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1. Cauvery Water Management Authority Directs Karnataka to Release 3,000 Cusecs of Water to Tamil Nadu for 15 Days

(i) Cauvery Water Management Authority's Order and Background

- The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) directed Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs of water per second to Tamil Nadu for 15 days, from Saturday (November 7) to November 21.
- The order was issued based on the recommendation made at the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) meeting held in New Delhi on Friday morning.
- During the morning meeting, the CWRC recommended that Karnataka release 3,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for 15 days.
- Subsequently, a meeting of the CWMA was held in the afternoon under the chairmanship of Authority Chairman S.K. Haldar to take a decision on the recommendation.

(ii) Participants in the CWMA Meeting

- Tamil Nadu was represented by State Water Resources Department Secretary Prashant M. Wadhnere and Cauvery Technical Cell Chairman Subramanian, among others.
- Senior officials from other Cauvery basin states, including Karnataka and Kerala, also participated in the meeting, both in person and through video conferencing.

(iii) Tamil Nadu's Position on the Cauvery Water Dispute

- Tamil Nadu presented its position at the meeting, stating that Karnataka still owed a substantial quantity of water to Tamil Nadu at Biligundlu during the current distress year.
- Despite repeated representations before the Cauvery Water Management Authority and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee, no order had been issued

directing Karnataka to clear the pending water deficit.

- Karnataka's argument that rainfall was deficient in the intermediate catchment area was inconsistent with the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the Supreme Court's judgment.

(iv) Provisions for Water Sharing During a Distress Year

- Clause 7 of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal provides for a proportionate reduction in the allocated water shares during a distress year.
- However, the orders issued so far have largely been temporary in nature and have not been based on a scientific assessment of the proportionate water share of each state.

(v) Water Resources in the Intermediate Catchment Area and Pending Water Deficit

- The intermediate catchment area contains reservoirs, minor irrigation tanks, drinking water schemes, and unauthorised tank-filling and lift irrigation projects operated by Karnataka.
- As of November 4, Karnataka was required to release a pending water balance of 16.895 TMC to Tamil Nadu on a proportionate basis.

(vi) Karnataka's Available Water Storage and Tamil Nadu's Demand

- As of November 5, 2026, the live storage in Karnataka's four major reservoirs stood at 48.959 TMC.
- In addition, Karnataka has medium and minor reservoirs as well as intermediate water bodies.
- Although the Kharif season in Karnataka had ended, the state was still drawing approximately 4,900 cusecs of water through its canals.
- Therefore, Tamil Nadu urged the Authority to reconsider the CWRC's recommendation of releasing only 3,000 cusecs.
- Tamil Nadu demanded that Karnataka ensure the release of 20.678 TMC of water at Biligundlu within 15 days from Saturday, including the accumulated pending water deficit.

(vii) CWMA's Final Direction

- Tamil Nadu emphasised that it was demanding only its fair and proportionate share of water and that the burden of a distress situation could not be imposed on the state located at the tail end of the river basin.
- Following these representations, the Cauvery Water Management Authority directed Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs of water at Biligundlu for 15 days, beginning Saturday.
- Tamil Nadu Government sources stated that the direction was issued following the arguments presented by the state at the meeting.

2. Indian-Origin Tamil Nithya Raman Wins Historic Election as Mayor of Los Angeles

(i) Historic Victory in the Los Angeles Mayoral Election

- Nithya Raman (45), an Indian-origin Tamil American city council member, has secured a historic victory in the mayoral election of Los Angeles, the second-largest city in the United States.
- In a closely contested election, she defeated incumbent Mayor Karen Bass.
- Raman contested the election with the support of Democratic Socialists, and her victory is considered a significant political shift in the city's administration.

(ii) Political Significance of the Election Result

- Karen Bass has suffered a major setback, becoming the first Los Angeles mayor in the past 20 years to lose a re-election bid.
- After conceding defeat, Karen Bass congratulated Nithya Raman and assured her full cooperation in ensuring a smooth transfer of power to the incoming administration.

(iii) Significance of Nithya Raman's Mayoral Position

- Los Angeles is one of the major commercial centres of the United States and is globally renowned for its Hollywood film industry and world-class educational institutions.

- The city is scheduled to host the 2028 Olympic Games.
- In this context, Nithya Raman, an urban planning expert, assuming office as the city's new mayor is considered particularly significant.

3. Opposition coalition likely to form Government in Israel

(i) Parliamentary Election Results & Seat Distribution

- The Israeli Parliamentary election held on October 27 resulted in a split mandate with no single party securing an absolute majority.
- Incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition won 53 seats, while the opposition coalition led by former military chief Gadi Eisenkot secured 48 seats.
- A minimum of 61 seats is required to form a majority Government in the Parliament.

(i) Role of Arab Parties & Coalition Dynamics

- Arab political parties won a total of 19 seats, emerging as the decisive factor in forming the next Government.
- The Arab parties represent Israel's Palestinian citizens, who account for approximately 20% of the country's total population.
- During consultations held by President Isaac Herzog on Thursday, the 'Ra'am' party (8 seats) and the 'Joint List' alliance (11 seats) recommended inviting Gadi Eisenkot to form the Government.
- With the endorsement of the Arab parties, Gadi Eisenkot's alliance has assembled the support of 67 members, placing them in a favorable position to establish a government.
- Benjamin Netanyahu suffered a further setback after his long-term coalition partner, 'United Torah Judaism', refused to support either side.

(iii) Presidential Consultations & Government Formation Timeline

- Stating that mutual contradictions remain between the two factions, President Isaac Herzog announced he will deliver his final decision on Sunday.
- The individual chosen by the President will be given 28 days to form a coalition

Government, with a potential 14-day extension at the President's discretion.

- Benjamin Netanyahu will remain as the caretaker Prime Minister until a new administration is sworn in; if both sides fail to assemble a Government, fresh elections will be called.

(iv) Electoral Fraud Allegations & Election Committee Response

- Following the election outcome, Benjamin Netanyahu's camp raised allegations of vote theft and fraud in an effort to challenge the results.
- Netanyahu alleged that Arab parties bought votes using financial resources from foreign nations, including Qatar and Turkey.
- The Election Committee firmly rejected the claims, confirming that the credibility and integrity of the election remained uncompromised.
- Election Committee Chairman Noam Solberg emphasized that the peaceful transfer of power is a fundamental tenet of democracy and urged elected leaders to uphold public confidence.

4. Paraguay's President Santiago Peña Resigns Amid Political Crisis Following the Sudden Collapse of Banco Ueno

(i) President's Resignation and Political Crisis

- Paraguayan President Santiago Peña (47) resigned from office following widespread public protests and a severe political crisis triggered by the sudden collapse of Banco Ueno, one of the leading commercial banks in the South American country of Paraguay.
- Within minutes of the announcement, an impeachment motion against him, introduced in the country's lower house of Parliament, was also unanimously passed and referred to the Senate for consideration.

(ii) Reasons Behind the Collapse of Banco Ueno

- An investigation by the Central Bank of Paraguay revealed that Banco Ueno, which held accounts belonging to more than 60% of the country's population, had

sanctioned irregular loans without adequate documentation.

- The investigation also found that expenses had been improperly misrepresented as assets.
- Consequently, the bank's capital reserves fell to half the legally required level, prompting the Central Bank to take control of the institution.

(iii) Impact on the Public

- The collapse of the bank froze the savings, pension funds and salaries of lakhs of people.
- This triggered widespread anxiety, public anger and protests across the country.

(iv) Ruling Party Turns Against the President

- A major turning point in the crisis occurred when members of the ruling party themselves turned against President Santiago Peña.
- Subsequently, Peña released a video on the social media platform 'X', announcing his resignation in order to safeguard national stability, social harmony and democracy.
- However, he refused to accept direct responsibility for the bank's collapse.

(v) Criminal Investigations and Compensation for Depositors

- Meanwhile, Paraguay's Chief State Prosecutor ordered three criminal investigations against Santiago Peña and senior government officials.
- Opposition parties are demanding his complete removal from office, arguing that resignation would allow him to obtain the status of a senator for life and the associated legal immunity.
- Meanwhile, officials stated that efforts to refund the deposits of affected customers through the government's deposit guarantee fund were being expedited to ease public anxiety.

5. P.V. Sindhu (Badminton) has been appointed as the Chef de Mission (head of the athletes' delegation) of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). Harmanpreet Singh

(Hockey) has been appointed as the Deputy Chef de Mission.

6. RBI Introduces New Cheque Rules Effective January 1, 2027

(i) Implementation of New Cheque Regulations

- The new cheque-related regulations announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are scheduled to come into effect from January 1, 2027.
- Under the proposed rules, old cheques can be used only for transactions below ₹50,000.

(ii) New Cheques for High-Value Transactions

- For transactions of ₹50,000 and above, only new cheques carrying unique alphanumeric identification codes will be accepted.

(iii) New Security Features and Operational Requirements

- New security features have been introduced in the cheque system.
- A special code, visible only under ultraviolet (UV) light, will be printed below the bank account number on the cheque.
- The new system will also include a facility directly linked to the RBI's operational framework.
- Cheques must be filled in using only ballpoint pens. Gel pens and other types of pens must not be used.
- Overwriting or corrections in names, dates or amounts will not be permitted. Cheques containing such alterations will be rejected.
- Customers can obtain new cheques by submitting their old cheque books at their respective bank branches.
- According to the RBI announcement, the new cheque system will come into effect on January 1, 2027.

7. Centre Approves 12 More Proposals Worth Over ₹7,500 Crore Under the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme

- Union Electronics and Information Technology Secretary S. Krishnan announced that the Central Government had approved 12 additional proposals worth more than ₹7,500 crore under the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme.

(i) Objective of the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme

- The Central Government has introduced and implemented a subsidy-based scheme to encourage domestic manufacturing of electronic components and reduce India's dependence on imports.
- The initiative aims to strengthen India's domestic electronics manufacturing ecosystem.

(ii) Approval of Additional Investment Proposals

- The Central Government had already approved several proposals under the scheme.
- It has now approved 12 additional proposals worth more than ₹7,500 crore.
- These approvals also cover projects related to raw materials and capital goods.
- According to S. Krishnan, these initiatives will help expand India's electronics supply chain.

(iii) Launch of the SEMICON 2.0 Online Application Portal

- The Central Government has also launched an online application portal for the SEMICON 2.0 scheme.

(iv) Background and Objectives of SEMICON 2.0

- The Central Government introduced the SEMICON 1.0 programme with the objective of establishing India as a leading country in semiconductor manufacturing.
- To sustain the rapid growth in manufacturing capacity achieved through the earlier programme and strengthen India's semiconductor design and manufacturing ecosystem, the Union Cabinet has approved SEMICON 2.0, with an allocation of ₹1,27,500 crore.

(v) Focus of SEMICON 2.0

- The primary objective of SEMICON 2.0 is to develop intellectual property (IP), chip designs and semiconductor systems within India.
- An online application portal for the scheme has now been launched to facilitate the implementation of the programme.

8. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has issued guidelines covering the design and infrastructure requirements for a barrier-free, technology-based and seamless toll collection system known as Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) on national highways with four or more lanes.

(i) Objective of the MLFF Toll Collection System

- According to the NHAI statement, the guidelines will ensure that national highway projects are implemented in a manner that supports MLFF-based toll collection, allowing vehicles to pass through toll plazas without stopping.

(ii) Benefits of the Initiative

The initiative aims to:

- Reduce traffic congestion at toll plazas.
- Minimise waiting time for vehicles.
- Reduce fuel consumption.
- Make national highway journeys safer and more seamless.

(iii) Infrastructure and Design Standards

- The guidelines provide detailed recommendations on standardised requirements relating to:
    - Toll plaza layouts.
    - Lane configurations.
    - Signboards and information displays.
    - Road infrastructure.
    - Street lighting.
    - Road markings and signage.

- Road safety features.
- Supporting facilities and infrastructure.

- These guidelines will apply to both existing and future national highway projects.

9. Supreme Court Directs Punjab and Haryana to Supply 1,197.3 Crore Units of Electricity to Himachal Pradesh Over the Next 20 Years

- On Friday, the Supreme Court directed Punjab and Haryana to supply approximately 1,197.3 crore units (11.973 billion units) of electricity to Himachal Pradesh over the next 20 years.
- This has resolved a power-sharing dispute that had continued among the three states since 1966.

(i) Origin of the Electricity-Sharing Dispute

- Following the reorganisation of Punjab in 1966, Himachal Pradesh demanded that it be allocated 7.19% of the electricity generated by the Bhakra-Nangal and Beas hydropower projects.

(ii) Himachal Pradesh Approaches the Supreme Court

- In 1996, the Himachal Pradesh Government approached the Supreme Court over the issue.
- Subsequently, in 2011, the Supreme Court ruled that Himachal Pradesh was entitled to receive 7.19% of the electricity generated by these projects.

(iii) Disputes Over Implementation of the Judgment

However, disagreements arose over:

- The quantity of electricity pending for allocation.
- The applicable cost of electricity.
- The respective states' contributions towards the construction costs of the hydropower projects.

(iv) Calculation of Pending Electricity Dues

- Following the Supreme Court's judgment, the Central Government calculated that

Himachal Pradesh was entitled to receive 1,306.6 crore units of pending electricity for the period from November 1, 1966, to 2011.

(v) Himachal Pradesh's Share in Project Capital Costs

- The value of Himachal Pradesh's 7.19% share in the capital expenditure of the Bhakra-Nangal and Beas hydropower projects was calculated at ₹420.77 crore.

(vi) Supreme Court's Direction on Adjustment of Capital Costs

- A Supreme Court Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana directed that this amount of ₹420.77 crore be deducted from the pending electricity dues payable to Himachal Pradesh.

(vii) Calculation of Electricity Deduction

- The price of electricity was calculated at ₹3.85 per unit for this purpose.
- Accordingly, approximately 109.3 crore units of electricity will be deducted from the pending dues.

(viii) Final Electricity Allocation Over 20 Years

- After deducting 109.3 crore units from the total pending amount of 1,306.6 crore units, approximately 1,197.3 crore units remain payable to Himachal Pradesh.
- The Supreme Court directed Punjab and Haryana to supply this remaining electricity over the next 20 years.
- The annual supply will be approximately 59.8 crore units of electricity.

10. Tamil Nadu Government Establishes Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Council to Achieve a USD 1.5 Trillion Economy by 2036

- The Tamil Nadu Government has established the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Council to achieve its target of transforming the state into a USD 1.5 trillion economy by 2036.
- The Council, constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, consists of 19 members.
- The details were announced in a Government Order issued by the Department of

Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce.

(i) Amendment to the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act, 2018

- The Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation (Amendment) Act, 2026, was enacted to introduce amendments to the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act, 2018.
- The amended legislation came into force on Thursday.

(ii) Objectives of the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Council

- The Council has been established with the objective of achieving Tamil Nadu's target of becoming a USD 1.5 trillion economy by 2036.
- Its primary responsibility is to ensure that investment commitments received by the state are converted into viable industrial projects, business operations and employment opportunities within the stipulated time frame.

(iii) Promoting Domestic and International Investments

- The Council has also been established to facilitate and promote investments through:
    - Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).
    - Investments by Non-Resident Tamils (NRIs).
    - Other major investment opportunities in the state.
- This initiative has been undertaken in accordance with the announcement made in the Governor's Address.

(iv) Legal Basis and Composition of the Council

- The Council has been constituted under Section 16-A(1) of the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act, 2018.
- The Chief Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Government will serve as the Chairperson.
- The Secretary of the Department of Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce will serve as the Member-Convenor.
- Government Secretaries and senior officials from 18 departments will serve as official members of the Council.

(v) Departments and Officials Represented in the Council

The following departments and officials will be represented in the Council:

- Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department.
- Home Department.
- Prohibition and Excise Department.
- Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Digital Services Department.
- Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department.
- Finance Department.
- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department.
- Housing and Urban Development Department.
- Natural Resources Department.
- Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.
- Energy Department.
- Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department.
- Revenue and Disaster Management Department.
- Commercial Taxes and Registration Department.
- Water Resources Department.
- Commissioner of Land Reforms.
- Commissioner of Land Administration.
- Member-Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
- Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Guidance Tamil Nadu.

(vi) Expected Role of the Council

- The Tamil Nadu Government has established this new Council to attract investments into the state and monitor whether announced investment commitments are translated into actual projects and implemented within the stipulated time frame.

11. Avoid with caution

(i) Monsoon Outlook & Water Body Management

- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has announced that the ongoing North-East monsoon will conclude on December 31.
- Rainfall during the current season is expected to exceed last year's levels, increasing the likelihood that water bodies will fill beyond full capacity and discharge surplus water.
- Overflowing dams release surplus water that causes flooding across rivers and canals; ignoring official warnings continues to lead to tragic fatalities.

(ii) Child Safety & Drowning Incidents

- Fatal drowning incidents involving children visiting lakes and ponds—either with parents or alone—have been increasing.
- Recent Cases in Chennai:
    - Four children (two boys and two girls) drowned in a lake near Chromepet, Chennai.
    - Two boys from Thirumullaivoyal, Avadi, Chennai drowned while bathing in Puzhal Lake.
- Most urban children do not know how to swim, making vigilant parental monitoring essential.
- Parents must educate children that school and college holidays declared on heavy rainfall days are meant for staying safely indoors, not for swimming or fishing in nearby water bodies.

(iii) Electrical, Structural, and Road Safety

- Residents should avoid living in old, dilapidated structures prone to collapse during heavy rains and exercise double caution with electrical appliances due to damp walls causing current leakage.
- Strong winds uproot trees, snap branches, and break live electric wires, causing human and livestock casualties that can be prevented through public awareness.
- Rainwater pooling in road potholes causes motorists to lose control and crash; strictly observing speed limits prevents these fatalities.

- Stagnant water in urban subways, open manholes, sewers, and stormwater drains poses severe life-threatening hazards.

(iv) Lightning Hazards & Global/National Statistics

- Deaths caused by lightning strikes during the monsoon season are rising every year.
- Globally, approximately 24,000 people die annually from lightning strikes.
- National Statistics (India): In India, an average of 2,500 to 3,000 people die every year due to lightning strikes.
- Lightning accounts for 50% of all deaths caused by natural disasters.
- Individuals must avoid standing on open rooftops or sheltering under trees during thunderstorms.

(v) Health Precautions & Vector-Borne Disease Control

- Because rainwater can mix with sewage pipelines, drinking boiled and filtered water is necessary for good health.
- Mosquitoes carrying dengue and malaria breed heavily in stagnant rainwater collected in discarded containers, small tanks, tires, grinding stones, and unused flowerpots around homes or on rooftops.
- Floodwaters drive snakes out of their natural habitats and into human residences; residents should contact the Fire and Rescue Services Department rather than attempting to hit or catch them, which results in fatal bites.

(vi) Landslide Hazards & Public Cooperation

- District administrations in mountainous areas must recognize landslide risks, raise public awareness, and take safety measures.
- Members of the public should avoid tourist travel to hill stations during the rainy season.
- Loss of life and property damage can be largely prevented if the public acts with awareness and fully cooperates with Government safety initiatives.