

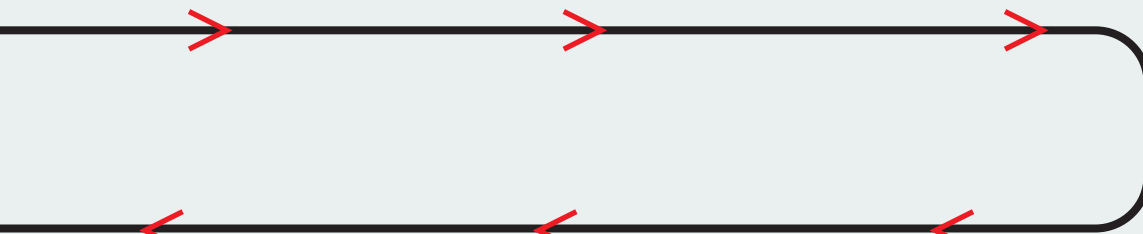
CAUVERY WATER ISSUE

WHY IN NEWS?

In August 2016, Tamil Nadu government showed a deficit of 50,0052 tmcft of water released from Karnataka reservoirs, as directed by the CWDT

Karnataka: water could not be released due to **drought conditions**

Tamil Nadu: farmers need water to begin cultivating samba crops



Passing of resolution in KA legislature against SC judgement

Widespread protests and bandhs in Karnataka

Supreme Court ordered the Karnataka government to release 15,000 cusecs of water a day for 10 days, to Tamil Nadu

ISSUE



Both states continue to **avoid any mutual engagement**

Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has asked the parties to **share** the deficiency on a **pro rata basis**



Absence of a 'Cauvery Management Board' & a Regulatory Authority - **Weak implementation** of award



Supervisory Committee (set up by Union government) consisting of officials from -

- The Union government,
- Central Water Commission &
- Representatives of both States



The court has now asked Tamil Nadu to **approach the committee**



Complication due to

- Regional politics and
- Delayed judicial proceedings
- KA defying SC



CAUVERY WATERS TRIBUNAL

Cauvery Waters Tribunal was established on **June 2, 1990** under Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956



in 2007 tribunal announced

419 Tmcft to Tamil Nadu

270 Tmcft to Karnataka

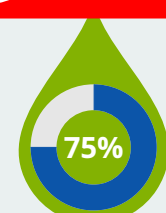
30 Tmcft to Kerala

7 Tmcft to Puducherry

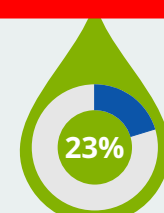
BACKGROUND



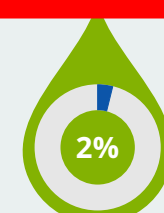
1924 - agreement



to Tamil Nadu & Puducherry



to Karnataka



to Kerala

In, 1974, Karnataka asserted that 1924 agreement entailed a **discontinuation** of the water supply to Tamil Nadu after 50 years



Karnataka demanded - river water should be divided according to **international rules**, i.e., in equal portions

GEOGRAPHY



Tribunal award criticized for ignoring that **ground water in the river basin** is more in lower riparian state & less in the upper riparian state while assessing availability



Deficiency in monsoon rainfall and 2 year drought



Inefficient use of land: Karnataka cultivating water-intensive crops such as sugar cane



Tamil Nadu is on the leeward side of western ghat for SW monsoon hence deprived of rainfall



Climate change also leading to failure of monsoon

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

Any distress-sharing formula should come from a **technical body** and not courts

SET UP - Cauvery Management Board, and Regulatory Authority



All the Cauvery **reservoirs** will come under the **control of the board** and the states will lose its rights over the management of water



Board will take decisions on **water usage and distribution**



Board will ensure proper **hydraulic structures** at relevant sites, will determine the amount of water to be received by the states



Board will ensure **adequate storage** by the end of May each year, it will help during delays in the onset of monsoons



In case of consecutive bad years, the Board will **distribute water** in a planned manner with minimum distress

Focus on **equity and efficiency** issues instead of resource sharing



Crops should be planted according to **Agro-Climatic conditions**



Better **water management**



Devise a **sustainable agricultural solution**, as the river does not seem to have the potential to meet the farming requirements of both sides



Use of **efficient irrigation techniques** like drip irrigation, sprinkler systems etc



Re-Visiting MSP Policies esp. w.r.t. water intensive food crops



Stakeholder states should plan collectively for the whole **river basin**

Non-political initiatives, like 'Cauvery Family' (covering farmers of both States), could help co-operation between farmers



Quick **Transmission** of accurate information (rainfall to reservoir storage) could help dispel the current mistrust among stake-holders

WAY FORWARD



Pollution levels should be checked: Untreated urban and industrial effluents should be effectively checked at point sources



Comprehensive **watershed management** programmes should be adopted along Cauvery and its tributaries



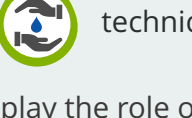
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources has stated the need to bring water in the Concurrent List



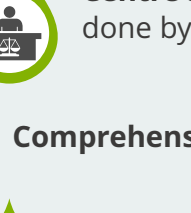
Small **check dams**,



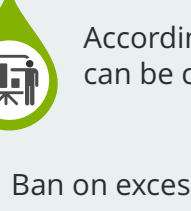
Desiltation at regular intervals and



Traditional methods of water conservation techniques like kuhls, surangam



Centre should play the role of **impartial arbitrator** - cannot be done by courts as this is a political question



Comprehensive plan should be prepared for water conservation



According to **Mihir Shah report** - **central water authority** can be constituted to manage rivers



Ban on excessive **sand mining**