



Scramble for water

Most reservoirs in the Cauvery basin are running low on water due to deficit rainfall in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu this year

140-year-old conflict | Water-sharing agreements, committees and tribunals have failed to resolve the Cauvery dispute

1872 | First inter-state water-sharing agreement between Mysore and the Madras Presidency

1924 | Second water-sharing agreement for the next 50 years

1960s | Karnataka proposes to build new reservoirs. The Centre rejects the plan. The state still builds four reservoirs

1970s | Cauvery Fact Finding Committee set up in anticipation of the ending of the agreement in 1974. Its final report came in 1976 which was accepted by all the states. But when Karnataka began construction of the Harangi dam, Tamil Nadu went to court

1980s | Litigations, conflicts and negotiation

between the parties continue

1990 | Supreme Court directs the Centre to constitute Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal (CWDT)

1991 | CWDT announces an interim award. Orders Karnataka to release water. In a move to nullify the interim awards, the Karnataka government

passes an ordinance "to protect" irrigation in the "irrigable areas" of the Cauvery. Supreme Court strikes down the ordinance; upholds the CWDT award. Karnataka refuses to oblige

1993 | Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa goes on fast, demanding the state's share as stipulated by the interim order

1998 | Centre constitutes Cauvery River Authority to ensure implementation of the interim award of CWDT

2002 | Cauvery River Authority chaired by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee directs Karnataka to release 9,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu unhappy with the order, says will move the

Supreme Court

2005 | Karnataka refuses to implement the distress-sharing formula

2007 | CWDT gives final award, calling the agreements of 1872 and 1924 executed between Madras and Mysore as valid. Karnataka protests

2015 | Jayalalithaa writes to Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, requesting him to advise Karnataka to release water. Karnataka refuses to release water since it is a "distress year"

Sept 2, 2016 | The Supreme Court asks Karnataka to consider releasing water to Tamil Nadu to help the state continue to "exist as an entity". Violence erupts