimous resolutions were adopted at the meet, held at the Secretariat, where leaders of parties, including DMK working president M K Stalin and farmers' leaders participated.

Similarly, appropriate action will be taken by consulting legal experts on the cut in the quantum of water for Tamil Nadu, the second resolution said.

This decision to take steps follows acceptance of the views



of all party leaders in this respect, an official release here said.

Another resolution said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be urged to immediately implement the apex court verdict's beneficial features for Tamil Nadu.

Bonhomie meet after over a decade: The day-long meet was marked by a rare bonhomie, in which leaders including Palaniswami and Stalin, who is also the Leader of Opposition, exchanged pleasantries.

The all party meet on the issue assumes significance as it takes place after nearly 11 years in Tamil Nadu, the earlier being on 15 April, 2007 when

DMK chief M Karunanidhi was the chief minister. At that meet, it was decided to file a review petition in the apex court to seek clarifications and prefer an appeal, if needed, on the final award of the Cauvery Tribunal. During the previous tenure of Jayalalithaa, no all party meet was held. In his opening remarks, Palaniswami batted for unity among parties to establish the state's rights despite differences.

He said, "Cauvery water dispute is not only the livelihood issue of our Cauvery Delta farmers' but it is intertwined with the emotions of the state." He assured action based on their feedback by consulting legal experts.

Assuring his party's full support to the government on the issue, Stalin said steps should also be taken to save, conserve and economically use the Cauvery water by setting up a Water Security Board in sync with a recommendation of renowned farm scientist M S Swaminathan.

He sought a separate department to take up works including rain and flood water harvesting and desilting waterbodies.

BJP Tamil Nadu unit president Tamilisai Soundararajan said her party will stand behind

the government in its efforts to secure the state's rights on the issue.

Karnataka blamed for selfishness: Deputy chief minister O Panneerselvam cited Sangam Tamil literature and said the Cauvery was an intrinsic part in the life of the Tamil Nadu people.

Blaming Karnataka, he said, "the reason for the Cauvery dispute is the selfishness of Karnataka to claim exclusive rights over the river."

That such a "selfish attitude, has not changed to this day is reflected in their recent speeches," he said without naming anyone from the neighbouring state.

Panneerselvam recalled the steps taken by former chief minister J Jayalalithaa for publication of the final award of the Cauvery Tribunal in the central gazette.

"government had never compromised on Tamil Nadu's rights even a bit," he said.

He urged the participants to air their views to take up "resolute" follow up action.

Some farmers raised slogans briefly while seeking appropriate compensation for crop losses when Panneerselvam came out of the meeting venue.

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INLD plans massive rally in Delhi on SYL

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 22 FEBRUARY

With an aim to pressurise the Centre to take steps for completion of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal, Haryana's principal Opposition party, the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) has announced to stage a massive rally in national capital Delhi, next month.

While addressing a Press conference on Thursday, Leader of Opposition in Haryana Assembly, Abhay Singh Chautala said that his party would hold "Adhikar Rally" in Delhi on 7 March to press the Centre government for completion of the canal so that the Haryana could get its due share of water from the neighbouring state Punjab.

He said, "From the very beginning, the INLD has been

fighting for Haryana's water through the SYL canal but the Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) government, both at Centre and Haryana have failed to do the fruitful in this regard. Now we have decided to build pressure on Centre with a massive rally in Delhi."

Chautala said that it was unfortunate that the Haryana government had failed to convince the Centre to implement the decision of the Supreme Court in this regard. Even the BJP president Amit Shah during his recent visit to Haryana did not utter a single word on the important issue of SYL.

We met the president, the Union Water Resource minister and the Home minister requesting them to ensure SYL canal's completion, however,

returned empty handed as none of these offices assured us on this front, Chautala added.

The senior INLD leader further announced that his party would also move an adjournment motion in coming Session of Haryana Assembly on the SYL to hold debate over the issue and hold the government accountable.

Apart from this, the INLD would also raise the issue of non-availability of water to Mewat regions and scrapping of the Dadupur-Nalvi canal, he said.

The Ellenabad MLA also condemned the Haryana government for convening of the Budget Session on 5 March as the INLD would be occupied in the preparations of its "Adhikar Rally" scheduled for

23-67
7 March.

The state government had deliberately chosen the dates of the Budget Session in order to keep the INLD members away from the Assembly on crucial days but the INLD would not fail in discharging its duty of safeguarding the state's interests on the floor of the House, he added.

Taking a dig over the ruling party's "Yuva Hunkar Rally" held in Jind on 15 February, Chautala alleged that the government had spent more than Rs 50 Crore on organising the said rally and the massive mobilisation of the security forces and para-military forces was to intimidate the people and bolster the attendance of the Jind rally, which however, had succeeded in mirroring the absence of any public support to the BJP.

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Ganga body clears projects worth ₹4k cr for UP, Bihar, Bengal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK 23-7

New Delhi: The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) — the key central body on the government's ambitious Ganga rejuvenation programme — has approved a number of projects worth nearly Rs 4,000 crore for various cities and towns in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.

The projects, approved in the last executive committee meeting of the NMCG on Tuesday, include two big ones worth nearly Rs 1,600 crore for Kanpur.

These projects are in addition to the 187 projects — sanctioned under the 'Namami Gange' programme in the past two years.

One project for rehabilitation with operation & maintenance of 15 years for Garden Reach sewage treatment plant (STP) and Keorapukur STP in West Bengal has also been approved at an estimated cost of nearly Rs 165 crore. Besides, three sewage infrastructure projects have been accorded revised approvals in Begusarai, Hajipur and Munger in Bihar at an estimated cost of nearly Rs 230 crore, Rs 305 crore and Rs 294 crore respectively.

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यमुना में अमोनिया की दोबारा जांच करें

एनजीटी का आदेश

२३-२-१८
पत्रिका ब्यूरो

rajasthanpatrika.com

नई दिल्ली : नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (एनजीटी) ने यमुना नदी में अमोनिया की बढ़ती मात्रा के खिलाफ दायर याचिका पर सुनवाई करते हुए आज केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड को यमुना में अमोनिया की मात्रा की दोबारा जांच करने का निर्देश दिया है। इस मामले पर दिल्ली और हरियाणा के मुख्य सचिवों की बैठक की रिपोर्ट आज एनजीटी में पेश नहीं की गई। एनजीटी ने दोनों राज्यों को निर्देश

दिया कि वे 26 फरवरी तक रिपोर्ट पेश करें। पिछले 16 फरवरी को केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड ने एनजीटी में अपनी रिपोर्ट पेश की थी। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया था कि गड़बड़ी हरियाणा से नहीं बल्कि दिल्ली में हो रही है। इस रिपोर्ट पर विचार करने के बाद एनजीटी ने दिल्ली और हरियाणा के मुख्य सचिवों को 20 फरवरी को बैठक करने का निर्देश दिया था।

दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने एनजीटी में याचिका दायर कर कहा है कि हरियाणा की तरफ से दिल्ली की तरफ भेजे जा रहे पानी में अमोनिया की मात्रा काफी ज्यादा है।

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मजाब-23-2-18

पानी में प्रदूषण का स्तर जांचने के निर्देश

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): दिल्ली में पानी की समस्या मामले में हुई मीटिंग की जानकारी हरियाणा सरकार ने एनजीटी के समक्ष पेश की। एनजीटी के समक्ष हरियाणा सरकार ने दिल्ली जलबोर्ड की ओर से कहा कि मीटिंग में दिल्ली के चीफ सेक्रेटरी शामिल नहीं हुए। फिर भी मीटिंग की गई। जिसमें नेशनल मिशन फॉर क्लीन गंगा के अधिकारी भी शामिल हुए। हालांकि इससे संबंधित मिनट्स अभी तैयार नहीं किया जा सका है। इस पर एनजीटी ने अगली सुनवाई से पूर्व मिनट्स पेश करने का निर्देश दिया। मामले की सुनवाई जस्टिस जवाद रहीम व जस्टिस एसपी वांगडी की बेंच कर रही थी। एनजीटी ने दोनों ही राज्यों की सरकारों को पानी में प्रदूषण की लेवल जांचने का निर्देश दिया है। एनजीटी ने सेंट्रल पॉल्यूशन कंट्रोल बोर्ड, दिल्ली पॉल्यूशन कंट्रोल कमेटी व स्थानीय निकायों से प्रदूषण स्तर जांचने का निर्देश जारी किया है।

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पैदे में पहुंचा सरदार सरोवर नर्मदा बांध पानी 'डेड स्टोरेज' पानी से बुझा रहा खेत और लोगों की प्यास!

बांध निर्माण के बाद पहली बार आई ऐसी नौबत

इरिगेशन बाइपास टनल का गेट खोलकर किया पानी का इस्तेमाल

बालकृष्ण पाण्डेय

नर्मदा राज्य की जीवनरेखा कहे जाने वाले सरदार सरोवर नर्मदा बांध का पानी लगातार उपयोग के बाद पैदे तक पहुंच गया है।

भयानक जलसंकट से जूझ रही नर्मदा नदी पर बने इस बांध के हाल यहां तक पहुंच गए कि डेड स्टोरेज तक काम में लिया जा रहा है। प्रदेश भर में खेतों और इंसानों की प्यास बुझाने के लिए गुरुवार को बांध से 5500 क्यूसेक पानी छोड़ा गया। यह पानी इरिगेशन बायपास टनल (आईबीपीटी) से आगे तक पहुंचाया गया। बांध निर्माण के बाद से पहली बार ऐसी नौबत आई। बांध की दयनीय स्थिति ने लोगों के साथ प्रशासन की चिंता को बढ़ा दिया है। बांध के जलस्तर में तेजी से गिरावट दर्ज हो रही है। प्रति घंटे एक सेमी जल स्तर की कमी बांध पर हो रही है। बांध का जलस्तर गुरुवार को



110.19 मीटर रहा। जलसंकट को भांपते हुए बांध पर स्थित पावर हाउस तक को बंद कर दिया है। इससे नर्मदा बांध पर आधारित बिजली प्रोजेक्ट्स पर भी खतरा मंडराने लगा है। आगामी दिनों में जलसंकट के साथ बिजली संकट उत्पन्न होने की आशंका व्यक्त की जा रही है। सभी पावर हाउस के

बंद होने से सरकार को करोड़ों रुपए के नुकसान का भी सामना करना पड़ रहा है। इसका असर पड़ोसी राज्यों राजस्थान और महाराष्ट्र पर भी पड़ेगा। इस बार बांध के ऊपरी क्षेत्र यानी मध्यप्रदेश में कम बारिश के कारण पानी की पर्याप्त आवक नहीं हो पाई थी। इसके चलते गुजरात को 40

प्रतिशत पानी कम मिल पाया। आगे हालात और नहीं बिगड़े इसे देख राज्य सरकार ने 15 मार्च के बाद खेतों में सिंचाई के लिए बांध से पानी नहीं देने की घोषणा कर दी। फिलहाल बांध में पानी की आवक महज 500 क्यूसेक हो रही है। डेड स्टोरेज पानी के उपयोग के लिए टनल के चार में से दो गेट खोले हैं। नर्मदा बांध वर्तमान में 28.33 मीटर खाली है।

89 मीटर तक लिया जा सकता है पानी

बांध पर लाइव स्टोरेज पानी का भंडारण भी समाप्त हो चुका है। फिलहाल बांध में 3622 मिलियन

क्यूबिक मीटर पानी है। जलस्तर 89 मीटर होने तक पानी उपयोग में लिया जा सकता है। वर्ष-2008 में आईबीपीटी कैनाल को बनाया गया था, पर इसका उपयोग पहली बार हो रहा है। सौराष्ट्र व कच्छ में पानी पहुंचाने के लिए इसे बनाया गया था। यहां से छोड़ा जा रहा पानी नहरों के माध्यम से विभिन्न शहरों में भेजा जा रहा है।

भरुच में जलसंकट नहीं

भरुच शहर में फिलहाल जलसंकट की कोई स्थिति नहीं है। शहर में नर्मदा की अमलेश्वर शाखा नहर से प्रतिदिन 40 एमएलडी पानी अयोध्यानगर स्थित फिल्टरेशन प्लांट में आ रहा है।