

Mullaperiyar Dam Water Level Dispute Resurfaces Between Kerala and Tamil Nadu

Kerala's Water Resources Minister stated Kerala will approach the Supreme Court if Tamil Nadu raises Mullaperiyar dam water level beyond 142 feet.

Mullaperiyar Dam is a gravity dam on the Periyar River in Kerala, operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu under an 1886 lease agreement.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Kerala Water Resources Minister **Mons Joseph** cautioned that Kerala would file a petition in the **Supreme Court** over **Mullaperiyar dam** issues.
- Kerala raised objections regarding the reported proposal of **Tamil Nadu** to raise the reservoir's water level beyond **142 feet**.
- The Minister claimed that key directions issued by the **Supreme Court** regarding dam safety remain unimplemented.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The historic Mullaperiyar Lease Agreement was signed on **October 29, 1886**, for **999 years** between **Travancore State** and the British Secretary of State.

British military engineer Colonel **John Pennycuick** designed and constructed the Mullaperiyar Dam between **1887 and 1895**.

The dam is located in the **Idukki district** of Kerala at the confluence of Mullayar and **Periyar** rivers, benefiting **five southern districts** of Tamil Nadu.

In **May 2014**, a **5-judge Constitution Bench** of the Supreme Court permitted Tamil Nadu to raise the water storage level to **142 feet**.

Under **Article 262** of the Indian Constitution, **Parliament** has the power to adjudicate disputes relating to waters of inter-State rivers.

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

REVISION FLASHCARD

Mullaperiyar Dam was built by John Pennycuick under an 1886 lease agreement for 999 years on Periyar river.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Unit 3 (Geography of Tamil Nadu) and Unit 8 (Tamil Nadu Rights & Heritage) in TNPSC Group 1, 2, 2A, and 4 exams.

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