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Comprehensive plan: should be prepared for water conservation

Way Forward:

- Better water management
- Improved irrigation techniques
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- Use of drought-resistant crops
- Efficient water use in agriculture
- Promotion of water conservation

Inefficient use of land: water-intensive crops like sugar cane need water when the rainfall is less.

Karnataka cultivating ground water in the western ghat for SW monsoon hence deprived of rainfall in monsoon rainfall and in drought conditions.

In case of consecutive bad years, the Board will ensure proper storage. The Board will take decisions on the management of water and certain questions will come under the jurisdiction of the courts as this is a political question.

According to the Mihir Shah report, a Regional Water Tribunal to be constituted to manage rivers in the upper riparian state while assessing availability and water use by the downstream state. The Governor of Karnataka has to appoint a Chairperson of a 'Cauvery Management Board' & a Regulatory Authority - a Technical body.

Weaknesses in monsoon rain and excessive sand mining are the main reasons for the current mistrust among stakeholders.

Better water management techniques like drip irrigation, sprinkler systems etc. should be adopted along Cauvery waters. Complacency should be prevented by regular field visits to assess water use and drought conditions.

Both sides should continue to avoid any centres of national engagement.

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