

T.N. Protest over Cauvery Issue

Why in news?

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In Tamil Nadu protests are being conducted against the union government's failure to set up Cauvery water management board.

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What is the significance of Cauvery for T.N.?

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- Cauvery is regarded as the lifeline of Tamil Nadu as it is the only major river of the state, unlike Karnataka which gets water from the Krishna and the Godavari.

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- The River also accounts for 70% of canal irrigation and nearly 25 lakh acres are recognised as irrigated area, under the Cauvery in Tamil Nadu.

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- The paddy cultivating districts which account for 40% of the total area of the state, contribute 35% of the total crop production.

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- In the past 10 years, the Cauvery has also become a major source of drinking water for a number of districts.

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What is the recent verdict on Cauvery water dispute?

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 - In its recent verdict over Cauvery issue, Supreme Court has declared Cauvery a “national asset” and reduced the allocation of Cauvery water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu.
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 - It upheld the principle of equitable apportionment of inter-State river water among riparian States.
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 - The SC had given the Centre 6 weeks to frame a scheme to make sure the final decisions are implemented.
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 - SC also directed the formation of the Cauvery Management Board (CMB) immediately. Click [here](#) to know more.

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What is T.N. concerns with the ‘scheme’?

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 - The word ‘scheme’ was mentioned in the SC’s judgement which required for the implementation of the final order given by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in February 2007.

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 - The Tribunal’s final order states that the board would ensure timely water release in right quantum and at the right time taking into account the irrigation requirements of the states.
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 - Tamil Nadu demands that the ‘scheme’ should have entailed setting up of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee.
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 - Whereas, **Karnataka** argues that there is no mention of a ‘board’ in the court’s order.
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 - Union g0vernment is also delaying the interpretation of the scheme and setting up of CMB.

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Why union government is delaying setting up of the board?

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- The Union government has clarified to the Supreme Court that there are divergent views over the judgement by the constituting states of the Cauvery basin.

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- It has also mentioned that setting up of a board will lead to public outrage causing law and order problems during the upcoming Karnataka assembly elections.

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Source: The Hindu

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