

Mekedatu Dam Project: Cauvery River Water Dispute Explained

Expert legal analysis highlights that Karnataka requires lower riparian state Tamil Nadu's consent for the Mekedatu dam project.

Mekedatu is a multi-purpose balancing reservoir-cum-drinking water project proposed by Karnataka across the Cauvery river.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Karnataka proposed the **Mekedatu** balancing reservoir project across the Cauvery river with a planned capacity of **67 TMC feet**.
- **Tamil Nadu** opposes the Mekedatu project stating it directly violates the Supreme Court judgment delivered in **February 2018**.
- Lower riparian state concurrence and **Central Water Commission** approval are mandatory before constructing dams on inter-state rivers.
- The project site is located at the confluence of Cauvery and **Arkavathi** rivers near Kanakapura in **Ramanagara district**.
- **Cauvery Water Management Authority** acts as the primary statutory body to monitor and regulate inter-state water releases.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Article 262 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to enact laws for the adjudication of inter-state river water disputes.

Parliament enacted the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act** in **1956** under Article 262 of the Indian Constitution.

The **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal** was constituted by the Union Government in **June 1990** under the chairmanship of **V. Chittatosh Mookerjee**.

The Supreme Court delivered its judgment on the Cauvery dispute on **February 16, 2018**, allocating **177.25 TMC** water annually to Tamil Nadu.

The Cauvery Water Management Authority was officially constituted by the Union Ministry of Water Resources on **June 1, 2018**.

River Cauvery originates at **Talakaveri** in the **Brahmagiri hills** of Western Ghats in Kodagu district of Karnataka.

Major tributaries of Cauvery include **Bhavani**, Noyyal, **Amaravathi**, Kabini, Hemavati, and Arkavathi.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Article 262 governs inter-state river water disputes; Supreme Court allocated 177.25 TMC Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu in 2018.

Syllabus Relevance: High priority topic for Group 1, 2, 2A & 4 under Inter-state River Disputes and Tamil Nadu Geography.

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