

Mullaperiyar Water Level Low: TN, Kerala Concerns

Mullaperiyar Dam recorded alarmingly low water storage, impacting farming, tourism, and drinking water in both Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The Mullaperiyar Dam is a masonry gravity dam on the Periyar River, a long-standing inter-state water dispute between Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Mullaperiyar Dam** recorded alarmingly **low water storage** in **July 2026**.
- Water level dropped to **112.9 feet** on **Wednesday**, a significant **deficit** from last year.
- This **18.5-foot** deficit is compared to **131.4 feet** recorded on the same day **last year**.
- The low storage is severely affecting **farming activities** in the **bordering districts** of **Tamil Nadu**.
- It may also soon pose a threat to **tourism** in the **Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR)**.
- **Drinking water** distribution in **Kumily** and **Chakkupallom** panchayats in **Kerala** may also be threatened.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **Mullaperiyar Dam** was constructed by the **British engineer John Pennycuick**.

Construction of the dam was **completed** in **1895**.

The dam was built under the **Periyar Lease Agreement** of **1886** between the **Travancore** princely state and the **Madras Presidency**.

Its primary purpose is to divert water from the **Periyar River** to the **Vaigai basin** in **Tamil Nadu** for **irrigation**.

The **Supreme Court** in **2006** allowed **Tamil Nadu** to raise the water level to **142 feet**.

In **2014**, the **Supreme Court** again allowed the water level to be raised to **142 feet** and constituted a **supervisory committee**.

The **Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR)** is located in the **Cardamom Hills** of the **Western Ghats** in **Kerala**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Mullaperiyar Dam, built by John Pennycuick in 1895, diverts Periyar water to Tamil Nadu.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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