



## **P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY**

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### **July 31, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits**

#### **1. Cauvery Water Management Authority directs Karnataka to release 4.5 TMC of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu over the next 15 days**

- i. Amid Karnataka's continued refusal to release water to Tamil Nadu citing water scarcity, the 54th emergency meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) was held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of S. K. Haldar. Karnataka officials attended the meeting in person, while Tamil Nadu officials participated virtually.
- ii. Earlier, at the 53rd meeting held on July 22, the Tamil Nadu Government requested the Authority to direct Karnataka to release Cauvery water in accordance with the Supreme Court judgment dated 16 February 2018, based on the prescribed proportional sharing formula.
- iii. Karnataka, however, argued that deficient rainfall and drought conditions had reduced water availability, and emphasized that water was urgently required to meet the drinking water needs of Bengaluru.
- iv. Consequently, the Authority decided to monitor rainfall and inflows for another week and announced that the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) would determine the proportional allocation of water after considering hydrological, meteorological, and state-level submissions.
- v. Accordingly, the CWRC, which met on Tuesday (July 28), recommended that Karnataka release 3,500 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu for 15 days.
- vi. Following this recommendation, both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka presented their respective positions at the CWMA's emergency meeting held on Thursday. After hearing both sides, CWMA Chairman S. K. Haldar announced that Karnataka had been directed to release 3,500 cusecs per day, amounting to 4.5 TMC of water over 15 days, to Tamil Nadu.
- vii. Haldar further stated that the directive was issued in accordance with the Supreme Court's judgment, and that failure to implement it would amount to contempt of court.

#### **2. Tamil Nadu forms Expert Advisory Committee to prepare for El Niño-related disasters**

- i. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister S. Joseph Vijay has ordered the formation of an Expert Advisory Committee on Disaster Management under the Tamil Nadu Disaster Risk Reduction Agency to scientifically assess and prepare for the potential impacts of the El Niño climate phenomenon.
- ii. According to the Government, El Niño develops when sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean become significantly warmer than normal, causing major changes in global rainfall and weather patterns. It generally occurs once every 2 to 7 years and is considered severe when sea surface temperatures rise by 2°C or more.
- iii. Meteorological studies indicate a high probability of a strong El Niño event in 2026, which could reduce the southwest monsoon while increasing the likelihood of extreme rainfall and floods during the northeast monsoon season.
- iv. To examine the situation, the Government has constituted an expert committee comprising:
  - Prof. S. Kanmani, Head, Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management, Anna University.
  - Prof. Balaji Narasimhan, Hydrology and Water Resources Engineering Laboratory, IIT Madras.
  - Arivudai Nambi Appadurai, Director, Climate Resilience Division, World Resources Institute and member of the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Governance Committee.
  - Ramesh Ramachandran, Advisor, Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company and Expert Member, Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Blue Economy Committee.
  - R. Venkatesan, Expert Member, State Environmental Impact Assessment Committee.
  - J. K. Patterson Edward, Director, Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute.
  - R. Pradeep John, Senior Manager, Tamil Nadu Urban Infrastructure Financial Services Ltd.
- v. The committee will continuously monitor rainfall, drought, and flood risks, identify vulnerable regions, strengthen early warning systems, provide science-based recommendations, and improve the State's preparedness for climate-related disasters.
- vi. The Government stated that appropriate measures based on the committee's recommendations will be implemented to safeguard lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure.

### 3. China establishes advanced drone research centre in Tibet

- i. China has established a state-of-the-art Drone Research and Development Centre at a university in Lhasa, located on the Tibetan Plateau near Mount Everest.
- ii. Situated at an altitude of over 4,000 metres above sea level, Tibet has low oxygen levels, extreme cold, and rugged terrain. Chinese engineers consider these conditions ideal for testing and improving drone technologies capable of operating in challenging environments.
- iii. The centre has officially commenced operations and is expected to develop specialized drones for border security, environmental protection, and geological monitoring.

### 4. Ebola death toll in the Republic of the Congo crosses 1,500

- i. The death toll from the rapidly spreading Ebola outbreak in the Republic of the Congo has crossed 1,500, with fatalities increasing by 50% in the past week, according to official Government data.
- ii. As per the latest figures, 3,442 people have been infected, 1,521 have died, 797 patients are currently undergoing treatment, and 615 have recovered.
- iii. Since the outbreak was declared on May 15, the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus has spread extensively. As there are currently no approved treatments for this strain, the outbreak has resulted in an unprecedented number of deaths within a short period.

### 5. U.S. Federal Reserve keeps interest rates unchanged

- i. The U.S. Federal Reserve has announced that it will keep its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 3.50% to 3.75%.
- ii. Following the announcement, fears of a sharp decline in U.S. stock markets eased. The Dow Jones and Nasdaq indices recovered from early losses and closed with only modest declines, while gold and silver prices edged higher.
- iii. This was the second Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting since Kevin Warsh assumed office as Chair of the Federal Reserve. The Committee decided to leave interest rates unchanged because inflation in the United States continues to remain above the Federal Reserve's medium-term target of 2%.
- iv. However, the decision was not unanimous. While nine members supported maintaining

the current rate, three members expressed dissent.

- v. Federal Reserve regional presidents Beth Hammack, Neel Kashkari, and Lorie Logan argued that interest rates should be increased by 0.25 percentage points.
- vi. The decision has increased pressure on Chair Kevin Warsh within the Committee. The next FOMC meeting is scheduled for September 15–16.

## 6. India wins gold and silver in Para Athletics at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games

- i. At the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in Scotland, India achieved a remarkable feat in Para Athletics as Dilip Mahadu Gavit won the gold medal, while Mohammed Fasil secured the silver medal in the same event.
- ii. In athletics, Murali Sreeshankar, who won the silver medal in the men's long jump, became the first Indian to win medals in the event at two consecutive Commonwealth Games.
- iii. India's third gold medal
- iv. With these victories, India has secured three gold medals at the ongoing Commonwealth Games. Two of them were won by Para athletes—Dilip Mahadu Gavit and Sharmila Tankar (Shot Put)—while Mirabai Chanu claimed the third gold in weightlifting.

## 7. Murali Sreeshankar wins silver in men's long jump

- i. Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar won the silver medal in the men's long jump final with a best leap of 8.09 metres.
- ii. Former world champion Tajay Gayle of Jamaica won the gold medal with a jump of 8.15 metres, while Stephen McKenzie of Scotland secured the bronze medal with 8.08 metres.

## 8. India and Germany to jointly build next-generation submarines

- i. India and Germany are set to jointly undertake a ₹90,000 crore (8 billion euros) project to build advanced submarines. The agreement is expected to be signed soon.
- ii. Speaking at the India–Germany Industry and Commerce Summit in New Delhi, German Ambassador to India Philipp Ackermann said that the two countries would jointly develop sixth-generation advanced submarines.
- iii. The project will be executed by ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) of Germany in collaboration with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) of India. Full details of the

agreement are expected to be announced in August.

- iv. Under the agreement, up to six submarines are expected to be built in India. This will modernize the Indian Navy's submarine fleet and facilitate the retirement of older submarines.
- v. The new submarines are expected to feature advanced stealth capabilities, enabling them to evade enemy radar, remain submerged for extended periods, and travel at higher speeds underwater.