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Karnataka Seeks Revisit to Cauvery Water Allocation in Supreme Court

Karnataka signaled its intent in the Supreme Court to reopen the decades-old Cauvery water-sharing consensus, citing changed circumstances and the Indus Waters Treaty.

A long-standing inter-state river water dispute between Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, and Puducherry over the sharing of Cauvery river waters.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Karnataka signaled its intent in the **Supreme Court** on Wednesday (**October 7, 2026**) to unravel the decades-old judicial consensus on the Cauvery water dispute.
- The State's legal response cited international law principles like **rebus sic stantibus** and climate changes to justify revisiting inter-State allocations.
- **Karnataka** argued for a review on the grounds of inequitable allocation of water and drastically changed ground realities compared to historical agreements.
- The legal arguments also pointed to international precedents like the **Indus Waters Treaty** to support the reopening of water-sharing pacts under altered conditions.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Article 262 of the Constitution of India provides for the adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-State rivers or river valleys.

The Inter-State Water Disputes Act was enacted by the Parliament of India in **1956** to resolve such river water sharing conflicts.

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) was originally constituted by the Government of India in **June 1990**.

The Supreme Court delivered its landmark verdict on the Cauvery water dispute on **February 16, 2018**, declaring water as a national asset.

The **Cauvery Water Management Authority** (CWMA) was established by the Union Government in **2018** to implement the Supreme Court's verdict.

Archival records highlight historical inter-state Cauvery talks held under Chief Minister **M.G. Ramachandran** in the mid-1980s.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Karnataka moved the Supreme Court to revisit the Cauvery water allocation citing changed circumstances and the Indus Waters Treaty.

Syllabus Relevance: Highly relevant for Group 1 and Group 2 Polity questions covering inter-state water disputes, Article 262, and judicial verdicts.

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