

Mekedatu Dam: Union Ministry Cites SC Judgment on Riparian Consent

The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti clarified that the 2018 Supreme Court judgment on Cauvery dispute does not state Karnataka must obtain consent from riparian states to construct Mekedatu project.

The Mekedatu project is a proposed balancing reservoir-cum-drinking water project by Karnataka across the Cauvery river in Ramanagara district.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The Union **Ministry of Jal Shakti** clarified that the Supreme Court's **February 16, 2018** judgment does not mandate **Karnataka** to obtain **Tamil Nadu's** consent for constructing Mekedatu dam.
- Karnataka proposes to construct the **Mekedatu** balancing reservoir-cum-drinking water project at **Kanakapura** taluk.
- Karnataka maintains that the reservoir will not hinder the release of the stipulated quantum of **Cauvery water** to **Tamil Nadu**.
- Tamil Nadu strongly opposes the project, maintaining that construction without lower riparian state consent violates the **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal** final award.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Article 262 of the Constitution empowers **Parliament** to adjudicate disputes relating to waters of inter-state rivers and river valleys.

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

Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) was constituted on **June 2, 1990**.

CWDT gave its final award on **February 5, 2007**, allocating water among **Tamil Nadu**, **Karnataka**, Kerala, and Puducherry.

Supreme Court pronounced its final verdict on the Cauvery water dispute on **February 16, 2018**.

Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) were constituted in **June 2018**.

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

REVISION FLASHCARD

Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) was constituted in June 2018 following the Supreme Court's February 2018 judgment.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Group 1, 2, 2A & 4 under Inter-State River Water Disputes (Article 262) and Tamil Nadu Geography.

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